

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS,
TOWNSHIP OF DENNIS; DISTRICT #2**

March 5, 2024

A meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Township of Dennis, District #2, was held on March 5, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Dennisville Volunteer Fire Company in Dennisville, NJ.

Commissioners **Cliff Lockwood; Carla Coffey; Edward Beck; and Bruce Knoll, Jr.** were present. Commissioner **Bob McClure** was unable to attend. Also present were **Cheryl Sayers, CPA**, Accountant and Recording Secretary to the Board; **Jon Batastini**, Solicitor; and **Bruce Knoll, Sr.**, of the Dennisville Volunteer Fire Company.

The meeting was opened by **Cliff Lockwood**, who read the appropriate notice in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey.

As the first order of business, the board discussed the results of the election, held on Saturday, February 17th, 2024. **Bob McClure** were re-elected as Commissioner. The 2024 Budget was passed by the voters with fifty (50) "YES" votes and nine (9) "NO" votes. The poll question regarding allocating funds to purchase new fire fighting apparatus was also passed by the votes with fifty (50) "YES" votes and nine (9) "NO" votes.

Thereafter, the Board held its reorganization meeting, making, and approving the following appointments:

Chairman-	Edward Beck
Vice Chairman-	Cliff Lockwood
Secretary-	Bruce Knoll, Jr.
Treasurer-	Carla Coffey
Commissioner-	Bob McClure
Solicitor-	Jon Batastini, Esq.
Accountant-	Cheryl Sayers, CPA
Auditor-	Ford Scott
Newspaper-	Cape May County Herald (Primary)
Newspaper-	Ocean City Sentinel (Secondary)
Bank-	1st Bank of Sea Isle City
Meeting Dates-	1 st Tuesday of each month, except June and August when no meeting is held, and November, when the meeting will be held on the 1 st Monday, due to Election night.
Meeting Time-	7:00 p.m.

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Minutes from the prior meeting, held Tuesday, February 6, 2024 were reviewed and accepted as presented.

Mrs. Sayers presented a financial report, including a list of checks to be approved, signed, and distributed. The checks were approved as presented. The board reviewed the financial report including an analysis of the current year to date income and expenses as compared to the budget.

The board discussed the LOSAP plan, including contributions amounts, "hardship withdrawals", and when individuals should or must be terminated from the plan. The Board would also like to review the current investments held by the plan. **Cheryl Sayers** will invite the benefits coordinator to a future meeting to discuss the LOSAP plan in depth.

The board discussed the new fire fighting apparatus that it plans to purchase. The Board would like to consider purchasing a gently used truck rather than a new truck because the time frame to have a new truck delivered is excessive. The solicitor will explore financing alternatives available with purchasing a used truck.

Jon Batastini discussed the ongoing issue of volunteer firefighters being classified as "employees" of the fire commission. The issue is at a standstill with no additional information available at this time.

Fire District # 3 (Belleplain) has been struggling with their membership and are often times unable to respond to calls in their district. Fire District # 2 (Dennisville) has been responding to a majority of the calls for District #3. These calls are putting additional wear and tear on the apparatus of District #2, plus using additional resources including fuel. As a result, the taxpayers of District #2 are indirectly paying for the fire fighting services in District #3. Fire District #2 would like to be reimbursed for the additional costs to District #2. The Commission and solicitor will attempt to determine the best method to request reimbursements from District #3.

Dennisville Volunteer Fire Company requested a voluntary inspection from PEOSH (Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health) Program. This inspection includes multiple facets of the Company, including inspection of fire-fighting apparatus; safety equipment; training;

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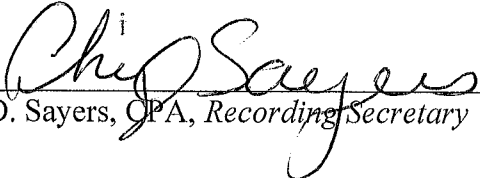
policies and procedures; and documentation. The Company did extremely well with their inspection, passing with “flying colors”.


Mrs. Sayers reminded the Board that the next meeting will be held on April 2, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business for the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved and Submitted,


Cheryl D. Sayers, CPA, *Recording Secretary*


Edward Beck, *Chairman*