

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS,
TOWNSHIP OF UPPER; DISTRICT #1**

March 21, 2024

A meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Township of Upper, District #1 was held on March 21, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. at the Strathmere Volunteer Fire Company on Commonwealth Ave. in Strathmere, NJ.

Commissioners **Karen Mitchell, Donna Diefenderfer, Eric Weeks** and **Scott Oliver** were present. Commissioner **Joe Boland** was unable to attend. Also present was **Cheryl Sayers, CPA**, Accountant and Recording Secretary to the Board, and **Bruce Riordan**, Chief of Strathmere Volunteer Fire Company.

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

As the first order of new business, the board discussed the results of the election, held on Saturday, February 17th. **Donna Diefenderfer** was elected as Commissioner. Her term runs from February, 2024 – February, 2027. The 2024 budget was approved, as presented.

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

Chairman-	Karen Mitchell
Vice Chairman-	Joe Boland
Secretary-	Donna Diefenderfer
Treasurer-	Eric Weeks
Commissioner-	Scott Oliver
Solicitor-	Jon Batastini.
Auditor-	Michael Bohrer, Esq., CPA
Newspaper-	Cape May County Herald
Bank-	1st Bank of Sea Isle City
Meeting Dates-	Various Thursdays, as advertised
Meeting Time-	4:00 p.m.

As the first order of regular business, the Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the prior meeting, held December 14, 2023.

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS,
TOWNSHIP OF UPPER; DISTRICT #1**

**March 21, 2024
(continued)**

Mrs. Sayers presented the current bills and checks to be signed and distributed along with a financial report, including a list of checks that were approved and signed at her office since the December 14, 2023 meeting. The current bills and checks were approved as presented. Mrs. Sayers presented a Treasurer's Report, including a review of the Board's year-to-date income and expenses relative to the budget. All current and anticipated expenses are within budget.

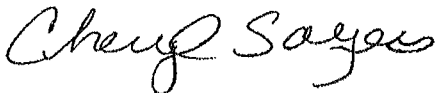
The Board made a motion to pass a resolution to transfer line items in the 2023 budget from budget expenditures with excess funds to budget expenditures having deficits. The resolution was unanimously approved and adopted.

Bruce Riordan presented a Chief's Report. 2023 was a busy year for the fire company. In total, the fire company responded to 74 calls, which is much higher than usual. Approximately half the calls were EMS calls. Overall, the fire company is doing well. All training is in order. A truck committee is working on plans to purchase a new pumper truck. The lead time is 38-42 months. The company has received a few small grants. The water company and gas company were the source of two of those grants. The Chief discussed the requirements to become a firefighter and the continuing education needed once you become a firefighter. The company currently has 20 active firefighters and 6 EMT's.

Mrs. Sayers reminded the board that the next meeting is scheduled for June 20th at 4:00 p.m.

There being no further business for the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cheryl D. Sayers, CPA, *Recording Secretary*

Approved and Submitted,



Karen Mitchell, *Chairman*