

**Minutes of the special meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire District No. 1 was held on Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.**

Commissioner John C. Kenny called the meeting to order.

District Clerk read – All the requirements of the “Open Public Meeting Act” have been complied with by advertising in the Home News Tribune and Star Ledger and posted at the post offices of Woodbridge and Sewaren, at the firehouse and on the website. Mr. President you may proceed.

Commissioner John C. Kenny led a pledge to the flag.

A moment of silence was observed for our departed members and for our men and women serving overseas.

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Todd Howell, Commissioner John C. Kenny., Commissioner Patrick Kenny, Commissioner Robert Minkler, Sr., Commissioner Jeffrey Moran

**ALSO PRESENT:** Christopher Howell, Attorney  
Maria Bucsanszky, District Clerk  
Chief Charles Kenny

Commissioner J.C.K.: I need a motion to suspend the minutes of the previous meeting until the next regular meeting.

Commissioner Robert Minkler, Sr. made a motion to suspend the minutes of the previous meeting until the next regular meeting which was seconded by Commissioner Patrick Kenny and carried unanimously.

Commissioner J.C.K.: On behalf of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire District No. 1 I'd like to welcome everyone to these Promotional and Appointment ceremonies. Back in late 2016 into 2017 the Board at that time recognized that we needed to make sure that the future safety of the people and property we serve that some changes were needed to be made to keep up with societal changes so the Board created the position of Career Chief. Once the Chief was in place working together, we developed a business plan so that when the demographic of the district changed, we would be ready verses reacting to those changes. So tonight, following our business plan, we'll be creating another Deputy Chief increasing the rank and file besides the promotions of Battalion Chiefs and Captains. Also, the Board would like to take a minute to recognize Chief Charles Kenny who has informed the Board of his retirement at the end of March. Chief, the Board cannot thank you enough for your hard work over the last thirty-three years and nine months. It is your leadership and creating the foundation during your tenure as Chief that will ensure the success of the Fire District for many years to come. So, moving on, back to the main reason we are all here tonight, on behalf of the Board we want it to go on record that we recognize all the hard work that all these individuals have achieved during this time. Many

hours were studying; many hours giving up trying to achieve this moment for today which is a great moment for tonight. On behalf of the entire Board we'd like to congratulate you all and now I'm going to turn it over to Chief Kenny for the swearing in.

Chief Charles Kenny. Thank you very much. Good evening everybody before we get started, I just want to thank the Board. As I said to the guys in the back before this isn't possible without the Board's understanding and vision to be able to implement a plan to make sure that the residents of Fire District #1 are full protected and that is recognizing the changing times. We have a hard working volunteer department here but as with all volunteer departments they have troubles and the Board is making a commitment to make sure that their residents are safe by making sure we have enough career personnel to work with the fire department to be one fire department to make sure we serve all of our residents so for that I thank you for your vision and your cooperation in putting this together, thank you. Just to touch, really quick, this is a ceremonial swearing in; everybody technically has been sworn in legally before this event; before this moment. But we wanted to have a ceremonial one where we could have everybody's families down here participating in it, be a part of it and be able to share in this great and joyous occasion that they are about to have and that's what this is about. It's a celebration of their hard work as the Commissioner said and their efforts that they have done. All of the people before us have passed promotional exams or entrance exams. Recently we had two of our four new firefighters graduate Firefighter One and Firefighter Two and there are still, along with others in the fire department, about to embark on the Fire Inspector's course that they will be starting in February going into March so they will have to put many hours in of training to be able to continue to serve you and be better in their field so I thank them for all the hard work that they have done, thank you. We're going to start with the swearing in. I also wanted to, before I go any further really quick, thank Deputy Chief John Golden who did all of this work in putting this together so Deputy Chief thank you very much.

Deputy Chief John Golden: Thank you.

Audience applauds.

Chief Charles Kenny: At this time, I'm going to call forward Provisional Deputy Chief Robert Paul to come up and be sworn in by his daughter.

Provisional Deputy Chief Robert Paul's daughter: I.

Provisional Deputy Chief Robert Paul: Robert Paul.

Provisional Deputy Chief Robert Paul's daughter: Do solemnly swear that I will faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties of Provisional Deputy Fire Chief of Fire District No. 1, Township of Woodbridge, New Jersey, according to the best of my ability and render full service to the District and to the Fire Department and will

at all times be subordinate to the orders and directions of my superiors in conforming with the rules. I further solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to the governments established in the United States and in this State so help me God.

Provisional Deputy Chief Robert Paul: I do.

Audience claps.

Chief Charles Kenny.: At this time, I would like to call forward Deputy Chief Michael Balog and Commissioner Robert Minkler.

Commissioner Robert Minkler: I.

Deputy Chief Michael Balog: Michael Balog.

Commissioner Robert Minkler: Do solemnly swear that I will faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties of Provisional Deputy Chief of Fire District No. 1 Township of Woodbridge, New Jersey according to the best of my ability and render full services to the District and Fire Department and will at all times be subordinate to the orders and directions of my superiors and in conformity with the rules. I further solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to the governments established in the United States and in this State so help me God.

Deputy Chief Michael Balog: I do.

Audience applauds.

Chief Charles Kenny: At this time, I want to call forward Provisional Battalion Chief Steven Weber and Councilman Brian Small.

Councilman Brian Small: I.

Provisional Battalion Chief Steven Weber: Steven Weber.

Councilman Brian Small: Do solemnly swear that I will faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties of Provisional Battalion Chief of Fire District No. 1 Township of Woodbridge, New Jersey according to the best of my ability and render full services to the District and Fire Department and will at all times be subordinate to the orders and directions of my superiors and in conformity with the rules. I further solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey and that I will bear true faith

and allegiance to the same and to the governments established in the United States and in this State so help me God.

Provisional Battalion Chief Steven Weber: I do.

Audience claps.

Chief Charles Kenny: At this time, I'm going to call forward Provisional Battalion Chief David Hines and Commissioner Jeffrey Moran.

Commissioner Jeffrey Moran: I.

Provisional Battalion Chief David Hines: David Hines.

Commissioner Jeffrey Moran: Do solemnly swear that I will faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties of Provisional Battalion Chief of Fire District No. 1 Township of Woodbridge, New Jersey according to the best of my ability and render full services to the District and Fire Department and will at all times be subordinate to the orders and directions of my superiors and in conformity with the rules. I further solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to the governments established in the United States and in this State so help me God.

Provisional Battalion Chief David Hines: I do.

Audience claps.

Chief Charles Kenny.: I going to call forward Captain Robert Fizer to be sworn in by Commissioner Jeffrey Moran.

Commissioner Jeffrey Moran: I.

Captain Robert Fizer: Robert Fizer.

Commissioner Jeffrey Moran: Do solemnly swear that I will faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties of Captain of Fire District No. 1 Township of Woodbridge, New Jersey according to the best of my ability and render full services to the District and Fire Department and will at all times be subordinate to the orders and directions of my superiors and in conformity with the rules. I further solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to the governments established in the United States and in this State so help me God.

Captain Robert Fizer: I do.

Audience applauds.

Chief Charles Kenny: At this time, I'm going to call forward Captain Keith McGrath.

Commissioner Robert Minkler, Sr.: I.

Captain Keith McGrath: Keith McGrath.

Commissioner Robert Minkler, Sr.: Do solemnly swear that I will faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties of Captain of Fire District No. 1 Township of Woodbridge, New Jersey according to the best of my ability and render full services to the District and Fire Department and will at all times be subordinate to the orders and directions of my superiors and in conformity with the rules. I further solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to the governments established in the United States and in this State so help me God.

Captain Keith McGrath: I do.

Commissioner Robert Minkler, Sr.: Congratulations.

Captain Keith McGrath: Thank you.

Audience claps.

Chief Charles Kenny: So, I told him I was going to do this before I called him up but the next person to be sworn in used to come here with his dad. His dad used to bring him here and he would say, ah he wanted to come see the fire trucks and when we would go say hi to him or try to take him to go see the fire trucks he'd go hide behind his father.

Audience laughs.

Chief Charles Kenny: And so one of the signs that you've been here too long is when that little person is now taller than you number one and two being sworn in as Captain of the Fire Department. I am proud to call forward Captain Michael Barcellona.

Audience applauds.

Commissioner Patrick Kenny: I.

Captain Michael Barcellona: Michael Barcellona.

Commissioner Patrick Kenny: Do solemnly swear that I will faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties of Captain of Fire District No. 1 Township of Woodbridge, New Jersey according to the best of my ability and render full services

to the District and Fire Department and will at all times be subordinate to the orders and directions of my superiors and in conformity with the rules. I further solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to the governments established in the United States and in this State so help me God.

Captain Michael Barcellona: I do.

Audience applauds.

Chief Charles Kenny: At this time I will call forward Firefighter Christopher Kenny and Commissioner Todd Howell to swear him in.

Commissioner Todd Howell: I.

Firefighter Christopher Kenny: Christopher Kenny.

Commissioner Todd Howell: Do solemnly swear that I will faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties of Firefighter of Fire District No. 1 Township of Woodbridge, New Jersey according to the best of my ability and render full services to the District and Fire Department and will at all times be subordinate to the orders and directions of my superiors and in conformity with the rules. I further solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to the governments established in the United States and in this State so help me God.

Firefighter Christopher Kenny: I do.

Audience claps.

Chief Charles Kenny: At this time I'm going to call forward Daniel Aquino and Commissioner P. Kenny.

Commissioner Patrick Kenny: I.

Firefighter Daniel Aquino: Daniel Aquino.

Commissioner Patrick Kenny: Do solemnly swear that I will faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties of Firefighter of Fire District No. 1 Township of Woodbridge, New Jersey according to the best of my ability and render full services to the District and Fire Department and will at all times be subordinate to the orders and directions of my superiors and in conformity with the rules. I further solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to the governments established in the United States and in this State so help me God.

Firefighter Daniel Aquino: I do.

Audience claps.

Chief Charles Kenny: At this time I'm going to call forward Firefighter Gilbert Rivera and Commissioner Todd Howell.

Commissioner Todd Howell: I.

Firefighter Gilbert Rivera: Gilbert Rivera.

Commissioner Todd Howell: Do solemnly swear that I will faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties of Firefighter of Fire District No. 1 Township of Woodbridge, New Jersey according to the best of my ability and render full services to the District and Fire Department and will at all times be subordinate to the orders and directions of my superiors and in conformity with the rules. I further solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to the governments established in the United States and in this State so help me God.

Firefighter Gilbert Rivera: I do.

Audience claps.

Chief Charles Kenny: This time I'm going to call forward Firefighter Christopher Jago and he's being sworn in by his brother Michael Jago.

Michael Jago: I.

Firefighter Christopher Jago: Christopher Jago.

Michael Jago: Do solemnly swear that I will faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties of Firefighter of Fire District No. 1 Township of Woodbridge, New Jersey according to the best of my ability and render full services to the District and Fire Department and will at all times be subordinate to the orders and directions of my superiors and in conformity with the rules. I further solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to the governments established in the United States and in this State so help me God.

Firefighter Christopher Jago: I do.

Audience applauds.

Chief Charles Kenny: Just really quick I want to thank most of all Maria Bucsanszky on behalf of the Board for the work that she did involving putting this program together.

Audience applauds.

Chief Charles Kenny: I also saw my Administrative Assistant, Lisa Lanza out in the audience tonight.

Audience applauds.

Chief Charles Kenny: I'd like to say early in 2013 the Board put on six new members as some retired and added a couple to the department. In 2015 the Board put on seven members to the Firefighting Department. In 2018 we added two more and then at the end of 2018 we added four more and that's not including the administrative changes that were made here so once again I want to thank the Board for all the work and their cooperation in putting together this fantastic fire department. We do have a great fire department, they do a great job, and they deserve a lot of credit for the work they do so thank you all very much.

Audience applauds.

Chief Charles Kenny: Okay, so that was a little filler at the end there just in case but I did want to get those points out. I just to want to introduce and ask him if he would like to say a few words, Mayor John McCormac, I see he just walked in.

Audience applauds.

Mayor John McCormac: Instead of saying a few words I just need to say one word, congratulations.

Audience applauds.

Chief Charles Kenny: Any of the other on the Board would like to say anything? I think in the audience here we have Deputy Police Director Joe Nisky.

Audience applauds.

Chief Charles Kenny: Councilwoman Nancy Drumm.

Audience applauds.

Chief Charles Kenny: Chief Mike Hapstak.

Audience applauds.



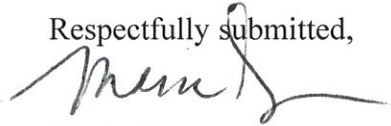
Chief Charles Kenny: We have the representative to the Fireman's Home for Middlesex County, Bruce Horvath.

Audience applauds.

Chief Charles Kenny: There's going to be some photos taken and I think there are refreshments they're going to set up so if you can give us a few minutes I'm sure they will get it all organized and I need a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Todd Howell made a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting which was seconded by Commissioner Patrick Henry and carried unanimously at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maria Bucsanszky', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Maria Bucsanszky  
District Clerk