

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

The regular meeting of the Frelinghuysen Township Committee was held in the Municipal Building, 210 Main Street, Johnsonburg, New Jersey on Wednesday, September 29, 2022 and was called to order at 5:14 p.m. by Mayor Keith Ramos.

SUNSHINE LAW STATEMENT:

Under the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by posting notice on the Township bulletin board and by e mailing notice to the New Jersey Herald and The Express-Times.

ROLL CALL:

Those present were: Mayor Keith Ramos, Deputy Mayor Chris Stracco, Committeeman David Boynton, Committeeman Todd McPeek, Committeeman Robert Stock, and Municipal Clerk Donna Zilberfarb.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Swear in of Fire Chief, John Shoemaker. Mr. Stock read about creating a fire department and all the work that goes into doing so and that he was proud to announce the appointment of the John Shoemaker to the first Fire Chief in Frelinghuysen Township. Mr. Stock spoke about Mr. Shoemaker's time in the Orange (1965-1985), South Orange (1985-2014) fire departments. Retiring in 2014 and moving to Washington State. Mr. Shoemaker then moved back to New Jersey in 2019 where he became a member of the Blirstown Hose company. Mr. Stock discussed his certifications, where Mr. Shoemaker has served a total of 52 years and will be a valuable asset to the Frelinghuysen Township Fire Department.
- Mr. Ramos swore Mr. Shoemaker in as Chief as Mr. Stracco held the Bible.
- Mr. McPeek congratulated Chief Shoemaker as being the first Chief of Frelinghuysen Township.
- Mr. Boynton presented Chief Shoemaker the Chief's hat. Chief Shoemaker explained that this is a thrilling experience and it has been many decades since a fire department has been started in the state of New Jersey. He thanked the Mayor and Committee and the residents.

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

Motion was made by Mr. McPeek, seconded by Mr. Boynton limiting it to 20 minutes to open meeting to the public. All were in favor. Spoke were:

- Loren Greco, Greendell Road, asked the Chief how many pieces of equipment would be needed. The Chief responded with 4 vehicles, at least 1 class A pumper, 3,000 gallon tanker, brush vehicle and a chiefs vehicle.
- Bob Aulicino, Lincoln Laurel Road, asked how much the equipment will cost. Mr. Ramos explained that there has not been a budget set up yet for this but has applied for grants for some of this.
- Mario Luciani, Camp Weaqua Road, congratulated the Chief. He discussed vacating his road for \$2,000 and asked if that money was going to the fire department. Mr. Ramos explained that the town was applying for many grants for the fire department. Mr. Luciani then asked the Chief that in an emergency with a fire at his house, how would they respond. The Chief said they would do the best they possibly can and that all scenarios have different answers. Mr. Luciani stated he would be at the meetings moving forward.
- Kathy Lippman, State Park Road, asked the Chief if he felt the cost of \$60,000 a year was a correct number. The Chief stated that once they have everything by NFCPA standards. He stated that \$60,000 sounded a little low at this time. Ms. Lippman asked if there was a timeline? The Chief said 2025.

Motion was made by Mr. Stracco, seconded by Mr. McPeek to close to the public. All were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Stracco, seconded by Mr. Boynton to adjourn the meeting at 5:27 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Zilberfarb, RMC