

Annual Reorganization Meeting 12/5/2024

Start time: 7:02 p.m.

Salute to the Flag / Moment of Silence:

Roll Call:

Robert Bennett – On Speaker phone

George Chidley Absent

George Gareis – Present

James Cann – Present

Andrew Law - Present

Open Public Meeting Act: by Jim Cann

In compliance with the open Public Meetings Act, this is to announce that adequate and electronic notice of the Bordentown Township Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire District No. 2, Annual Reorganization Meeting and its Regular Meeting was provided in the following manner:

On December 30, 2022 advance written notice of this meeting was posted on the bulletin board in the Firehouse; was emailed to The Burlington County Times and the Times of Trenton; was published by The Burlington County Times on January 1, 2023 and by the Times of Trenton on January 5, 2023 was filed with the Clerk of Bordentown Township and was mailed to all persons who requested and paid for such notice. Please note that unless otherwise modified by Resolution of the Bordentown Township board of Fire Commissioners, all meetings shall begin at 7:00 p.m. and no new matter shall be initiated after 11:00 p.m., except where the Board of Fire Commissioner, by majority vote of those present, shall specifically authorize the extension of the meeting beyond 11:00 p.m.

Election of Chairman for 2025

Nomination by Andrew Law, Seconded by George Gareis. Approved by Andrew Law, George Gareis, Robert Bennett and James Cann

Oath of Office Newly elected Commissioner by James Cann Chairman

Election of Officers:

Nomination and election of Vice Chairman for 2025 Andrew Law

Nomination and election of Secretary for 2025 George Chidley

Nomination and election of Treasurer for 2025 Robert Bennett

All Officers elected by voice vote the Board of Fire Commissioners J. Cann, A. Law, G. Gareis and R. Bennett

Regular Meeting 12/5/24

START TIME 7:25 p.m.

Members present: James Cann Chairman, Andrew Law Vice Chairman, Robert Brennen Treasurer (via Phone) and George Gareis
Absent George Chidley Secretary

James Cann reassigned Andrew Law as Acting Secretary for this session, with no objections motion moved and voted approval.

Since the Salute to the Flag and a moment of silence was accomplished at the start of the Reorganization meeting it was not necessary to conduct this again this date.

The notice of open Meetings act was also previously read into the meeting minutes during the Reorganization Meeting and not necessary to read it into the minutes during this meeting.

Minutes and prior meetings:

The November 7, 2024 minutes were approved as submitted. Motion made by Andrew Law seconded by George Gareis. Approved by A. Law, G. Gareis and R. Bennett

Chief's and Officers Reports:

Monthly report by title dated December 4, 2024

Attachments:

2024 Monthly Overtime Report for the months September, October and November

Note: the increases mainly due to the reduction in force.

Purchases by Vendor Summary

Incident Summary November

PNC Bank

PNC Payroll

Proposed 2025 cap compliant Budget

Civil Service

Firefighters list reviewed by Capt. Scully. 7 individuals on the list. There is a need to interview perspective candidates. Dates to be finalized with George Chidley, Ron Bennett, Chief MacFarland and Captain Scully. (12/18,19)

Station:

An inspection of the roof was made by the Architect his assistant, and two perspective bidders on 12/4/24. In attendance was Commissioner Law and Capt. Scully

Of note both contactors stated that they would not leave any roofing demolition open without fully making final repairs by the end of each day. Any disruption of company
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operations does not seem likely. Of note a 3-yard dumpster and parking for employees and equipment will be necessary during the 30 day (estimated) time for demo, and replacement of the roof system.

Treasurers Report:

Purchases by Vendor 12 1-4, 2024 totaled \$18,094.41 J. Cann called for a motion to pay vendors in that amount, moved by A. Law and seconded by G. Gareis carried by J. Cann, A. Law, R. Bennett and G. Gareis.

Motion 2024-0040 Budget line-item transfers:

- \$100,000 transferred from fringe benefits to salaries and wages
- \$15,000 transferred from miscellaneous supplies to salaries and wages
- \$25,000 transferred from station maintenance to apparatus maintenance
- \$10,000 transferred from administrative salary to professional services
- \$5,000 transferred from commissioner salary to professional services
- \$5,000 transferred from hydrant rentals to dues and subscriptions
- \$2,500 transferred from health and wellness to elections
- \$2,500 transferred from training and education to equipment testing.

Chairmen Cann requested this motion #2024-0040 be made to approve the 2024 budget line-transfers. Moved by G. Gareis seconded by A. Law. The motion was approved by J. Cann, A. Law, G. Gareis and R. Bennett

Capt. Scully submitted the Chief's and his proposal to carry over unused vacation time into the 2025 fiscal year. J. Cann requested a motion to approve the carry overs in the 2025 year. This was moved by A. Law and Seconded. A discussion followed and it was amended to state the 2025 to be used by 12/31/25. The motion was approved as amended and passed by J. Cann, A. Law, G. Gareis and R. Bennett

Open to the public 8:28 p.m.

Discussion on the Safer Grant:

Concerns were raised by J. Cann that though the grant covers the costs for the newly hired firefighters, at issue there is no assurance that the funding by the public will cover the continuation of those hired be maintained after the grant funding was closed. Without the ability to ensure that the positions be retained the Fire Company could be in a position to let those individuals go at the end of the Safer Grant period. It was agreed that at this time we are not recommending the processing of this grant.

New business:

2025-0001 Meetings dates

2025-0002 Notifications Burlington County Times and alt. Trenton Times
2025-0003 PNC Bank signatures
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2025-0004 Risk management
2025-0005 RWJ occupational health
2025-0006 Fund Commissioner Chief MacFarland
2025-0007 Legal Dilworth Paxson LLP

Note: all motions for approval were made by A. Law and seconded by G. Gareis. All commissioners present voted in the affirmative (J. Cann, A. Law, G. Gareis and R. Bennett)

Jim Cann introduced the ISO memorandum dated November 25, 2024 The Fire Company and the district is classified as a 4 mid-range from 1 to 9 rating (see letter attached)

The cap compliant budget previously submitted by the Chief's submittal was approved by motion requested by J. Cann by A. Law, Second by R. Bennett. All members present approved of the motion.

Comments by J. Cann, he indicated that we need to review the CNC 3. He is of the opinion that the Company would be placed in financial hardship and not be able to meet near future expenditures unless we revisit the 2025 budget and seek additional financial support from the District above the 2% limit on expenditures imposed by the State and the lack of funding through the Taxing district on the overwhelming warehouse structures constructed in District 2.

Special meeting set for either 12/12/24 or 12/17/24 7:00 p.m. to discuss the budget with the public and adopt the 2025 budget.

Open Public Meeting Act:
No comment

Close: Motion made by A. Law Second G. Gareis. Approved by J. Cann, A. Law, G. Gareis and R. Bennett

Open Motion made by A. Law, Second G. Gareis. Approved by J. Cann, A. Law, G. Gareis and R. Bennett

Motion to close and then Adjourn
Moved A. Law G. Gareis. Approved by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted

Andrew M. G. Law, Acting Secretary BTFD No. 2