DEPTFORD FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1

Public Meeting Minutes – June 3, 2020

(Held Via Teleconference Due to COVID-19 Crisis)

Attendees:

* Commissioners: Michael White, George Frank, Joseph Nilsen, Robert Shaeirs, Raymond McKay
* Fire District Solicitor: Peter L. Frattarelli, Esq.
* Public: No one in attendance from public

Motion to go into Public Comment/Agenda-Related Only – deferred (no one from public present

Commissioners Items (from Michael White):

1. Vehicle 931 is out of service
   1. Unknown how long
   2. Currently being examined/repaired by Cummins at their facility in Bristol, PA
   3. Waiting for more examination by two Cummins technicians
   4. Problem: electronic problem they have not been able to resolve
2. E-One Vehicle update
   1. E-One dropped off check for penalty for full amount of $78.500.00 (late delivery of new vehicle)
   2. Started lettering today
   3. Starting training this weel
   4. Missing items but two most critical:
      1. Stokes Basket does not fit with current door, and E-One will need to modify door
      2. Poles to not fit (drag down poles) despite E-One knowing specs
3. Extra duty crews have been stepping up well without any extra pay, to help cover Fire District during COVID crisis
4. Protests within Fire District
   1. Walmart closed at 4:30pm due to protests; no customers after 3 pm
      1. Glass boarded up
      2. Comm’r White and FM Burkhardt visited to make sure firefighters could access building if needed, and able to enter building; plywood
   2. MW advised Batt Chiefs and Captains of possible need to use fire stations as staging area for police, fire and state police responding to protests
      1. Not needed as nothing developed requiring it
   3. Sunday June 7, 2020: 9-mile march in Gl. County ending at Deptford Mall
      1. Expecting 2,500 to 5,000 people
      2. Hope will be peaceful
      3. District will add extra crews
      4. Not permitted or organized officially, but Police will allow march to happen
      5. Plan: block off driveways and parking lots along the march route to deter entry and keep march moving
5. Dept Mall parking lot will have drive through graduation on June 18, 2022
   1. One car per family
6. Donna S. and Christine to return to iffce effective June 8, 2020
   1. Office will stay closed to public
   2. Will tell Career Staff not to visit, unless absolutely necessary
7. E-One new vehcilce
   1. is up but more of a deterrent than firm barrier to entry
8. BC Rick Thomas obtained quote of additional items needed on new E-One apparatus for approx.. $14,000
   1. Includes varying types of pipe pulls – will investigate if needed
   2. No motion at this time to approve quote
9. M. White gave update on COVID-19 crisis
   1. M. White participating in regular telephone calls with Deptford Twp, as needed with updates on COVID-19
   2. Gloucester Twp and Deptford Twp have seen increases in COVID-19 cases over the past 3 days
   3. Still using duty crews and volunteers to provide coverage for Fire District on 24 hour/7 day per week basis
   4. No positive COVID-19 test results among Fire District employees
   5. On behalf of Fire District, M. White asked Ford Motor Co. for a donation of full face shields
      1. Ford Motor Co. donated 1,000 shields
      2. Subsequent to COVID-19 crisis, can use remaining shields for infectious control responses
10. New E-One vehicle arrived late last week, but not registered yet with State of NJ DMV because local DMV office is closed
11. Fire Marshall Report – no report received from R. Burkhardt

Motion to approve bills – Resolution No. 2020-21(full copy available upon request):

* Total bills: $1,468,005.16
* Motion made by Comm White; motion seconded by Comm. Nilsen
* Approved by 5-0 vote

Battalion Chiefs Report

* NOTE: Batt Chief Spade joined meeting at this time, so one member of public present (BC Spade)
* Spade report:
  + Update on Vehicle 921 repairs (same as Comm White)
  + Update on electronic vehicle updates with pro Phoenix – progressing well
  + Hose testing to start soon; BC Spade will meet with FF Bender on June 5 to discuss plans

Treasurers Report (presented by Comm. McKay) – Account Balances:

* Checking Republic Bank: $2,104,505
* Payroll Republic Bank: $90,061
* Money Market SJ Credit Union: $1,673,954 (retirement portion: $930,000)
* Motion made to approve Treasurers Report (By Comm. White); Seconded by Comm. Shaeirs)
* Approved by 5-0 voice vote

Motion to go into Public Comment/General Topics – deferred – BC Spade left meeting

Motion to go into Executive Session

* Read by Peter L. Frattarelli, Esq. Solicitor [Full Resolution available upon request]
* Topics for executive session:
  + Advice re labor issues during pandemic
  + Update on E-One / vendor dispute negotiations
  + Legal advice concerning loss of tax revenue
  + Update on pending litigation
  + Advice on employee discipline and on civil service requirements
* FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Fire Commissioners 🗹 **will**/ 🞎 **will not** return to open session to conduct business at the conclusion of the executive session
* Motion made (Comm White); motion seconded (Comm Mackay)
* Approved by 5-0 voice vote

[Executive Session held – Public attendees excused]

After return to open session (following Motion to Return to Open Session, made during Executive Session:

* Motion to act according to discussion and motion in Exec Session re personnel matters
* Motion made; motion seconded
* Approved by 5-0 voice vote
* Motion to cancel June 10, 2020 work session and to hold June 24, 2020 work session via teleconference
* Motion made by Comm White; motion seconded by Comm. Nilsen
* Approved by 5-0 vote
* No further business conducted

Motion to Adjourn Public Meeting:

* Motion made (Comm White); motion seconded (Comm Frank)
* Approved by 5-0 voice vote

[Meeting Adjourned at approx. 8:10 p.m.]

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