

The Board of Fire Commissioner, Gloucester Township Fire District # 4 held a Workshop Meeting on June 1, 2022, 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.

Commissioner: D. Vannoni, M. Cristella, M. Jones, J. McCann, J. Vannoni

Attendees: Captain Giambri, FF Brogan, Captain Reiss, FF O Connor

1. Captain Giambri spoke to the Board about Iron Compass, and the new web-based program. District # 4 and District # 2 can have one license, for a total of \$1500.00 per year. He noted that you can do Google earth, and that ESP does not have a mapping system.
Commissioner D. Vannoni would like to continue to use ESP and the County System along with Iron Compass. He agrees with the one license for both Districts.
2. Captain Reiss had a discussion with the Board over shirt and helmet colors for Squad 88. The cost would be on the employees.
Commissioner D. Vannoni is opposed to one color helmet, as we are still 2 separate Fire Districts.
The gear is all the same, but the back of the gear signifies each individual Fire District. There was a discussion on helmets for the Fire Officials.
Discussion will be placed on hold for now.
3. Captain Giambri spoke about changes for District # 2.
Commissioner J. Vannoni does not want to see anything that will get in the way of Squad 88. He thinks Squad 88 should be uniform in color.
Commissioner D. Vannoni suggested mixing the platoons.
Commissioner J. Vannoni said he would have made multiple platoon changes, if her could.
Commissioner D. Vannoni stated helmet colors will not improve how Squad 88 performs.
4. Commissioner J. Vannoni spoke about the Digital Imaging Policy, and how that would fall under the social media Policy. There was a discussion on the policy.
5. Commissioner D. Vannoni suggested the Board stand down on trying to acquire the LEA's from District # 3, until a decision is made on District # 2 and District # 4 plans for a combined Bureau of Fire Prevention.
Commissioner J. Vannoni suggested promoting a Battalion Chief to work Monday – Friday, and he would also be the Fire Official. Currently, Fire District # 2 does not have a Fire Official.

There was a discussion on hiring a civilian Fire Official. This is only the beginning stages. It was noted, the responsibility of all platoons would be necessary, and multiple inspections per platoon, if the LEA's from District # 3 are acquired.

6. Commissioner D. Vannoni asked if the Captain's position opens, would it be from a joint list, and would the Board re-visit combining the lists. He asked if the Board would like to do back to combined crews?

Commissioner J. Vannoni felt everything Commissioner D. Vannoni stated was correct.

7. Commissioner D. Vannoni asked if a petition should be circulated asking for signatures to combine the Fire Districts.

8. Captain Reiss stated the Captains list needs to be from a joint list, as there are 2 Captains eligible for that position.

Commissioner D. Vannoni has operational questions regarding that position, such as the Battalion Chief reports to the Volunteer Chief? Does the Battalion Chief from District # 2 fall under the Chief from District # 4? Does he fall under both Chiefs?

Commissioner J. Vannoni said on the organizational chart, the Battalion Chief would fall below the volunteer Chief.

Commissioner D. Vannoni said until District #2 decides they would like to entertain this idea, there is no need to even discuss it at this point.

Commissioner Jones said he stated at the OPS meeting, this need to be discussed in a joint meeting with District # 2.

The Board would like to move forward with the joint Bureau of Fire Prevention, however if District # 2 moves forward with hiring a civilian, District # 4 will move forward on its own.

Commissioner Jones asked Captain Giambri if he is the Fire Official until June 30th?

The feeling he got at the OPS meeting is that they are going to hire a civilian.

Commissioner Cristella said it looks like that is the way they are going.

Commissioner D. Vannoni said District # 4 continues to bend to District # 2, and he is tired of it.

Commissioner J. Vannoni stated that many of the policies, that we are instituting are from District # 4, not District # 2. He went on to say that we are trying to provide the best service, with what we have, and are given at this time. Again, he said everything D. Vannoni said is correct.

Commissioner Cristella said he thinks District # 4 works hard to make this work, and to District # 2, Squad 88 is a side bar, and they are more interested in their own fire district. He feels Squad 88 is something they feel forced to do.

Captain Reiss said District # 2 is satisfied with Squad 88, but is not looking toward the future like District # 4 is doing. We look to progress, and they say look at what we have done so far.

Commissioner J. Vannoni said look at the south, they have worked together for the past 20 years, but they do not have one policy together, nor do they even speak to one another. They don't have one agreement together.

Commissioner D. Vannoni stated District # 5 staffs a truck down there one day, and District # 6 staffs a truck on the next day, it is not a joint venture.

Commissioner McCann said he feels we are putting a better product on the street with Squad 88 then they are down there.

Captain Reiss said this program was put into place because of a death in District # 4, but he feels if this program does not progress forward, the next tragedy will be an employee.

Commissioner Cristella said at what point do you say enough is enough, look to another venture, someone who is willing to work with us.

Commissioner J. Vannoni said we are operating as a regional department, without being a regional department.

9. Commissioner D. Vannoni asked if A Platoon ever goes to Tuesday night training at Blackwood. The answer was no. Does Platoon B go to Chews for training? The answer was no. Platoon C goes to both Blackwood and Chews for training.

Commissioner Jones asked if the Board heard Platoon A does not even attend Chews training.

Commissioner D. Vannoni said he does not care that Platoon A doesn't go to Chews Training; the shared service agreement states all platoons are to attend training.

10. Commissioner Jones said the tower ladder is out of service, because after the UL Testing, the hydraulic leaked at the fittings, auxiliary power did not operate properly, hydraulic lift showed signs of leakage, and cracks on the welds on the turn table, platform. They did not do the load test due to the cracks. It will be at Buds June 8. He will have to talk to the mechanic, and then decide what to do about the cracks. Commissioner J. Vannoni said we will end up spending \$20,000.00 on it, but we don't have a choice.

Commissioner D. Vannoni said we may have to look into replacing it earlier than we thought.

Commissioner Jones said he would vote no to replace it. He said we are surrounded by tower ladders. They are on our boxes, and we do not have the staff to make that feasible.

Commissioner D. Vannoni said we are then down to one truck. Actually 2. Then there is the reserve engine.

11. Commissioner McCann asked when the training is to be done on that.

Commissioner Jones said that is going to be done by the volunteer Captain of Chews.

It was also decided, if both Districts needed the reserve engine, the Chiefs would decide who gets it, and then the other station would be manned that day.

With no further business to discuss.

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

DATED : June 1, 2022

SIGNED : _____
Michael Jones, Secretary