

The Board of Fire Commissioners, Gloucester Township Fire District # 4 held a Workshop Meeting on February 7, 2024. The meeting was held 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: D. Vannoni, M. Cristella, J. Vannoni, M. Jones

ATTENDEES: FF Klingberg, FF Brogan, IAFF President Kemery, Representative from Solar Company Ante Conte

1. Ante Conte a representative from Sun Capital presented a solar program to the Board. There will be no cost, and it is a program backed by the State and Federal Government. All permits are included, and the program is warranted for 25 years. The Board asked some questions, and he provided answers. The program is partnered with PSE&G. At the end of the discussion, it was the Board's position that Blackwood Fire Company owns the building, so therefore the decision would come from Blackwood Fire Company.

Please note, during the presentation Commissioner J. McCann entered the meeting.

2. Next on the Agenda was the captains meeting. Commissioner J. Vannoni did not recall why that was on the agenda.
3. The Board discussed the LOSAP contribution for the year 2023. They decided the maximum amount would be allotted to each qualifying member, \$2070.00. and there are 20 qualifying members. Commissioner J. Vannoni brought up active members LOSAP as opposed to associate members LOSAP. Commissioner D. Vannoni said any change to the LOSAP program must be done prior to the new LOSAP year which begins October 1st. Total for 2023 LOSAP will be \$41,400.00.
4. Commissioner J. Vannoni remembered why the captains meeting was on the agenda. He sent the meeting minutes from the captains meeting for all to review. There are doing what the Board asked them to do, and sent the meeting minutes.
5. Commissioner McCann brought of the topic of relief paperwork, and the topic of the length of time for the processing of applications. He gave the example of an applicant's failure to sign the relief form, no one on the Board or the Clerk caught that omission, the form was given back to the Chief for his signature, that was 3 weeks ago, and we still have not gotten the form back. He brought up another application that was approved by the Board at the January 17th meeting, pending a physical, and he has yet to make an appointment to schedule that physical. Commissioner J. Vannoni said that will not happen again, because he is making it clear, no applications will be accepted by the Board, until all the application is absolutely complete. No expectations. He will make this clear at the next meeting. The correct form for the relief association was also

discussed, and at this point, the tan forms will be the only acceptable forms the relief will accept.

6. Commissioner J. Vannoni presented the application for Joseph Shaw, which is complete. There is an application for Josh Rivera, but the application is not complete, as the physical has not been completed.
7. The topic of ordering supplies was discussed. Commissioner J. Vannoni said the problem is, one hand does not know what the other hand is doing. He said (4) cases of paper towels were sitting in the hallway, and Trustee Klingberg said there are (4) cases upstairs. It was concluded, the career staff will only order supplies for BCR, and the trustees will order all supplies for Central Avenue.
8. Commissioner J. Vannoni said the camera that was moved in the lounge, has since been moved back. He wanted to make sure there was no liability on the Boards part.
9. Administrative policy for Squad 88 platoons, and administrative policy for shift call outs. Commissioner J. Vannoni said he presented them for review, and he will be asking the Board to adopt them at the regular meeting.
10. Commissioner Jones said there are 10 tough bags sitting in the Chiefs office. Commissioner J. Vannoni said he spoke to former Chief Cipriano, the computers have been wiped, but no one wants to buy them. He suggested we just dispose of them. Commissioner Jones said he would stop by tomorrow, and pick them up and get rid of them.
11. Commissioner McCann wanted to re-visit relief paper work. It was confirmed by Bill Larson, the Secretary of the relief, that the tan forms are the only acceptable forms to be submitted. He called the relief, and confirmed with Denise that they are the only acceptable forms.
12. Commissioner Cristella brought up the topic of a car port at BCR. He looked into it, and the cost will be about \$10,000.00. it was suggested, so the pick-up truck could be put under it. He suggested that that instead of a car port, the vehicles be moved around, so the pick-up truck can be housed at Central Avenue. Commissioner D. Vannoni said he has no issue with it sitting outside, as it's a pick-up truck.
13. Commissioner Jones reported 848 should be gone soon. It is being sold for \$1,000.00.
14. The subject of the Solar System was brought up again, and Commissioner D. Vannoni told Trustee Klingberg that in his opinion, he said the program sounds too good to be true, with that being said, he encouraged him to have Blackwood Fire Company's attorney to review the contract, and then make a decision. The Board thanked Bill for bringing the representative in to present his program to the Board. Commissioner D.

Vannoni questioned as to why the Township, all the schools have installed solar, solar fields, but none of them used this company. He encouraged Blackwood Fire Company to do their due diligence in looking into this, through their attorney, prior to making a commitment. Commissioner Cristella suggested BFC ask him for a list of references, contact them, and see if what he is stating is true, and if they are satisfied. Commissioner McCann suggested that Sambuco should be the one contacting the references, since he is in the construction industry. Klingberg said he is going to go over it with him.

15. Trustee Klingberg reported the new boiler has been installed, and has been inspected, and everything passed. He asked who the Board uses for paper supply. The Board told him WB Mason.
16. The topic of the 911 phone was brought up, and Commissioner D. Vannoni said the Board has always been in favor of having the phone since it is a firehouse. He said people are permitted to drop babies off, someone could stumble up to the firehouse, and since it is not manned all the time, he thinks it is a good idea, and costs the Board next to nothing to keep operational.
17. Commissioner Jones brought up the subject of joining the school district, and ordering with them like the Township does. He said the only problem is, you must order for the year, and then store the product. He said he would provide Trustee Klingberg with the list of items that can be ordered, and a contact.

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

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

Meeting called back to order.

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

Commissioner D. Vannoni stated the Board discussed a personnel matter in closed session that will remain closed at this time.

One the second item discussed in closed session, Commissioner D. Vannoni said no decision could be made at the Workshop, but it seems as though the Board was in agreement, and will pass a motion at the Regular Meeting, making EMT a requirement for continued employment. He also stated the Board is going to look into mandating EMR for the volunteers.

IAFF 3249 President Kemery asked the Board if they were aware of some station policies that were discussed at the BFC Meeting. He said the fire company is going to be updating the station policy. He is sure that came from the meetings with the Board and Blackwood Fire Company. He asked if Blackwood Fire Company is aware that this involves the shared services, and they need to be made aware of that.

Commissioner J. Vannoni said they were made aware.

IAFF President Kemery said it has not stuck.

Commissioner J. Vannoni said he made it clear to them, that the policies affect the shared services, and the shared services committee will have a chance to look at it.

IAFF President Kemery said he does not want to see them create a policy, and not be done with the knowledge that the policy can affect the shared services. He does not feel the BFC operational or administrative portion understands. He stated while he understands the Boards right to make decisions, the Union has the right to review the impacts of those decisions.

Commissioner McCann stated that BFC can change the station policy, without presenting it to the Board.

Commissioner J. Vannoni said yes, it is their building. In the past, they brought it to the Board for adoption. The Board only has authority on oversight and operation, per Title 40. It was one of those give and take things, is how he explained it to them.

With no further business to discuss.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Cristella to adjourn. All in favor, motion carries.

DATED: February 7, 2024

BY: _____
Michael Jones, Secretary

