

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
WALL FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
1612 ROUTE 71
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January 21, 2021**

The regular monthly meeting of Wall Fire District No.1, Board of Fire Commissioner was called to order at 7:30 with the salute to the flag followed by the announcement of emergency exits by President Davenport.

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, N.J.S.A.10-4-6 et seq. Was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon.

In accordance with the provisions of the Act, the Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire District No.1 of the Township of Wall, has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, place and agenda to the extent known thereof posted as follows:

- *Published in the Asbury Park Press December 19, 2019*
- *Published in the Coast Star December 26, 2019*
- *Filed written notice with the Township Clerk on December 17, 2019*
- *Posted written notice on the Official Bulletin Board at the Township Municipal Building Dec. 17, 2019*

ROLL CALL:

President Davenport – Present
Vice President – Hendrickson - Present
Secretary – Stelling – Present
Treasurer – Miles – Present
Commissioner – Curtis – Present
Administrator Newberry and Solicitor Sendzek also in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Commissioner Miles and second by Commissioner Curtis to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as submitted. The motion was moved and approved with all members voting YES.

APPROVAL OF REQUISITIONS, VOUCHERS AND BILLS: A motion was made by Commissioner Curtis and second by Commissioner Miles to approve the bills as submitted for payment. The motion was moved and approved with all members voting YES.

TREASURER' REPORT: Commissioner Miles submitted the following report: balance in the Ocean First account \$293,090.71, balance in the Investors account \$37,682.16. A motion was by Commissioner Stelling and second by Commissioner Curtis to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted. The motion was moved and approved with all members voting YES.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Administrator Newberry read a memo that stated as January 21, 2021, as a result of the ongoing pandemic, and its potential for financial uncertainties all staff has been held at the 2020 rate, including contractual employees whose contract expired on December 31. The Administrator was scheduled for an increase in 2021. He has voluntarily agreed to (6) furlough days in 2021 to keep him at the previous year's rate. Lakewood Fire District has an employee working towards his QPA Certification, in the event of the successful completion the District may opt to end their shared service agreement. As such the Administrator has voluntarily agreed to defer his 3rd quarter QPA stipend from Lakewood Township until the end of the year. This is being done in part to avoid any potential Budget short fall, should the agreement be ended earlier. In the event adequate funds are available after November 1st, the QPA Stipend for Lakewood can be paid in part or full of the amount due for the 1st Quarter.

COMMITTEES:

1. House Report: The material for the Route 71 garage wall should be delivered in the next week. 18th avenue fire house, everything appears to be fine.
2. Equipment: 1-76 is scheduled for its annual preventive maintenance. The deputy chief's car went out for its 45,000 service. 1-89 will be going to Defender after 1-76 is complete. That to do the preventive maintenance and work up an estimate on what it's going to cost to fix the air brake problem. Also look at the rear end problem.
3. Fire Bureau: The Annual Report is to be submitted. Commissioner Stelling will sign of on that.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Capital Improvements – 18th Ave Station = Apron & Building Route 71 = Garage Wall
The Board paid \$2,500 for an engineer to come and develop a report on replacing the apron. It has come the Administrator's attention that is a contingent of fire members that are exploring the idea of repairing instead of replacing the concrete apron. The Board's position is were simply funding a portion of the project. It is the fire company's decision. The Board agreed to fund \$45,000 including the engineering and professional costs toward the project. The discussion ended with the Board deciding that whatever the fire company decides, the District will only pay half of the cost.
- B. Engineer Training Requests: Commissioner Davenport reported that he had cleared Eric Carlsen on engines 1-76 and 1-77. Commissioner Davenport, who is the Chief Engineer, has reached out to the other members who have requested driver training and waiting back to here when they can make themselves available.
- C. Communications Upgrades – Progress. There have been meetings and things are moving along.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Driver Policy – There has been a lot of discussion about the driving of the trucks. The present policy has been in place since 2012, with a revision in 2015. What the Administrator is looking for is The Commissioners Davenport, Hendrickson and Curtis, work together as a team and schedule 3 engineers each, and you pick certain times. The trainer will watch the pumper operator to see if he is proficient in operating the truck. The Board members will review the changes to the policy and discuss it again at the February regular meeting.
- B. Recruitment and Retention Initiatives = LOSAP vs. Stipend – No further discussion at this time.
- C. Photo ID's – Applications have been sent out to Headquarters.
- D. Return to Work, Light duty Policy – Insurance carrier is requesting a return-to-work policy. Will be addressed at the February meeting.
- E. Reso. Authorizing Participating in Disability Insurance Program for paid staff – For a paid staff, a disability insurance program thru the State of New Jersey or equivalent. A motion was made by Commissioner Miles and second by Commissioner Curtis for the District to participate in that program. The motion was moved and approved with all members voting **YES**.

MISCELLANEOUS: Nothing to report.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

GOOD OF THE BOARD: Nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board at this time the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Norman R. Stelling
Secretary/ Clerk of the Board