



Winslow Township Fire District #1



January 5, 2011
Winslow Township Fire District #1
9 Cedar Brook Road
Sicklerville, New Jersey 08081

SPECIAL MEETING – Winslow Fire House

WINSLOW TOWNSHIP, FIRE DISTRICT #1

LOCATION OF MEETING: WINSLOW FIRE STATION - HAY & HALL STREETS, WINSLOW, NJ

OPENING OF MEETING:

Chairman Sirolli called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

SALUTE TO FLAG:

All present pledged their Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioner Gallo, present
Secretary Mammucari, present
Treasurer Pantalone, present
Commissioner Passarella, present
Chairman Sirolli, present

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Chief Osborne
Solicitor Patterson
Chiefs Scardino, Rigberg, Passarella, Donio, Iannaco, and Captain Friend
Committeepersons Giberson and Tomasello
Career Staff
John Smith, Treasurer of Station 1
Chris Wingate, President of Station 1
14 Residents of Station 1's local

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT:

The meeting was conducted in full compliance with the 'Open Public Meeting Law,' and that Notice was sent to the Courier-Post, Atlantic City Press and Record Breeze. In addition, due Notice was posted on the Official Bulletin Board of Winslow Township and no smoking was permitted in the room during the meeting. Chairman Sirolli then announced where the emergency exits were.

INTRODUCTION BY CHIEF OSBORNE

Administrative Office

Chief Osborne thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He then explained that the meeting was being held to provide information for Winslow Fire Station and the residents who lived in the first due area of same. An introduction of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Solicitor Patterson, the Department's Senior Officers and Committeepersons was given.

MEETING DISCUSSIONS

Chief Osborne communicated that the goal of the meeting was to make the resident's aware of the issues that the Department is up against and the need for volunteers who are willing to commit to the vocation; touching on the responsibilities of a volunteer firefighter that include the obligation of training. Also mentioned was the equal role that female firefighters have. He then detailed the demands of training with mention made to deaths in the line of duty. He also spoke on the rewards in becoming a volunteer firefighter. Established in 1925, Winslow Fire Station's volunteer membership had decreased due to the demographics of the area and the amount of volunteers that have decreased as a result of family and work obligations. In March 2008, the Department was then referenced to have evolved into a combination department; hiring full time firefighters during the day, and now providing 18 hour coverage from midnight until 6:00 p.m. Chief Osborne also explained the duty crew program assigned to the volunteer members of each station that cover during the hours of 6:00 p.m. until midnight.

The public was then advised that the engine previously assigned to Winslow Fire Station has been reassigned to Albion Fire Station due to diminishing membership and SCBA required qualifications. Reference was then made to the water tanker that is still at Winslow Fire Station for those who can respond in getting the truck out for the non hydrant area. At that point, Chief Osborne pointed out the Fire District's position of holding a meeting with the residents of Winslow Fire Station's local was to help get the volunteer numbers built back up. He advised that the age range for members was anywhere from 16 – 65. Discussions then reverted to the training that is provided through Camden County Fire Academy to ready the individual to respond on fire apparatus and the incentives related to attending the paid training.

Chief Osborne then directed talks to the coverage for the area and that Folsom Volunteer Fire Department was solicited to ensure mutual aid for the area to guarantee fire protection throughout the entire Fire District in Winslow Township to keep residents safe.

The Board of Fire Commissioners was acknowledged by Chief Osborne for their efforts of having career and volunteer firefighters working every day. The budget was then referenced with budget caps that are enforced throughout the State of New Jersey, with the amounts of dollars for the service that is shrinking each day, making it difficult, resulting in the pursuit of mutual aid.

The meeting was then opened to the public for questions for the Chief and Board members. No one from the public wished to speak.

Chairman Sirolli clarified the message for the meeting is the attempt to keep Winslow Fire Station open and stimulate membership. He then advised that the Board will meet again for a further review of membership and that it was their primary goal in providing the entire Township with good fire protection.

Chief Osborne and the Board thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Sirolli entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. A motion was made by Treasurer Pantalone and seconded by Commissioner Passarella. All were in favor.

Prepared by: pj

Reviewed by: LLP

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