

The Board of Fire Commissioners, Gloucester Township Fire District # 4 held a virtual Zoom Workshop on August 5, 2020. The meeting was held virtually, due to Governor Murphy restricting indoor gathering limits. This meeting has been properly advertised according to the State of New Jersey Sunshine Laws.

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Vannoni (absent) Commissioner McCann (absent)
Commissioner Grady (here) Commissioner Stavola (here)
Commissioner Jones (here)

Attendees: Captain Reiss, Chief Cipriano, FF Woods, FF O'Connor, FF Walsh

Commissioner Grady reported that nothing transpired at the meeting with the Mayor.

Commissioner Jones reported the FM Vehicle's repairs are almost complete, and it is waiting on one more part, and once installed the repair will be complete.

He also reported the District # 6 is interested in joining with District # 4 and District # 2.

Commissioner Jones suggested that representatives from District # 6, District # 4 and District # 2 collectively meet to discuss the possible merger.

Commissioner Grady asked Commissioner Jones if there was any word from the career staff concerning using 842, since Engine 88 does not have air condition at this time.

Commissioner Jones said the email was sent out to the career staff, but he has not received a reply stating they would like to use 842.

Commissioner Jones asked Captain Reiss to explain the FEMA Grant the District was just awarded.

Captain Reiss explained that the diesel fuel exhaust system was awarded, in the amount of \$36,219.09, with the Board paying \$3,621.91. The portion of the grant for the fire hose was not awarded. He stated he wants to make sure the system can be capped; in case the one engine bay is needed in the future as housing for firefighters.

Chief Cipriano asked if a wall could be built, as discussed in the past.

Commissioner Jones said if he remembers, the cost for the wall was around \$40,000.00.

Captain Reiss said that the wall is not needed at this time.

Commissioner McCann arrived at 7:15.

Commissioner Stavola reported that all the documents for the Workmen's Comp Audit have been submitted, and he thanked Clerk Fini for gathering the information, and submitting it.

Commissioner McCann asked the Board if they would be interested in hiring Rich Braslow, either on their own or in conjunction with District # 2 to see what can or can't be done as far as billing District # 3 and District # 1 for their calls involving Engine 88. He also stated he would contact Bill Robb to see if they would like to share the cost for Braslow.

Commissioner Grady thought that was a good idea, and also stated that maybe he could let us know if a takeover of District # 3 would be possible.

Commissioner McCann also brought up the subject of the labor attorney. He said with the career staff working in a shared service agreement with District # 2 that maybe both Board should employ the same labor attorney.

The discussion continued between the Board, and the fact that the salaries of the career staff are not equal, with District # 4 employees earning more than District # 2 employees. It was then brought up that maybe the verbiage of the contracts should mirror one another, even though the salaries do not.

Commissioner McCann said his reason behind this, is trying to get something in place so that down the road if things progress in the direction of consolidation, we have this in place.

There was further discussion in the topic.

Commissioner Grady agreed with one attorney, but stated the Board should hold off until one is needed.

Commissioner Jones stated the Board has not used a labor attorney for the past 2 contracts.

Captain Reiss stated the Boards cannot dictate what the Union does. He also called into question why the idea of consolidation is being put on the employees, when in fact the Boards need to be the ones who come up with a viable plan, and then implement consolidation.

Commissioner Stavola stated he feels District # 4 is trying to move forward.

Commissioner Grady, when asked if he had heard anything about consolidation from District # 2, said he believes they will not entertain the idea, although he has not formally be told that.

Commissioner Jones stated the Social Media Policy has been updated, and if anyone wants to make any changes to it, they should contact the Chief.

Commissioner Stavola said he contacted Harkins, and asked for a copy of GTPD's Social Media Policy.

Chief Cipraino sent an email to all the other Districts concerning a training session on Social Media, asking if they would be interested in joining, considering the high cost of the program.

They only response so far, was from District # 6 who said they may be interested. He then stated that the cost would be reflective of how many people attend. He will keep everyone in the loop.

Captain Reiss was then asked his thoughts on the policy.

Commissioner Grady had to leave the meeting.

Captain Reiss stated that he is abstaining from the issue, as he feels as though this is strictly an administrative issue, and he feels a though this opens up a bigger can of worms. He said it puts him in a difficult position, and he will abstain from the issue.

Commissioner Stavola asked Captain Reiss who pays his bills. He recalled the policy at GTPD, and said it wasn't that hard to follow.

There was a discussion between Captain Reiss and Commissioner Stavola on the issue.

Chief Cipriano said it is a work in progress.

With no further business to discuss.

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

DATED: August 5, 2020

BY: _____
Robert Stavola, Secretary