

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT NO.9
1222 Green Street
Iselin, N.J. 08830
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March 11, 2025

The combined monthly Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioner of District 9, 1222 Green Street, Iselin, New Jersey, was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by the Chairman under Chapter 231 of the Laws of 1975 with notices posted in the Home News Tribune, on the bulletin board at Fire Company #1 and #2, and at Town Hall as prescribed by law. A salute to the flag was led by the Fire Commissioner followed by a moment of silence.

Roll Call of Commissioners: E.A. Mullen, S. Burrows, M. Rudy, K. Williams and D. Thaker. Also, in attendance were W. Kenney, Fire Chief M. Wertz, Board Attorney D. DiYanni and Fire Company President E.R. Mullen

This is a regular monthly meeting.

A motion was made by K. Williams and seconded by D. Thaker with everyone in favor (E.A. Mullen, S. Burrows and M. Rudy) to approve the meeting minutes.

Reorganization:

A motion was made to renominate and appoint as listed.

The Nominations are as follows:

Chairman.....E.A. Mullen

Vice Chairman.....M. Rudy

TreasurerK. Williams

SecretaryD. Thaker

Financial Secretary.....S. Burrows

No parties would like to change from their current Committees, they will remain as follows:

Fire Equipment and Apparatus.....K. Williams, E.A. Mullen

Hydrants.....S. Burrows, D. Thaker

Facilities.....	S. Burrows, E.A. Mullen
Communications Equipment.....	M. Rudy, D. Thaker
Fire Prevention.....	S. Burrows, E.A Mullen
Dispatch Service.....	M. Rudy, K. Williams
Legal and Insurance.....	S. Burrows, M. Rudy
Health & Safety	K. Williams, D. Thaker

A motion was made by D. Thaker and seconded by K. Williams with everyone in favor (E.A. Mullen, S. Burrows and M. Rudy) to confirm the nomination as listed.

The following are additional appointments:

- Columbia Bank and N.J. Cash Management
- The auditor’s contract was confirmed by previous resolution
- Rashawnda Jimenez as the stenographer
- Concentra Medical for medical care
- The Business Administrator, Operations Manager, Fire Chief, Fire Official, Fire Inspector and Custodian of Records are positions that did not need to be reappointed.
- The newspapers used will be The Home News & Tribune, the Star Ledger and Emergency Service News

A motion was made by K. Williams and seconded by M. Rudy with everyone in favor (E.A. Mullen, S. Burrows and D. Thaker) to approve the additional appointments.

Reports of Committees:

A motion was made by K. Williams and seconded by D. Thaker with everyone in favor (E.A. Mullen, S. Burrows and M. Rudy) to pay the bills for the month of February 2025 in the amount of \$281,853.19.

A check has been cut for \$73,600 as payment. It has been confirmed by purchase agent, will be signed by board member and sent out.

Business Administration Report:

Equipment & Apparatus:

There is nothing to report on 9-3-4. High beam switch repair on 9-6 has been completed. 9-2-4 is awaiting parts for the officer side window. 9-3-8 repairs need to be scheduled. Lettering finished on 9-3-2. 9-2 break switch was repaired. ES will check air leaks on 9-5. 9-6- mirrors are 14 weeks on back order.

Hydrants: Nothing to report.

Facilities:

Maintenance was done on the doors of both houses. They attempted to put weather stripping, however it will need to wait for warmer temperatures. A meeting was had with the HVAC company, 2 engineers and M. Rudy to update all the paperwork that had been submitted. A few issues will be fixed. The truck house heat is running. Anything additional that might need to be fixed, should not cost extra at this time. Fire inspection violations have been completed at House. Photos were provided to the fire marshal and are just awaiting certification.

There is an area in front of the bay doors that was discussed. Should a request be put in to replace just the small area vs. replacing all the concrete. Pictures and quotes will need to be obtained to determine if it's worth putting a 'Band-Aid' on and waiting to replace some time next year. Information will need to be provided to the purchase agent to obtain bids on the project.

Communications & Equipment: Nothing to report

Legal & Insurance:

The auditor is coming in at the end of April for the 2024 audit. 9-2 and 9-3 are awaiting repairs and the workers compensation claims completed. Election results sent to town and state.

A motion was made by M. Rudy and seconded by D. Thaker with everyone in favor (E.A. Mullen, S. Burrows and K. Williams) to accept the business administration report.

Fire Official Report:

Three fire investigations were completed. There are a few requests:

1. purchase Sparky the fire dog costume for education purposes.
2. Purchase a total of 4 new code books
3. Approve the cost of the conference in Atlantic City.

There is a typo on the submitted request for the conference. It says \$745; however, it is \$945 for the hotel and fees for 1 person to attend conference. The IAAI training conference cost of attendance is \$903 and has been previously invoiced. The \$945 covers hotel, parking, etc. A resolution is needed to approve the amount and then a full accounting based on what was actually needed. Starting next month, everything needs to be submitted the Friday before the meeting so it can be processed.

A motion was made by M. Rudy and seconded by K. Williams with everyone in favor (E.A. Mullen, S. Burrows, D. Thaker) to approve all requests and accept the fire official report.

Mr. Williams inquired about the hold up with uniforms. There is confirmation it's being worked on and the uniforms will be here in a week or two. All things listed have been taken care of. Mr. Burrows is in charge of the laptop, unfortunately a different vendor

must be found to purchase. Inspector Wertz is being reimbursed. Mr. Williams also had a question why new manuals had to be purchased. Chief Wertz advised every 5-10 years fire code change and New Jersey makes their own edits so new physical manuals need to be purchased. Four have been requested and this includes digital and physical copies.

Rivian is moving into what was the previous Sports Authority location. The township will send plans when fire suppression or anything pertinent has changed with the building. There is a delay. There hasn't been anything submitted in regard to the things that were mentioned in state of town address. While the planning department in the town has approved businesses, there are still some things in process which no plans have been submitted for. As soon as the fire department has been notified, they will physically go to townhall and get plans. The state has a requirement, whenever you have any type of parking, even when in a deck, a certain percentage has to be EV.

Mr. Williams inquired about where PC Richards was moving to. It appears that because of the delay, the township is now rushing plans. Other businesses had previously backed out due to the delay so they want PC Richards to have a storefront.

Mr. Rudy asked if Rivian was going to be a dealership or just a showroom. Mr. Thaker advised an order for a vehicle can be placed and it can be picked up from the location. It will also be a location for servicing the vehicles.

Fire Chief Report:

There are two new driver qualifications. Additional equipment was received after the report was submitted. The information will be updated on the next report. There is one new request for fire 1, summer classes for 2 probationary fire fighters. Chief Wertz advised 3 first place awards were won at the St. Patrick's Day Parade. There is a request for an ice machine for House 2. The chief is also requesting to change the driving age for the apparatus to 19. The current age for 933 and 934 is 19. The department is very young and 19 is a good age to start learning to drive 9-6. The current leadership will be upfront and if a person is not mature or ready, they will not be allowed to drive just because they turn 19. There is no current law that dictates the age to drive be 21 for air brakes. Mr. Williams explained that at the time the age was moved to 21, it was due to concerns of maturity and driving experience. He expressed that he trusts in the chief's expertise.

Barring any legal reason, a motion was made by K. Williams and seconded by S. Burrows with all in favor (E.A. Mullen, M. Rudy and D. Thaker) to change the age to drive 9-6 from 21 to 19. Request for use of 9-3-1 for use for the international conference held on April 6-11. A manual list is being updated for when Explorer Boy Scout certificates expire so they can be renewed.

A motion was made by M. Rudy and seconded by K. Williams with everyone in favor (E.A. Mullen, S. Burrows and D. Thaker) to approve requests and accept the Fire Chief report.

Topics of Discussion:

There is no update on House 2, but the budget was approved. The pilot money request was submitted, it's just under 200k for the two vehicles and all of the emergency lighting. Update for the dot gov email addresses. A professional project manager was assigned and S. Burrows is in contact with them as everything is moving forward. In the audit, LOSAP has to be moved to one of 3 approved vendors. The vendors were contacted, 1 email bounced back and the person that answered will attend the next meeting. There needs to be two proposals to be in compliance. It would take a couple months to transfer over, members would have their own log in, which is something the audit required.

Legal:

There were 2 additional things that needed to be addressed in the audit, chapter 78 employee contributions for medical benefits and the employee handbook. The next draft of the employee handbook will be sent out and be ready to potentially adopt in the next meeting. The goal is to address all corrective actions before the auditor comes back in May for the 2024 audit. The attorney has reviewed the handbook and advised the board to review and tailor it to their specifics. There are 4 tiers to institute for the employee contributions. There were changes to be made to comply with state laws. There is a max payout of \$15K for employees hired after 2011 for sick time.

A former member sent the chairman an article from NewJersey.com, which the highlight said, Fire Chief Sued, and the town was not specified. A photo of an Iselin fire truck was used. The chairman contacted the reporter, the attorney and the fire company president immediately. The reporter spoke with the attorney who acknowledged the mistake and took down the photo. The article has also been posted to firetruck.com and when the chairman spoke with them, they took it down and wrote an apology. Within an hour of finding out the issue was addressed.

There is no resolution because Dream Seat did not provide a quote due to additional chairs. Additional pieces need to be ordered, about 10 plungers and rollers.

Communication:

- Open request for 215 W Kelly St.
- Minutes from New Jersey State Association of Fire Districts
- The paperwork that went to the state and town for the election. The details: Mike Rudy -190, 173 absentee ballots, 6 write-ins and for the question, 138 yes and 73 no.
- Open request for 185 W Kelly St.
- Financials from joint boards
- Financials from the board

- Chiefs report

A motion was made by M. Rudy and seconded by D. Thaker with everyone in favor (E.A. Mullen, S. Burrows and K. Williams) to accept the communications report.

Old Business: nothing at this time.

New Business:

Financial disclosures are due by April 30th. The road is complete on Main St., so the chairman reached out to Commissioner Pay Kenny in district one for an update on their departure date from Queens Rd. The building construction is not complete. A letter of temporary stay was never provided. The chairman advised a warning was given and an exact date of departure is required before moving forward with a cease and desist is issued.

Public Discussion: None

At 7:58 p.m. a motion was made by K. Williams and seconded by S. Burrows with everyone in favor (E.A. Mullen, M. Rudy and D. Thaker) to adjourn the meeting.

Secretary
Board of Fire Commissioners, District #9

Minutes taken by:
R. Jimenez