

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT NO.9
1222 Green Street
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November 12, 2024

The combined monthly Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioner of District 9, 1222 Green Street, Iselin, New Jersey, was called to order at 7:17p.m. by the Chairman under Chapter 231 of the Laws of 1975 with notices posted in the Home News Tribune, on the bulletin board at Fire Company #1 and #2, and at Town Hall as prescribed by law. A salute to the flag was led by the Fire Commissioner followed by a moment of silence.

Roll Call of Commissioners: E.A. Mullen, S. Burrows, M. Rudy, K. Williams and D. Thaker. Also in attendance were W. Kenney, Fire Official S. Schmalenberger, Fire Chief M. Wertz, Purchasing Agent M. Rivera (by phone), Board Attorney D. DiYanni and Fire Company President E.R. Mullen

This is a regular monthly meeting.

Reports of Committees:

A motion was made by K. Williams and seconded by M. Rudy with everyone in favor (E.A. Mullen, S. Burrows and D. Thaker) to pay the bills for the month of October in the amount of \$327,433.26 .

Business Administration Report:

Equipment & Apparatus:

Filter has been ordered for 9-2 and will be replaced. Parts have been ordered for 9-2 body damage. 9-3-3 will go down for bumper. 9-2-4 needs to be repaired for rear repair. Don Draper called to pencil in his schedule 9-3-2. 9-3-8 had damage to front fender and is awaiting pricing before it's taken in. 9-2 will be going back for door alarm repair.

Hydrants:

During the joint board meeting, a Middlesex water representative advised pricing would not be raise this year.

Communication: Nothing at this time.

Facilities:

The bay door remote was repaired and replaced. A gentleman from the door company will come out to provide recommendations. There is a cable in 9-6's bay that is fraying, it will be replaced.

Legal & Insurance:

Files were found and will be provided to the auditor. The insurance claim for 9-2 has been settled and is awaiting repair. The insurance claims for 9-3-8 is pending. There is one worker compensation claim awaiting information.

A motion was made by K. Williams and seconded by D. Thaker with everyone in favor (E.A. Mullen, S. Burrows, M. Rudy) to accept the business administration report.

Fire Official Report:

During the month of October all fire inspections and investigations were completed. As it was October fire prevention, all school programs were completed. Thanks to M. Wertz and everyone for the success this year. A \$1,000 penalty from Burlington Coat Factory was collected for fire code violations. Two permit fees were collected for fire work sells from Buffalo Wild Wings.

There is a request for a new computer. The current one is slowing down, none of the connections work and it cannot connect to wifi. There was a conversation with S. Burrows about waiting for IT, however it is needed, especially as Knox box cannot connect.

A motion was made by M. Rudy and seconded by S. Burrows with everyone in favor (E. A. Mullen, K. Williams and D. Thaker) to accept the Fire Official report.

Fire Chief Report:

A new person is now qualified on 9-2-4 to drive. The Knox box is 9-5 needs to be rotated 180 degrees as it should be facing the driver. Something will need to be fabricated. 9-5 is the most pressing to give driver access. 9-3-1 and 9-3-2 9 will need fire extinguishers. A decision will have to be made on the side so they can be mounted. A new drop key is needed for 9-6, the spare is in service.

New requests: New SCBA rack. A smaller hose rack that will fit into the storage that was designed. One that is more light weight and user friendly so it's not cumbersome to move the rack while the hose is on it. The one that has been submitted for request will fit in the existing storage. Four water can straps as they are all broken. Four new fire hooks. It's a multitool that is used for forced entry and various other things. Glove straps. These requested items have already been signed off on, except for the gear rack.

A motion was made by K. Williams and seconded by D. Thaker with everyone in favor (E.A. Mullen, S. Burrows and M. Rudy) to accept the fire chief report.

Topics of Discussion:

The purchase agent provided an update on bids. She provided information to 7 different companies. There are an additional 9-10 people W. Kenney sent information to. By Friday bids should be out.

There is heat in the back room temporarily. Bid award will be prepared for the December meeting.

A quote is needed for an apparatus heater. One will be needed for now to see what it would look like due to gear racks on the other side of the bay. Mr. E.A. Mullen will work on getting 3 quotes and he advised it will be gas powered and will need an exhaust pipe out of the wall.

District budget: there is a date the budget has to be in to the state. That date is 60 days before Feb 15th. The audit must be submitted ahead of the budget.

The DCA was printed and there are many things to certify. The items (agenda, audits, budgets, etc.) must be on the website, however there is no website for the board, so these items must be up on the fire company website. The minutes will be put up by S. Burrows. The attorney advised with these items 3 consecutive years must be on the website.

Communication:

Presented by E.A. Mullen. There is a copy of a form which is an authorization to submit a report which was done by the site coordinator to the department of environmental protection. This is the final report dated, Oct 23, 2024. The bottom line is that it is his professional opinion that this remediation has been completed. There is a copy of: the joint board report from the previous night's meeting, the business administrator's financial report, the fire official report, and the chief's report. Another correspondence is the report on 9-3-4. There is an email from the person doing the work is included. The email provided an update on what's happening: photos of the box on the chassis, electrical being installed and the body prepped to start paint. It's expected to be completed in February. Final inspection should be ready around that timeframe. At some point there needs to be a plan to get the tools down there for installation. The specs sheet is needed and it calls for all items to be mounted at the shop. Any change order will probably come at a cost.

A motion was made by M. Rudy and seconded by D. Thaker with all in favor (E.A. Mullen, S. Burrows and K. Williams) to accept the communications report.

Deferred business.

1st resolution: 2025 commissioner salaries. For the past few years the commissioner salaries have remained at \$10,200. The floor was opened to discuss. Mr. Williams asked if anyone had any recommendations. Mr. Burrows advised the cost of inflation has gone up. Mr. E.A. Mullen recommended either \$10,500 or \$11,000. Mr. Williams agreed with \$11,000.

Roll call was made for each person to vote on the resolution: E.A. Mullen -Yes, S. Burrows -Yes, M. Rudy -Yes, K. Williams -Yes, D. Thaker -Yes.

2nd resolution: the 2025 annual renewal of the dispatch agreement with Fords. It has gone up 2.5 percent and the new annual fee is \$85,378.

A motion was made by K. Williams and seconded by D. Thaker with all in favor (E.A. Mullen, S. Burrows and M. Rudy) to accept the resolution for the shared service agreement's new annual fee in the amount of \$85,378.

New Business.

Mr. Burrows asked that when 9-6 is sent out, can the pedal be looked at. Also, can a covering for the driver seat also be looked into. Mr. Williams advised he believes there's a place that is able to possibly swatch out chairs. He will reach out and get a quote.

Fire Company:

Presented by E.R. Mullen. Two things, chairs were mentioned at last month's meeting, we are not ready to place an order. There is a draft for the modification they would like to implement for the work crew. The fire company attorney will need to review. It would give the work crew supervisor permission to have a firefighter in station on Saturday night from 10p.m.-6a.m.

Something has to be done about getting people through fire fighter 1 and hanging onto them for the rest of the year. If you become a career firefighter, you are getting paid though out training. That cannot be done here. There can be an incentive to get through fire academy to graduation. And if they remain for one year an incentive could be the amount of money a career fire fighter is paid during training. The training is 300 hours unpaid, has to be completed in your own time, and those who have their heart in it, they are completing it. Mr. E.A. Mullen advised this can be put into a mutual services agreement instead of an amendment as the end of the year is next month. Discussion will need to be had for the timing. The night crew provided some security and are there at night when problems can occur.

Public Discussion: none

A motion was made at 7:51p.m. by K. Williams and seconded by S. Burrows with everyone in favor (E.A. Mullen, M. Rudy and D. Thaker) to adjourn the meeting.

Secretary
Board of Fire Commissioners, District #9

Minutes taken by:
R. Jimenez