

**BTFD #2 SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**

**January 23, 2024**

**Meeting Called to Order 7:00 pm at the BTFD#2 Fire House.**

**Salute to the Flag and Moment of Silence observed**

**ROLL CALL By Chair Jim Cann:**

Robert Bennett Present George Chidley, Present, Andrew Law Present, George Gareis, Present, Jim Cann, Present.

**READING OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT:**

By Secretary (see Agenda)

**REVIEW OF THE 2024 BUDGET**

Chief MacFarland reviewed the proposed revisions to the 2024 Budget pursuant to communications from NJ DCA. Budget Summary Sheets and Appropriation Detail Sheets were provided to the BTFD#2 Commissioners. The budget \$3,109,122.32 budget would result in an increase in taxation. Commissioners were reminded that a CAP Compliant Budget will take effect if a proposed Ballot Budget is defeated. NJ DCA requested a copy of the 2022 BTFD#2 Audit, Special Service Equipment detail, correction to DFRS typo on page 4, F-9 more detail. The budget was conditionally approved by NJ DCA. The BTFD#2 Commissioners re-stated for the record their intention to seek voter approval to increase the budget in excess of the 2% State CAP. As recommended by the BTFD#2 Fire Commissioners at the December 18, 2023 Special Meeting, held to introduce the 2024 Budget, there will be 2 ballot Questions. The 1<sup>st</sup> Question will request funds for financing a new fire engine for \$1,391,035 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Question to increase the assessments to cover facility upgrades and salaries. The Commissioners requested that the Chief and Chair Jim Cann coordinate on developing language for the budget referendum in February 2024. The Solicitor had provided language for review. It was anticipated that the increase requested for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Question will be 9.1% totaling \$285,053. Chief anticipated having additional information on the budget referendum process for the February 1, 2024 Regular Meeting.

**MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC:**

At 7:15 pm Chair Jim Cann requested a motion to open the meeting to the public and George Chidley made a motion to open the meeting to the public prior to budget approval and the motion was seconded by Andrew Law. All members present affirmed the motion to open the meeting for public comment.

There were no members of the public present. Chair Jim Cann requested a motion to close the meeting for public comment. A motion was made by George Chidley to close the meeting for Public Comment and seconded by Andrew Law. All members present affirmed the motion to close the public comment portion of the meeting.

#### **BUDGET ADOPTION:**

Two resolutions were presented by Chair Jim Cann for consideration:

- **Resolution 2024-0010 to Amend the Budget approved on December 18, 2023.** Chair requested a motion and George Chidley made a motion to amend the prior budget approval and the motion was seconded by Andrew Law. A roll call ballot was taken and the Resolution was approved by all members present:  
Robert Bennett YES  
George Chidley YES  
George Gareis YES  
Andrew Law YES  
Jim Cann YES
  
- **Resolution 2024-0011 for the 2024 Budget Adoption of the revised 2024 Fire District Budget Fiscal Year January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024.** Chair requested a motion and George Gareis made a motion to approve the revised budget that was seconded by Andrew Law. A roll call ballot was taken and the Resolution was approved by all members present:  
Robert Bennett YES  
George Chidley YES  
George Gareis YES  
Andrew Law YES  
Jim Cann YES

#### **MOTION TO OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

Chair Jim Cann requested a motion to open the meeting to the public, A motion was made by George Chidley to open the meeting for public comment and was seconded by Andrew Law. All members present affirmed the motion to open the meeting for public comment. There were no members of the public present. Chair Jim Cann requested a motion to close the meeting for public comment. A motion was made by George Chidley to close the meeting for Public Comment and seconded by Andrew Law. All members present affirmed the motion to close the public comment portion of the meeting.

#### **MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

Chair, Jim Cann requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn was made by George Gareis Seconded by Andrew Law. All present balloted to affirm the motion and the meeting was closed at 7:25 pm.

**MINUTES APPROVED on February 1, 2024**

Robert Bennett, \_\_\_X  
George Chidley \_\_\_X  
George Gareis ABSTAIN ABSENT  
Andrew Law \_\_\_X  
Jim Cann \_\_\_X

**CERTIFIED BY:**

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**George Chidley, Secretary**  
**BTFD#2 Board of Fire Commissioners**

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**Jim Cann, Chair**  
**BTFD#2 Board of Fire Commissioners**