

Pine Hill Fire District #1
Workshop Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2024

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by Chairman Waddington at 5:05 P.M. Chairman Waddington led the salute to the flag and read a statement regarding the Open Public Meetings Act.

ROLL CALL: Commissioner Hagarty – present, Commissioner Hassett – not present, Commissioner Harris (arrived 5:11 p.m.) – present, Commissioner Wakeley – present, Commissioner Waddington – present.

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT: Chief Hunter, Battalion Chief Pizzo

OPEN THE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC: Chairman Waddington asked for a motion to open the floor to the public. A motion to open the floor to the public was made by Commissioner Hagarty and seconded by Commissioner Wakeley. All were in favor. Motion passed.

There was no public participation.

CLOSE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC: Chairman Waddington asked for a motion to close the floor to the public if there were no other questions. There were none. A motion to close the floor to the public was made by Commissioner Wakeley and seconded by Commissioner Hagarty. All were in favor. Motion passed.

WORKSHOP: Chairman Waddington explained that the topics for the workshop will include personnel, equipment and response issues and asked Chief Hunter to begin.

Chief Hunter said that we need to convince the public of the need to hire at least four additional full-time firefighters. We need to decide how much funding we should ask for to accomplish this goal. Commissioner Wakeley said that he is in favor of hiring one new firefighter. Chairman Waddington said that we should apply for the next SAFER grant. Battalion Chief Pizzo said that we need to explain the referendum and what it includes to the public. Commissioner Hagarty said that we need to take our time and do our research. We should not rush the process. Battalion Chief Pizzo said that he thinks we can get this done by September. Commissioner Hagarty said that it would be unfair to rush the public into a decision. We need the public's input. Commissioner Hagarty explained that Collingswood had four public meetings regarding their referendum. Each meeting lasted three to four hours. Commissioner Harris said that we should have enough time to do it this year, but we need to let the residents know what the effect will be on their taxes. Chief Hunter said that Winslow's referendum was approved, and they hired twelve additional firefighters and promoted all officers. Battalion Chief Pizzo said that four additional firefighters would put us where we need to be with three

Pine Hill Fire District #1
Workshop Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2024

platoons of three firefighters. Then we can use Kelly days. Commissioner Harris said that residents have asked him why Pine Hill has paid firefighters and other towns do not. Chief Hunter said the reason is Pine Hill can provide better protection for the community. Battalion Chief Pizzo said that the Pine Hill Fire Department has saved more lives than all the volunteer fire departments combined. This issue was discussed at length and ended with Battalion Chief Pizzo saying that he will present a proposal at the next workshop meeting.

Chief Hunter said that the next topic is the shared service agreement with Lambs Terrace. Chief Hunter said that once the agreement is signed both Pine Hill and Lambs Terrace will notify Station 86 of its decision. Chairman Waddington said that he is working on the letter. There was a discussion.

Battalion Chief Pizzo said that some of the gym equipment needs to be replaced and he is proposing that the fire department or fire district purchase a new cable crossover machine and a stair climber. The gym is used by the members and sometimes the police department. This issue was briefly discussed and will be brought up again at the next meeting.

Battalion Chief Pizzo said that he would like to discuss promotions. Chairman Waddington said that the issue should be discussed in closed session. Battalion Chief Pizzo agreed.

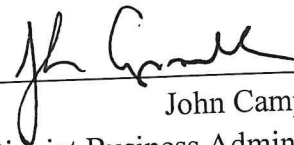
Chairman Waddington said that the next workshop can be held on the same day as the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Waddington asked if there were any other issues that needed to be addressed. There were none. A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Wakeley and seconded by Commissioner Hagarty. All were in favor. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 p.m.



Christopher Harris
Commission Secretary



John Campanella
Fire District Business Administrator