

**Board of Fire Commissioners
GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT 6
Monthly Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Held: December 13, 2022
Meeting Place: Board Office
Meeting Called to Order: 6:33pm
Members of Board Present: **Chairman** – George Brown
Vice Chairman – Brian Robinson
Treasurer – Steven Funkhouser
Secretary – George Flinn, absent
Commissioner – Derek Grier
Administrative Clerk – Renee Evans
Solicitor – David Carlamere

Salute the Flag

Comm. Brown: We are going to change the agenda tonight so we can swear-in the Volunteer Chief. Let’s do that right now.

Sol.Carlamere swore-in Christopher Brown as Volunteer Chief for Fire District 6. (applause)
(Sol.Carlamere left the meeting at 6:40pm)

The Sunshine Law – George Brown: In accordance with the NJ Sunshine Law this meeting is open to the public. The public portion will follow the regular business of the Board.

Roll call Commissioners:

Comms. Robinson, Funkhouser, Grier and Brown present. Comm. Flinn is absent.

Minutes of the previous meeting - Motion to accept the previous month’s minutes as they are available to the public upon request.

Motion made by Comm. Funkhouser, seconded by Comm. Robinson. Roll call vote, all yes.

Correspondence – Renee Evans

Adm.Cl.Evans: All has been distributed.

Treasurer’s Report – Steven Funkhouser

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| William Penn General Account | 2,961,694.90 |
| William Penn Payroll Account | 27,833.94 |
| Expenditures 12/13/22 | 26,894.19 |
| | |
| TOTAL AMOUNT FOR APPROVAL | 26,894.19 |

Motion made by Comm. Robinson, seconded by Comm. Grier to approve the Treasurer’s Report as read.
Roll call vote, all yes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget Co-Commissioner – George Brown

No report.

Computer Services – George Brown

No report.

Fire Prevention – George Brown

No report.

IAFF Contracts Co-Commissioner – George Brown

No report.

Legal Liaison – George Brown

No report.

Volunteer Chief – Christopher Brown

Comm. Brown: Chief, welcome.

F.A./V.C. Brown: Hi.

Comm. Brown: Do we have any new members that you'd like to present.

F.A./V.C. Brown: Nothing to report other than we had a few members complete some training this weekend. There are volunteers who completed their practice skills at the Fire Academy. A gentleman who happens to be here tonight working on something else, Lt. Schoonmaker, Ff. Blevins and Ff. Zizzamia really worked hard in getting these recruits together. So we're awaiting their formal State testing results. The gentleman behind me have been working with the recruits in completing their programs so hopefully for the meeting at the end of this month or the January meeting we'll have 3 new volunteers to swear-in.

Comm. Brown: That would be terrific.

Budget Co-Commissioner – Brian Robinson

Comm. Robinson: We're pretty much all caught up. Obviously budgets, everybody's working on them. The only thing I have, you guys saw the informal, for legal purposes, swearing-in the Chief, and we will be doing an official swearing-in on January 19th, so remind everybody, there will be refreshments.

Comm. Brown: Terrific.

IAFF Contracts Co-Commissioner – Brian Robinson

No report.

Personnel / Administration – Brian Robinson

No report.

Personnel / Operations – Brian Robinson

No report.

Building Maintenance & Grounds – Steve Funkhouser

Comm Funkhouser: Nothing to report on my personal budget roof. I'm still waiting to hear from Mr. Rogers. I was told tomorrow was the day that I'm getting a report, so that's where we are with the roof, waiting on the report. Other than that I have nothing else to report.

Comm. Brown: I have a question. Is there any suspicion as to whether or not the amounts budgeted in the prior two budgets, that would be the 2021 and 2022 budgets are sufficient for the roof when we get to it in 2023?

Comm Funkhouser: That's why I'm waiting for the report. That's going to give us the totals from what I understand from Mr. Rogers...everything we're going to need.

Comm. Brown: OK, cause there might be a little technicality there and I didn't think about it until I spoke to the Solicitor earlier today, and I didn't bring it up to him because I didn't have an answer from you, but if that's going to increase, that's capital money and we may need a special election to do that. I'm not sure, I didn't stay at a Holiday Inn last night, I didn't go to law school, but I think that you have to increase your capital budget if that goes up again and that will require a special election like we had to do before...remember twice we had to have it.

Comm Funkhouser: I don't know, I can't answer your question. I won't know till I hear from him.

Comm. Brown: That statement was more for everybody in the room, not necessarily you, because with this delay, I don't want to get into a technicality where we don't have the money in the 2023 budget, then have to wait for 2024, alright. So I'm just bringing that up as kind of reminder.

F.A./V.C. Brown: Mr. Rogers should have been a better neighbor and got the report here sooner.

Comm. Brown: You know Chief, as the first thing out of your mouth, those are words of wisdom.

Comm Funkhouser: FYI, I've gotten rid of the Bob's Heating and A/C, now I'm going to be going with A.M. Botte Mechanical LLC Heating and Air Conditioning and saving a couple hundred dollars with them. I had a little issue

Building Maintenance & Grounds – continued

with Bob's. Bob is no longer Bob's, he retired. There is new management and they weren't working on the same page when I called them and the figures I was getting were over what we were paying Bob, so I got another company that came out and did a walk around and gave me a quote and we're going to go with that.

Comm. Brown: And the Clerk and the Chief and everybody has his number in case of emergency?

F.A./V.C. Brown: I'll get it after the meeting.

Comm. Brown: OK. Let's say you're not around and we need to call them, do we have those numbers posted? I don't have them, but I don't call.

Comm Funkhouser: She has the numbers.

Comm. Brown: OK.

Communications – Steve Funkhouser

No report.

EMS / Supplies & Equipment – Steve Funkhouser

No report.

Turn-Out Gear – Steve Funkhouser

No report.

Uniforms – Steve Funkhouser

No report.

Insurance – George Flinn

No report.

Sign – George Flinn

No report.

Water – George Flinn

No report.

Apparatus – Derek Grier

Comm. Grier: So the boom for the Squad has been ordered so it's scheduled for repair. In the transition from the previous Chief to the new Chief, is the vehicle processed?

Comm. Brown: We'll get to that when we get to the Chief I guess.

Comm. Grier: Other than that, I'm working on my budget.

Comm. Robinson: Quick comment. For those of you that weren't here last month, Comm. Grier, after months of negotiation as it worked out, that the boom is...we are paying for labor and they are supplying all of the replacement parts. It's about as fair as we're going to get at this point. He's been on this about a good 6 months now and it's worked out well.

Comm Funkhouser: Did they say how long it will take?

Comm. Grier: They did not, I will call and find out.

Comm Funkhouser: Because there's a delay in all kinds of things.

Comm. Brown: So could you bring that up, because I have a thought and a suggestion about that.

Comm. Grier: It's the air bag system

F.A./V.C. Brown: It's the rear driver's side airbag and the suspension on the Squad. We just today received a quote from Campbell's on the (inaudible). It's not an emergency item at this point, but something that will be replaced and I can just by touching my pedal maybe ship it all up with the same stuff at the same time.

Comm. Brown: OK. Comm. Grier will get where I'm going with this, but does that failure have anything to do with the weight of the truck?

Comm. Grier: I know that we were looking into the history of that bag and other bags as well.

F.A./V.C. Brown: Opposite side of the truck.

Comm. Brown: And those failed because it just might be too much loaded in that area of the truck.

Comm Funkhouser: It could.

Apparatus – continued

Comm. Brown: Again, not my area, but I'm wondering if it makes sense to get the truck weighed right now with everything on it including fuel and some of our finest, we can estimate their weight, and see if by chance, just by chance there is a weight issue there. So when we fix it, we don't have to fix it again a year from now or whatever, on somebody's point at the last meeting about moving. And the reason why I said Comm. Grier would get that right away, is because the airlines don't put a component on an airplane that they don't weigh and then weigh the airplane. That's kind of when you say airbags on trucks, it's kind of the same thing other than the fact that they never leave the ground most of the time. And the thing is this, if we have to pay somebody to come out and weigh it, I think we should.

Comm Funkhouser: Isn't there a weigh station on 295?

Comm. Grier: There's a weigh station on NJ Turnpike.

Comm. Brown: I think we should do it since we've had...

Comm Funkhouser: It's definitely a good point. Do we know the weight without equipment...

Comm. Brown: I don't think the beginning weight matters. I think what does it weigh right now and whether or not it's over spec'd...

Comm Funkhouser: Do we know what the spec is for the weight?

Comm. Grier: I have not paid attention to it that much because I don't plan on taking it off.

Comm Funkhouser: Another 6 months...

Comm. Grier: Somebody might be here for it, but not me.

Comm. Brown: I think if we just know what the gross weight is, and it's probably in the specs for the truck when we bought it, or...

F.A./V.C. Brown: The GVWR...

Comm. Brown: The stamp on the frame?

F.A./V.C. Brown: Yes.

Comm. Brown: OK. So you're going to take that action? Sorry to give you more work, I don't know what that thing costs but if it's thousands of dollars, and that one would clearly be our problem, we should try to prevent it again. Thank you very much.

Comm Funkhouser: I don't know how you prevent it.

Comm. Brown: You take some of the stuff off the truck...I had a word that sounded like shift, but I didn't use it.

Comm Funkhouser: OK.

Fire Department Equipment – Derek Grier

No report.

Fire Department Operations – Derek Grier

No report.

Training – Derek Grier

No report.

Fire Administrator/Volunteer Chief's Report – Christopher Brown

F.A./V.C. Brown: Shifting the topic, the airbag was covered. Also I received today my copy of the PM reports. I have not had a chance yet to go through them to see what was on the list, I took a brief look.

As far as the RMS, they're still working through some issues with a lot of reporting regards to duty crews, training records, we're in progress.

Joe Fisona who's here did a really great job helping in the past couple weeks with getting the duty crew reports in, we have a system for that, it's not perfect, but we're at least getting the data in...it's still a little sloppy but getting better.

The computers for the Officers are in, they're not quite organized yet, but it's providing additional work stations for the Officers to help get work done. The electrician has been out to work on photo sensors and the bold issues around the building. I'll provide a formal written report at the end of the month. I also attended the County Fire Chief and Fire Coordinator's meeting.

Santa is this weekend, Friday and Saturday. In line with the CFC, just to say it out loud so nobody hears a rumor, that the current County Fire Coordinator, Chief Joe Polumbo from the Pennsauken Fire Dept. is retiring the end of this month. As a result, he has also stepped down from his duties as the County Fire Coordinator. The staff got

Fire Administrator's Report – Christopher Brown

together with the Executive Board of the County Fire Chief's and Officers Association has recommended a replacement who is Chief Dorenzo from Bellmawr. He's also a Captain at Rescue 13 Cherry Hill. Despite that recommendation, the head of OEM and Director of Public Safety in County requested from the Chief's Assoc. Executive Board a list of three names including Chief Dorenzo with two alternates for the position. I was one of the other two names added to the nomination. I'm hoping it's just a matter of the County trying to have a list of perspective candidates, just so that it doesn't look like it's just an inside job, but to hear that my name was provided to County as one of the replacements as the County Coordinator it's true, but I have no intention on taking on the position. As a staff we agreed to support Chief Dorenzo as Chief Polumbo's replacement on January 1st.

Comm. Brown: Famous last words. Anything else? (hearing none)

Solicitor Carlamere has left. He's got a couple issues that he has to do some research on and will bring us up to date at the next meeting, there is no point in entering them right now, do you agree with that Comm. Robinson?

Comm. Robinson: I'm sorry sir?

Comm. Brown: You had some words with the Solicitor about some issues before the meeting and he's going to do some research and bring them up at the next meeting, so no need to add them today.

Comm. Robinson: Correct.

Solicitor – David Carlamere

Sol. Carlamere left the meeting at 6:40pm

Resolutions – Renee Evans

Adm.Cl.Evans: None.

F.A./V.C. Brown: At the last meeting with the appointment of the Fire Official, is that going to be a Resolution?

Comm. Brown: I think there was a Resolution last month, the Clerk will double check.

Adm.Cl.Evans: I don't think there was.

Comm. Brown: I remember asking about swearing him in, and the Solicitor told us that we did not need to have a swearing-in, it would just be an appointment into the minutes. And I think that was done into the minutes, the topic was covered last month.

F.A./V.C. Brown: The reason I ask is that a copy of the District's resolution appointing the individual is one of the items the Division of Fire and Safety is requesting as part of the processing.

Comm. Robinson: I know we had the discussion to make sure for legal reasons to get him sworn-in just in case God forbid...

F.A./V.C. Brown: I would be providing a letter appointing a new Fire Official on the official LEA's letterhead with the information needed. The State also is looking for a copy of the Resolution appointing the Fire Official. It must be signed and contain their name and effective date. If the Appointing Authority does not prepare a Resolution for Fire Official appointments, they need to indicate the reason in their letter appointing the Fire Official unless it's covered under Faulkner Act. We're awaiting Civil Service appointment etc., it is a Temporary Appointment etc.

Comm. Brown: OK, so I have legal stuff, how about I take the responsibility to ask the Solicitor to give us a Resolution making a temporary appointment pending his permanent appointment by DOP or whoever the heck it is, and I'll take care of that. Anything else?

Old Business – George Brown

Comm. Brown: Old Business? (hearing none)

- 1) Computer Room/Officer's Room project
- 2) Apparatus boom leak - update
- 3) Roof - update
- 4) New phone system for the building
- 5) 2023 Budget

New Business – George Brown

Comm. Brown: New Business? (hearing none)

Closed Session – George Brown

n/a

Public Portion – George Brown

Comm. Brown: Public Portion? (hearing none)

Adjourn – George Brown

Motion made by Comm. Funkhouser, seconded by Comm. Robinson to adjourn the meeting at 6:55pm.

Roll call vote, all yes.

Merry Christmas everybody.