

Board of Fire Commissioners
Gloucester Township Fire District No. 5
Lambs Terrace Fire Company

**Regular Meeting Minutes and
2024 Budget 1st Reading
December 5, 2023**

I. Call to Order

- a. This meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Gloucester Township Fire District #5 has been properly advertised in the Courier Post and posted at the Gloucester Township Municipal Building and this fire station. This meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Law NJSA 10:4-6 through 10:4-21.
- b. Pledge of Allegiance
- c. Roll Call: Commissioner Davidson - Present
Commissioner Lloyd - Present
Commissioner Rinaldi - Present
Commissioner Sprinitis - Present
Chairman Engelbert - Present
Solicitor Carlamere - Present

II. Introduction of Resolution 2023-23 Acceptance of Annual Audit. Commissioner Rinaldi made the motion to accept, Commissioner Lloyd seconded the motion.
Roll call: 5-0

III. Introduction of Resolution 2023-24 Line Item Transfers. Commissioner Davidson made the motion to accept, Commissioner Rinaldi seconded the motion.
Roll call: 5-0

IV. Introduction and 1st Reading of 2024 Budget. Chairman Engelbert read the total of the 2024 Budget which is \$2,063,710.00. The total raised by taxation is \$1,845,525.00. Commissioner Rinaldi made the motion to accept the 2024 Budget, Commissioner Lloyd seconded the motion.
Roll call: 5-0
Chairman Engelbert stated that the 2nd reading of the Budget is scheduled for December 28, 2023.

V. Treasurer's Report - Submission of the bills for the month of **December 2023** in the amount of **\$27,699.13**. Commissioner Lloyd made the motion to accept the Treasurer's report, Commissioner Davidson seconded the motion.
Roll call: 5-0

- VI. Minutes** – Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for **November 14, 2023**. Commissioner Rinaldi made the motion to accept the Minutes, Commissioner Lloyd seconded the motion.
Roll call: 5-0
- VII. Clerk's Report** – Clerk Cindy Jeminey reported that all the Commissioners received a copy of the recently published Community Risk Management Manual.
- VIII. Career Report** – Marine 5 was picked up from Campbell Supply and is back in service. Still waiting on parts for the Quint.
- IX. Fire Marshall's Report** – Fire Marshall Schwegel reported that all Yearly Inspections should be done by the end of the year.
- X. Chief's Report** – Chief Dimitri reported that we have a waiting list of 24. Chief Dimitri and the Volunteers' Fire Official will be reviewing the applications and resumes. We had 45 Fire/Rescue calls including 2 alarm fires in Pine Hill, 2 MVA's and rescue assignments. The Firefighters are doing a great job. Saturday's are running at 70% with two full trucks every week.
- XI. President's Report** – President Jennifer Robinson reported that on Saturday, December 16, 2023 there will be "Rides with Santa".
- XII. Commissioner's Report** – Commissioner Rinaldi expressed to President Robinson that she is doing an excellent job. The Volunteer head count is outstanding.
Commissioner Sprinitis said that the Fire Marshall is going to need some help. The Fire Marshall vehicle is not working properly and we need to do something. Commissioner Lloyd said "Happy Holidays to everyone".
- XIII. Public Portion** – Raymond Polidoro inquired about the Fire Fighters salary increases. He said that he is a strong supporter of the Fire and Police. He is having concerns over the \$89,000.00 salary of one of the Commissioner and would like some justification of the increase. Chairman Engelbert responded that the salary was given to the Personnel Director, who is here and available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day and he abstained from the vote on the salary increase. The salary was approved by Resolution which was sent to the Township in June. Solicitor Carlamere stated that the Council did not approve all salaries. It is a requirement that the Township Council must approve all salaries. Mr Polidoro questioned how did this fire district get so much higher than the other fire districts in the township. Commissioner Rinaldi said that other districts have Business Administrators and their salaries start at \$100,000.00. Mr Polidoro questioned about the resolution passed by Gloucester Township Council on November 13, 2023, and showed a paper (page 36) (the paper that Mr. Polidoro was referring to was not given to the board clerk). Solicitor Carlamere stated that the resolution that Mr. Polidoro questioned was read at the Township Council meeting and was tabled and not passed. Mr. Polidoro then asked what qualifications does the Commissioner have to be receiving this salary for the increase. Chairman

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Engelbert stated that the justification is for an Administrator and that we only have 2 part time clerks. Mr. Polidoro then asked Chairman Engelbert if he is qualified for this position. Chairman Engelbert then responded that he has all the qualifications for this position and has been preparing budgets for 24 years.

- XIV.** At this time of 7:15 pm, Chairman Engelbert asked for a motion to go into executive session. Commissioner Rinaldi made the motion and Commissioner Lloyd seconded the motion.

The regular meeting resumed at 7:35 pm. Roll Call 5-0

- a. (If needed)
- b. **RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC FROM DISCUSSION OF EXEMPTED SUBJECT MATTER AT A REGULAR OR SPECIAL SESSION OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS, GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 5, PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 10.4-6 ET SEQ OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT.**

- XV. Adjournment** Commissioner Rinaldi made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Davidson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.

NEXT MEETING
December 28, 2023
5:30 p.m. Workshop
6:00 p.m. Meeting

Respectfully submitted,


Cindy Jeminey, Recording Secretary