

**Board of Commissioners
District 2, Howell Township Fire Company No. 1
Adelphia, NJ 07710**

January 5, 2026

REGULAR MEETING

Notice of time, date, location, and agenda of the meeting, to the extent then known, was duly published in accordance with the requirements of the "Open Public Meeting Act" at least 48 hours in advance of this meeting by posting and by publication in the official newspapers of the district.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Robert Tice, at 7:00 PM.

A Roll call was taken showing Frank Biddle III, Robert Tice, Peter Goldring, and Carmelo LaMarca as present. The Chairman then led all in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Peter Goldring and seconded by Carmelo LaMarca; to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on December 1, 2025, motion carried.

Frank said that we needed to transfer money before we pay vouchers. Frank proposed transferring \$2,500.00 from A12-6, Supplies Expense, to A11-2, Office Supplies. And, to transfer \$2,700.00 from A12-6 to A12-3, Maintenance & Repairs. After some discussion, a resolution was offered by Peter Goldring, and seconded by Bob Tice, to make these two transfers. A roll call vote was taken.

Frank Biddle III	yes
Peter Goldring	yes
Carmelo LaMarca	yes
Robert Tice	yes

The following Vouchers have been submitted for payment.

VOUCHER	LINE #	VENDOR	AMOUNT
5001	A9-1	John DePinto	1,000.00
5002	A9-1	Johannes Smit	1,000.00
5003	A11-1	Frank E. Biddle III	100.00
5004	A11-1	Kathleen Carter	100.00
5005	A11-1	Jeffrey DiGraitis	100.00
5006	A11-2	CDW Government	3,374.05
5007	A11-2	U. S. Bank Corporate Payment Systems	663.80
5008	A12-3	Campbell Supply Company	3,545.13
5009	A12-3	Continental Fire & Safety	1,840.00
5010	A12-3	Cooper Electric Supply	141.12
5011	A12-3	Defender Emergency Products	15,575.70
5012	A12-3	SeaCoast	1,232.06

5013	A12-3	Team Life	3,040.00
5014	A12-3	United Rentals	283.00
5015	A12-3	U. S. Bank Corporate Payment Systems	153.00
5016	A12-3	Van Wickle Auto Supply	24.19
5017	A12-4	Richard M. Braslow, Esq.	4,000.00
5018	A12-4	Firehouse Grants	1,250.00
5019	A12-4	Hartford Steam Boiler	110.00
5020	A12-4	NetLink	1,214.00
5021	A12-4	Treasurer, State of New Jersey	382.00
5022	A12-6	Allied Diesel Service	27.98
5023	A12-6	J. Swanton Fuel Oil Company	468.89
5024	A12-8	N. J. American Water	248.07
5025	A12-8	Verizon	923.95
5026	A12-8	Verizon Business	638.40
5027	A12-9	N. J. American Water	13,961.49
5028	A12-9	N. J. American Water	10,098.99
5029	A12-10	Complete Security Systems	130.80
5030	A12-10	Republic Services #873	188.56
5031	A12-12	Kirk Florist	285.00
5032	A12-12	U. S. Bank Corporate Payment Systems	309.00
5033	A12-13	Continental Fire & Safety	2,113.00
5034	A12-13	Motorola Solutions	2,496.00
5035	A12-13	Witmer Public Safety Group	2,276.88
5036	A12-1	Asbury Park Press	26.40
5037	E-9 Cap	Radios, Resideo/dba ADI Global	7,173.59
5039	A12-10	Freehold Cartage	274.13
5042	E-9 Cap	(radios) Allegiant Wireless	311.84
5043	A12-4	Robert A. Hulsart & Company	50.00
5045	A12-1	Asbury Park Press	82.96
5047	A12-8	JCP&L	1,694.98
5048	A12-8	N. J. Natural Gas	4,365.51
Electronic	A9-1	Payroll by Paychex (for Dec. 2025)	3,300.26
Electronic	A9-1	Tax Pay by Paychex (for Dec. 2025)	738.40
Electronic	A9-1	Paychex Fees (deducted 01-10-26)	178.79
Electronic	A9-1	December 2025 DCRP Payment	249.48
E-9 Capital-Radios Total			\$7,485.43
2025 Budget			\$84,255.97
Grand Total			\$91,741.40

A resolution of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District 2, Howell Township, was passed authorizing the payment of vouchers. The resolution was offered by Bob Tice, seconded by Peter Goldring, and a roll call vote was taken.

Frank Biddle III	yes
Peter Goldring	yes
Carmelo LaMarca	yes
Robert Tice	yes

The resolution, which was duly adopted on this day, is attached to minutes.

Communications

We received several e-mails from the State Division of Pensions, which will be on file. We also received several e-mails from the State GovConnect, which will be on file. We received an email, from the DCA, that our 2026 Fire District Budget has been approved for adoption.

Legal

Frank read the results of the Special Meeting, which was held on December 9, 2025. The purpose of this meeting was to gain voter approval to spend \$250,000.00 on upgrades and improvements, and maintenance to buildings and grounds at both Fire Stations. The Meeting was open for three hours and only ten qualified voters attended. All ten voters approved the question.

Chairman Tice said that it was time for the Public Hearing of the Introduced 2026 Fire District Budget. A motion was made by Peter Goldring, and seconded by Carmelo LaMarca, to open the Public Hearing. Motion passed.

Frank read the Proposed Budget as follows.

Total 2026 Budget	\$2,482,840.00
Less from Surplus	-\$493,840.00
Less from Capital Reserve	-\$250,000.00
Total to be Raised by Taxation	\$1,739,000.00

Bob asked the Public three times for any comment, with no comments to be heard.

A motion was made by Frank Biddle III, and seconded by Carmelo LaMarca, to close the Public Hearing. Motion passed.

A resolution was offered by Frank Biddle III, and seconded by Bob Tice, adopting the 2026 Fire District Budget as read. A roll call vote was taken.

Frank Biddle III	yes
Peter Goldring	yes
Carmelo LaMarca	yes
Robert Tice	yes

A resolution was offered by Frank Biddle III, and seconded by Bob Tice, establishing a temporary Fire District Budget to carry us through till after the election. The temporary Budget will be 14% of the 2025 Operating Budget, or \$211,974.00. A roll call vote was taken.

Frank Biddle III	yes
Peter Goldring	yes
Carmelo LaMarca	yes
Robert Tice	yes

During the month of December 205, the Board had to execute the bond paperwork for the \$2,600,000.00 bond. The funds were scheduled to be deposited into our account on December 24, 2025. Our records show that we did receive our bond funds in the amount of \$2,615,263.93. We also received an additional deposit of \$3,366,737.46. After many emails and phone calls, we were asked to return these additional funds. Frank went to Citizens Bank and wired the fund back on December 29, 2025.

Cash Management Fund to our Cash Management Plan. A roll call vote was taken.

Frank Biddle III	yes
Peter Goldring	yes
Carmelo LaMarca	yes
Robert Tice	yes

Committees

Bob gave an update on the Howell Radio upgrade project.

Frank gave a report on the trucks and equipment as follows.

- 1) The HVAC unit for 2-78 was scheduled to ship on December 22, 2025. Defender said that they will install the unit as soon as they receive it.
- 2) 2-68's vehicle was repaired at Seacoast for some electrical issues.
- 3) 2-85 was having issues again with the DEF Heater. Campbell Supply came out and replaced the unit within a few days. This is the second time we had to replace that part.
- 4) Pump and Ground Ladder testing will now be January 12, 2026.
- 5) 2-66 had some warranty repairs made to his vehicle at East Coast Emergency Lighting.
- 6) We received a quote from the Knox Company for the three New Key Secure Knox Boxes for 2-78, 2-75, and 2-90. The quote also includes two Key Defender series Knox Boxes for 2-88 and 2-66. The quote is for \$5,699.00.

A resolution was offered by Peter Goldring, and seconded by Carmelo LaMarca, to make the purchase from the Knox Company. A roll call vote was taken.

Frank Biddle III	yes
Peter Goldring	yes
Carmelo LaMarca	yes
Robert Tice	yes

Old Business

A resolution was offered by Carmelo LaMarca, and seconded by Peter Goldring, adopting the Safer Grant Policies for New Members, Record Retention, Purchasing, and Inventory. A roll call vote was taken.

Frank Biddle III	yes
Peter Goldring	yes
Carmelo LaMarca	yes
Robert Tice	yes

A resolution was offered by Bob Tice, and seconded by Peter Goldring, to continue the Stipend Policy in 2026. A roll call vote was taken.

Frank Biddle III	yes
Peter Goldring	yes
Carmelo LaMarca	yes
Robert Tice	yes

A resolution was offered by Bob Tice, and seconded by Peter Goldring, to contract with Communications Solutions Group as our Recruitment Marketing Company. A roll call vote was taken.

Frank Biddle III	yes
Peter Goldring	yes
Carmelo LaMarca	yes
Robert Tice	yes

Peter said that the one Consolete is being repaired and the second one will be going out for repairs soon.

A resolution was offered by Bob Tice, and seconded by Carmelo LaMarca, to contract with respclearance.com for our Respirator Company. The cost would be \$2,125.00 for one hundred (100) tests. A roll call vote was taken.

Frank Biddle III	yes
Peter Goldring	yes
Carmelo LaMarca	yes
Robert Tice	yes

A discussion followed on respirator clearance and other medical questions.

New Business

We received a contract renewal from Continental Fire & Safety for our Breathing Air Unit. The contract price is \$2,295.00 for the year 2026. A resolution was offered by Bob Tice, and seconded by Peter Goldring, to enter into this contract with Continental. A roll call vote was taken.

Frank Biddle III	yes
Peter Goldring	yes
Carmelo LaMarca	yes
Robert Tice	yes

A resolution was offered by Peter Goldring, and seconded by Bob Tice, to enter into a contract with Holman Frenia Allison (HFA) to provide Professional Advisory Services. The cost would be \$2,000.00. A roll call vote was taken.

Frank Biddle III	yes
Peter Goldring	yes
Carmelo LaMarca	yes
Robert Tice	yes

A resolution was offered by Bob Tice, and seconded by Carmelo LaMarca, to put some of our funds into the State Cash Management Fund. An amount will be determined. A roll call vote was taken.

Frank Biddle III	yes
Peter Goldring	yes
Carmelo LaMarca	yes
Robert Tice	yes

A discussion was held on Recruitment of Fire Company Members.

A discussion was held on what the Board wants to do with the 1979 Mack Tractor.

A resolution was made by Bob Tice, and seconded by Peter Goldring, to move the March 2, 2026, meeting to March 16, 2026. A roll call vote was taken.

Frank Biddle III	yes
Peter Goldring	yes
Carmelo LaMarca	yes
Robert Tice	yes

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.