

**BTFD #2 SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
December 18, 2023**

Meeting Called to Order 7:11 pm at the BTFD#2 Fire House.

Salute to the Flag and Moment of Silence observed

ROLL CALL By Chair Jim Cann:

Robert Bennet Present George Chidley, Present, Andrew Law Present, George Gareis, Absent, Jim Cann, Present.

READING OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT:

By Secretary (see Agenda)

REVIEW OF THE 2024 BUDGET

Chief MacFarland reviewed the proposed 2024 CAP Compliant Budget. 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. The CAP Compliant Budget will take effect if a proposed Ballot Budget is defeated. The BTFD#2 Commissioners stated their intention to seek voter approval to increase the budget in excess of the 2% State CAP. The ballot will request funds for a new fire engine as well as a separate 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 consideration. It was anticipated that the increase requested will be 9.1%. Chief anticipated having the information on the budget referendum at the January 17, 2023 Special Meeting scheduled for final adoption of the 2024 CAP Budget subject to NJ DCA prior review and approval.

Three resolutions were presented by the Chair for consideration:

- Resolution 2023-0029 to authorize amount to be raised over the 2% CAP \$285,052 or 9.1% if affirmed by ballot. Chair requested a motion and Andrew Law made a motion to approve the budget that was seconded by Robert Bennett. A roll call ballot was taken and the Resolution was approved by all members present.
- Resolution 2023-0030 to authorize purchase of a new Fire Engine \$1,120,000 and \$271,035 subject to ballot approval. Chair requested a motion and Andrew Law made a motion to approve the purchase subject to ballot approval and Robert Bennett seconded the motion. A roll call ballot was taken and the Resolution was approved by all members present.
- Resolution 2023-0031 for the 2024 Budget Introduction for a budget totaling \$3,109,122.32. Chair requested a motion and Andrew Law made a motion to approve the budget that was seconded by Robert Bennett. A roll call ballot was taken and the Resolution was approved by all members present.

OPEN THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

at 7:45 pm Chair Jim Cann requested a motion to open the meeting to the public. A motion was made by George Chidley and Seconded by Andrew Law to open the meeting to public for comment. A ballot was taken. All members present affirmed the motion to open the meeting for Public comment. There were no members of the Public present who came forth to speak. Chairman Jim Cann requested a motion to close the meeting for Public comment. A motion was moved by Andrew Law and Seconded by George Chidley. A Ballot was taken. All members present affirmed the motion.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Chair, Jim Cann requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn was made by George Chidley Seconded by Andrew Law. All present balloted to affirm the motion and the meeting was closed at 8:04 pm.

MINUTES APPROVED on January 4, 2024

Robert Bennett, ___X
George Chidley __X
George Gareis ABSTAIN ABSENT
Andrew Law ___X
Jim Cann ___X

CERTIFIED BY:

George Chidley, Secretary
BTFD#2 Board of Fire Commissioners

Jim Cann, Chair
BTFD#2 Board of Fire Commissioners