

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

**February 22, 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, JamesCann, Present.*

**Board Solicitors Present:**

Caitlin Harney Norcia, Esq.  
John Glynn, Esq.

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

By Secretary (see Agenda)

**REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC BIDDING REQUIREMENTS:**

Caitlin Harney Norcia, Esq. Provided the following information:

- Purchase of a new Fire Truck requires a Bond.
- Repairs to the Fire Station Roof do not require a Bond
- Architectural Services related to the Roof do not require a Bond.

-Professional services such as an Architect must be obtained through an RFP process if the amount exceeds \$17,510. Attorney will work with the Chief to obtain relevant information related to the professional services to be performed and the Solicitor shall prepare a specification for BTFD#2 Fire Commissioners approval prior to advertising. Only Professional responding to the RFP are eligible for consideration.

Commissioner Andrew Law, provided an overview of the Rural Development Bond Program administered by the the US Dept. of Agriculture that will be utilized to purchase the Fire Engine recently approved by a vote of the residents in Fire District 2. A Pre-application is required and services of a Bond Counsel will be required at an amount not to exceed \$17,510 cap. After Pre-application approval the BTFD#2 must submit a formal application to US Dept. of Agriculture. The federal funds will allow the BTFD#2 to interim finance of the building of the Fire Engine. The loan is locked in with a letter of intent from US Dept. of Agriculture. A resolution will be required authorizing designated BTFD#2 Commissioners to process all federal forms.

NOTE: State Local Finance Board approval is required and the BTFD#2 Commissioners will coordinated the paperwork with the Solicitor and Bond Counsel.

As background to the recent Ballot initiative, Chair Cann discussed with the Solicitor issues related to collection of taxes related to Warehouse project in the Township. He advised that the BTFD#@ was in cont with State Legislator Herb Conaway who will be working on this issue with the NJ League of Municipalities, NJ Dept. of Community Affairs and State Legislature to find a fix. Under present legislation only the Counties and Schools reveive a benefits form Warehouse Construction resulting from local PILOT agreements. There was also some discussion that municipalities could offset some of the shortfalls through contributions not to exceed \$162,000 annually foe equipment and repairs.

Chief, MacFarland reminded the BTFD#2 Commissioners that he would be on sick leave most of the following week.

### **MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC:**

At 7:20 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. BTFD#2 will take advantage of Cooperative Purchasing on all individual bids.

### **MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION:**

RESOLUTION 2024-0015 was read by the Secretary. A motion was made by Andrew Law to go into a meeting not open to the public and Seconded by George Chidley. Chair Cann requested approval of the motion. All BTFD#2 Commissioners present approved the motion and the meeting went into closed session at **8:00 pm**.

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

Meeting returned to public session at 8:16 pm. Chair Jim Cann requested a motion to open the meeting to the public, A motion was made by Andrew Law to open the meeting for pubic comment and was seconded by George Chidley. 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 8:19 pm.

**MINUTES APPROVED on April 4, 2024**

Robert Bennett, \_\_\_X  
George Chidley \_\_\_X  
George Gareis \_\_\_X  
Andrew Law \_\_\_X  
James Cann \_\_\_X

**CERTIFIED BY:**



\_\_\_\_\_  
George Chidley, Secretary  
BTFD#2 Board of Fire Commissioners



\_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew Law  
James Cann, Chair  
BTFD#2 Board of Fire Commissioners

*Acting*