

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

January 4, 2024

Meeting Called to Order 7:02 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, Arrived 7:30 pm, Jim Cann, Present.

READING OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT:

By Secretary (see Agenda)

REVIEW OF THE 2024 BUDGET

Chief MacFarland discussed the proposed revisions to the 2024 Budget to be reviewed by NJ DCA. Budget Summary Sheets and Appropriation Detail Sheets were provided to the BTFD#2 Commissioners. The budget will result in an increase in taxation. Commissioners were reminded that a CAP Compliant Budget will take effect if a proposed Ballot Budget is defeated. 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 1st Question will request funds for financing a new fire engine and the 2nd Question to increase the assessments to cover facility upgrades and salaries increasing the budget by for both question by 13.3% or \$3,288,228.32. The Commissioners requested that the Chief and Chair Jim Cann develop language for the budget referendum in February 2024. Also, to seek Solicitor review of the proposed language for the Ballot Questions. Chief anticipated having additional information on the budget referendum process for the next meeting after consulting with NJ DCA.

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.

BUDGET ADOPTION:

Two resolutions were presented by Chair Jim Cann for consideration:

- **Resolution 2024-0002 to Rescind 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 ABSENT
Andrew Law YES
Jim Cann YES

- **Resolution 2024-0003 for the 2024 Budget Adoption the 2024 Fire District Budget Fiscal Year January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024.** Chair requested a motion and Andrew Law made a motion to approve the budget that was seconded by George Chidley. A roll call ballot was taken and the Resolution was approved by all members present:
Robert Bennett YES
George Chidley YES
George Gareis ABSENT
Andrew Law YES
Jim Cann YES

REGULAR MEETING (start 7:15 pm)

RECOGNITION:

- Fire Fighter Friddell recognized for 6 years service
- LT. Ashbrand recognized for 15 years service

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Chairman Jim Cann requested that if the Board Members present were satisfied with the accuracy of the Amended Regular Meeting Minutes for December 5, 2023. The Chairman requested a motion to approve the Minutes. A motion to approve amended minutes by Andrew Law and Seconded by George Chidley. A ballot was taken and all members present affirmed the motion to approve the minutes for December 5, 2023.

Chairman Jim Cann requested that if the Board Members present were satisfied with the accuracy of the December 18, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes. The Chairman requested a motion to approve the corrected Minutes. A motion to approve corrected minutes by George Chidley and Seconded by Andrew Law. A ballot was taken and all members present affirmed the motion to approve the minutes December 18, 2023.

REPORT BY CHIEF BTFD#2:

Report by Chief, Robert MacFarland (BTFD #2)

The following bullets were presented as highlights to a written report for December 2023 prepared by Chief MacFarland dated January 3, 2024:

- FEMA reimbursement expected for \$1,130.
- HAAS Report 1461 drivers alerted.
- Monthly Incident Report 126 incidents.
- EMS arriving in timely manner, BTFD#2 not arriving first on the calls.
- Operation Santa on December 16th was a great success. A letter pick-up was created by the neighbors at 53 Hinckle Drive. Following the event the BTFD#2 received a donation in the amount of \$250.

Workmans Comp and Managed Care discussion with JIF Chief advised the BTFD#2 Commissioners that they requested two points of contact. A motion was made by Andrew Law and Seconded by Robert Bennett to appoint the Chief and Captain. All members present approved the motion.

In addition, Chief requested approval to hire Vickers to write grants at a cost of \$1,500 with Lt. Asbrand as BTFD#2 point of Contact. A motion was made by George Chidley and Seconded by Andrew Law to authorized hiring a grant writer, All members present approved the motion.

Chair, Cann requested a motion to accept the Chief's December 2023 Report. A motion was made to accept the report by Andrew Law and Seconded by George Chidley. A ballot was taken and all members present approve the motion to accept the Chief's December 2023 Report.

NOTE George Gareis joins meeting at 7:31 pm

REPORT BY TREASURER:

Report by Treasurer, Robert Bennett contained 19 bills totaling \$43,924.44. It was noted that the JIF bill for \$33,825 was included with the monthly expenses.

Chair, Cann requested a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. A motion was made to accept the report by Andrew Law and Seconded by George Chidley. A ballot was taken and all members present approve the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chief Still waiting for Bordentown Township to review Inter-agency Agreement for Oxygen Re-Charge Unit will update next meeting.

BTFD#2 Commissioners requested the Cheif contact the Solicitor and schedule them to be present at the next meeting.

Fire Engine manufactured by Pierce was selected and would take 33 months to build after funding is secured and contract signed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chief requested approval for te following expenses:

- Engine 3223 repair \$523.73
- Cleaning Supplies \$612.18
- 2 Ses Turn Out Gear \$2,725.61

Motion made by George Chidley to approve the expenditures and Seconded by Andrew Law. All members present approved the motion.

MOTION TO OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

At 8:45 pm 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. Chair Cann advised the Public present that the BTFD#2 Commissioners would be going into closed session after Public comment and after the closed session the BTFD#2 Fire Commissioners would reconvene to in public session to adjourn.

Bordentown Township Committeeman Grayson had a question about the Operation Santa Mail pick-up. Chief MacFarland explained that it was setup in advance by the residents and the BTFD#2 was happy to assist. If it were to catch on the BTFD#2 would have to evaluate impacts on event timing.

The Committeeman Grayson asked for the HAAs numbers and the Chief provided him a copy of the most recent report.

No additional members of the Public came forward. 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 GO INTO CLOSED SESSION:

Chair Cann advised members of the Public that he would be requesting a motion to go into closed session and had the Secretary read Resolution 2024-0001.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Chair, Jim Cann requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn was made by Andrew Law George and Seconded by George Gareis. All present balloted to affirm the motion and the meeting was **closed at 9:10 pm**.

MINUTES APPROVED on February 1, 2024

Robert Bennett, ___X
 George Chidley ___X
 George Gareis ABSTAIN ARRIVED LATE
 Andrew Law ___X
 Jim Cann ___X

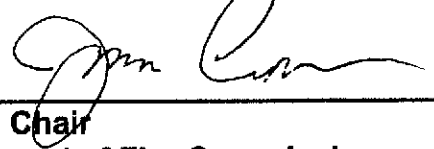
CERTIFIED BY:

Robert Bennett, ___X
George Chidley ___X
George Gareis ABSTAIN ARRIVED LATE
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