

The Board of Fire Commissioners, Gloucester Township Fire District # 4 held a Workshop Meeting on January 4, 2023 at Blackwood Fire Company, 14 W. Central Avenue, Blackwood, NJ 08012. This meeting has been properly advertised according to the State of New Jersey Sunshine Laws.

COMMISSIONERS: M. Cristella, J. McCann, M. Jones, J. Vannoni

ATTENDEES: Chief Cipriano, Chief Carlin, FF Alvin

Commissioner McCann and the Clerk explained to the Board that additional fund balance must be used to make the 2023 Budget cap compliant, and the additional amount is \$11578.07 . That will take the amount of fund balance utilized for the 2023 budget from \$172,618.05 to \$184196.12. Additionally, a Special Meeting will be advertised for 1/18/2023 at 7:00, where the amendment to the budget resolution will be adopted, and the second reading, along with the resolution to adopt the budget will be adopted. The regular meeting will take place following the Special Meeting.

Commissioner J. Vannoni brought up the topic of the Strategic Planning Committee, which was approved by the Board and that he has asked Chief Carlin to be a part of that committee. He stated that the Board supports the Chief, and the volunteer firefighters are there to support the career staff.

Chief Carlin discussed the plan he had done, back when the volunteer staff was more plentiful, and how the aspects of the plan can still be applied today, with adjustments, to accommodate the numbers the fire company has today.

The Board and Chief Carlin, along with Chief Cipriano had a long discussion on the subject. The topics of duty crews, getting the apparatus out, and getting out first. Chief Carlin brought up SWAT analysis, which means strengths, weaknesses, attitudes and threats, which will also include financials. He added that the career staff needs to be involved in the process. With out doing this, a logical decision on apparatus cannot be made. He went on to say, make it a truck company, put tools on the Cascade, and figure it out with the 2 pieces of apparatus, and added, figure out what everyone is doing on the rig. He volunteered to help the Chief with the plan.

The Board and the Chief discussed the equipment that has been removed from the Tower Ladder and Engine 842. Commissioner J. Vannoni is going to assign Captain Reiss to do the inventory. The Chief said there are spare air packs. Chief Carlin said there are C boxes, that can be obtained for approximately \$1900.00. Commissioner Vannoni said the air packs need to remain in the building, due to security and temperature. Chief Cipriano said they will clean out the shed, and put other equipment into the shed, so the air packs can be kept in the building.

Commissioner McCann discussed with the Board, how mechanically, the maintenance on the apparatus is not being kept up. He said when R. Jones was here, he had 40 hours a week to work on the trucks, but FAM Prendergast only has 24 hours and needs to answer fire calls. He is

not finding fault with the FAM, but he does not have the time to spend on the apparatus. He suggested, in the 2024 budget, the Board should think about using Public Works or Buds for repairs, and the FAM for mounting and things like that. He went on to say the Fire Official has help, Reiss, O'Connor and Ricciardelli, which has helped to get the inspections done. Commissioner J. Vannoni said some of this is attributed to age of the apparatus.

Commissioner J. McCann asked why we are not using the reserve engine? He stated we have a reserve engine policy. Commissioner J. Vannoni said that was not a part of the policy, it is only if a piece goes out of service temporarily. Commissioner J. McCann said the policy says, if you have a piece of apparatus that is out of service, you can use the reserve piece. He suggested, say 40 days from now, we sell Engine 842, and then get the reserve piece down here. Can we do that? Commissioner J. Vannoni said he does not think so, and this needs to be brought up at the next OPS meeting.

Commissioner J. McCann questioned the ISO rating, and asked why we did not get credit for a reserve piece. It was determined, the Board would need to have 8 pieces of apparatus before you would get credit for that. He said the rating is 3, and asked what was the previous rating. Commissioner J. Vannoni said it was 4, and the \$1.8 million we are spending on the 88 program, helped with the rating.

Commissioner M. Cristella said the Board needs to plan on the Squad 88 replacement. Commissioner McCann said when Squad 88 was purchased, he and Administrator Robb discussed that within 8 years, they needed to start the process to replace that piece. He said he asked Captain Reiss to put mileage on his reports.

Commissioner McCann asked about the mechanics again, and asked if there is a policy in place. Commissioner Vannoni said there is not, but there is an understanding between them. It is not written down. Bill does repairs, Nick does warranty work. Commissioner McCann said Bill does the repairs on all the apparatus, plus Squad 88.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner McCann to adopt a resolution to go into closed session to discuss personnel. All in favor, motion carries.

ROLL CALL: M. Cristella-yes, M. Jones-yes, J. McCann-yes, J. Vannoni-yes

Meeting back in session.

ROLL CALL: M. Cristella-here, M. Jones-here, J. McCann-here, J. Vannoni-here

Commissioner M. Cristella said the item discussed in closed session will remain closed at this time.

With no further business to discuss

Motion by Commissioner M. Jones, second by Commissioner J. Vannoni to adjourn. All in favor, motion carries.

DATED: January 4, 2023

BY: _____
Michael Jones, Secretary