

The Board of Fire Commissioners, Gloucester Township Fire District # 4 held a Workshop Meeting on August 3, 2022. The meeting was held at Blackwood Fire Company, 14 W. Central Avenue, Blackwood, NJ 08012

Commissioners: D. Vannoni, M. Cristella (arrived late) J. Vannoni, M. Jones, J. McCann

Attendees: Captain Reiss, FF Walsh, Chief Cipriano

Commissioner McCann spoke about the meeting he and the Administrative Clerk had with a new accountant V. Passarella, which is needed due to the fact J. Bowley is leaving Bowley and Company. He explained the meeting went well, and Vince stated he would like to take on Fire District # 4. Commissioner McCann told the Board his fee is \$150.00 per hour, and he did not know how that compared to Jeffs fee. The Clerk texted him, and said there was never an hourly fee put on Jeffs invoices, and she would email a copy his invoice to the Board tomorrow. THE end result, was the new accountant would be approved at the regular meeting on 8/17.

Commissioner D. Vannoni stated the reports needed for inspections are not available in First Due, and District # 4 is holding off on implementing the system until 1/1/2023.

Commissioner Jones stated that it was discovered the tower ladder has 40 additional cracks. He is currently waiting on a quote for the additional work.

Squad 88 has begun fueling at GTPW as of 8/1, and although one bill will be sent, it will have 2 separate fueling logs, which will show the Squad 88 fuel.

During the hose testing, one length of 5" hose was lost, and one length of 3 "was lost.

There was a very long discussion on the Shared Services with District # 2 on the following topics:

1. With District # 2 hiring Young as a civilian, they have made a hire, without filling the retired position of Young. The goal for Squad 88 was to have each platoon at 5 personnel. The Union is opposed to this hiring, as a civilian is taking away bargaining unit work from the career staff.
Also, in the email from Robb, it stated the money for this hire was put into the 2022 budget, which shows this was the plan all along.
Let it be noted, both District's are waiting on the Safer Grants.
2. District # 4 has withheld doing things, waiting on District # 2 to make decisions, which seem to never happen.
3. District # 4 has repletely asked to have a joint meeting with District # 2, only to be put off time and time again. The discussion also turned to having 2 Commissioner meetings, informal meetings, but anything discussed, or what we think will be approved, goes back to the Commissioner only for them to turn it down.
4. Commissioner Cristella brought up the point of what will happen if District #2 decides to pull out of Squad 88, and they only have to notify District # 4, 90 days ahead of time.
Who is going to pay for the truck?

5. What happens on 1/1/2023, if Chews does not have a Chief? Are they going to name one of the career staff Chief of Chews Landing? What if they appoint a Battalion Chief, from District # 2? Who will that Chief oversee, all platoons, just District # 2 personnel?
6. The Board discussed putting their efforts into doing what is best for Fire District # 4, and putting the distraction of District # 2 on the back burner. It does not mean pulling out of Squad 88, as that is good for District # 2.
7. It was suggested having the following agenda for the joint meeting, should that happen:
 - A. Have a joint meeting- discuss items on the agenda
 - B. Have the group break up into individual Districts, behind closed doors to discuss items brought up at the joint meeting.
 - C. Bring both groups back together, and possibly have a vote on the topics.
8. Commissioner D. Vannoni was asked to put a lot of the important topics discussed tonight in writing, so they can be discussed at the joint meeting in a dignified manner.
9. It was stated District # 4 wants to move toward consolidation, and District #2 does not. It was suggested that during talks with District # 2, topics improving Squad 88 being discussed, rather than always talking about streamlining the operation.
10. Commissioner D. Vannoni suggested the district # 2 captains pay increase, for which District # 4 pays a percentage, should have an increase limit of 2%, and that needs to be put in writing.
11. Commissioner D. Vannoni would like to take over the LEAS from District # 3. The question was raised by Commissioner J. Vannoni if by doing that, would District # 4 make any money from it.
12. Commissioner McCann told the Board the new fire sub-code official stopped in here, and told Commissioner McCann that he was at an outlet store, which has been closed, but has not had an inspection since 2018. He said there could be reasons, such as the latest inspection was not posted, since the store was closed, the cert could be in a file. His point to the Board is District #4 needs to get its LEAS in order, before the Board takes on District # 3's LEAS.

With no further business to discuss.

Motion by Commissioner McCann, second by Commissioner Jones to adjourn.

Dated: August 3, 2022

BY: _____
Secretary, Michael Jones