

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire District No. 1 was held on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.

Commissioner John C. Kenny called the meeting to order.

Maria Bucsanszky – All the requirements of the “Open Public Meeting Act” have been complied with by advertising in the Home News Tribune and Star Ledger. Copies of the meeting notice have been sent to the Municipal Clerk’s Office and posted on the bulletin board of the fire house and the post offices of Woodbridge and Sewaren.

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

A moment of silence for our departed members.

PRESENT: Commissioner John C. Kenny, Commissioner Jeffrey Moran, Commissioner Jay Barcellona, Commissioner Robert Minkler, Sr., Commissioner Patrick Kenny
ALSO PRESENT: Chief Michael Balog
District Clerk - Maria Bucsanszky
Attorney – Christopher Howell
Attorney – Nicole Grzeskowiak
Mayor John E. McCormac

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

Commissioner Robert Minkler, Sr. made a motion to suspend the approval of the minutes of the previous meeting until the next Regular Meeting which was seconded by Commissioner Jay Barcellona and carried unanimously.

Commissioner J.C.K.: Okay, I think we have one resolution.

Maria Bucsanszky: Correct, Resolution 2024-1-3.

Commissioner J.C.K.: Okay, I need a motion for that resolution.

Commissioner Robert Minkler, Sr. made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-1-3 which was seconded by Commissioner Jay Barcellona and carried unanimously.

Commissioner J.C.K.: At this time, I’m going to turn the meeting over to Chief Michael Balog.

Chief Michael Balog: Good evening, everyone. I want to start with promotional and new hiring swearing in tonight. Before we begin, I would just like to thank the Board of Fire Commissioners. These promotions and hirings are impossible without their

support and plan that were put in place and to adapt our fire department with the routines we have begun to use. Since the beginning of 2018 we have made much progress which you may not realize at the moment. We have a few more years to go and then we'll reach our goals with the duties and support of the Commissioners so thank you. Today our first swearing in is going to be for Captain Michael Walsh. When Walsh was 22, he joined the Woodbridge Fire Department in February of 2015. He had served in the ranks of firefighter and U.F.D. firefighter specialist. Michael graduated from Woodbridge High School and went on for his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from St. John's University. Reading him his oath tonight will be Chief Edward Mullen of the Perth Amboy Fire Department.

Chief Edward Mullen: I Michael Walsh.

Captain Michael Walsh: I Michael Walsh.

Chief Edward Mullen: Do solemnly swear that you will faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties of Fire Captain of Fire District #1, Township of Woodbridge, New Jersey according to the best of your ability and render full and faithful service to the district and to the fire department and will at all times be subordinate to the orders and directions of my superiors and in conformity with the rules. Do you further solemnly swear that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey and that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the State and the Governments established in the United States and in this State so help you God.

Captain Michael Walsh: I will.

Chief Edward Mullen: Congratulations.

Audience applauds.

Chief Michael Balog: Next up we have Captain Michael Geiger.

Audience applauds.

Chief Michael Balog: Michael Geiger recruited in 2012 and remains here with the Woodbridge Fire Department. He served as firefighter and fire inspector. Captain Geiger graduated from Woodbridge High School in 2003 and went on to Middlesex County College where he pursued his degree in liberal arts and then went on to New Jersey City University earning a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Science.

Mayor John E. McCormac: Do you Michael Geiger solemnly swear that you will faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties as Captain of Fire District #1, Township of Woodbridge, New Jersey according to the best of your 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 your superiors and in conformity with the

rules. Do you further solemnly swear that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey and that you will bear true faith and alliance to the State and the Governments established in the United States and in this State so help you God.

Captain Michael Geiger: I do.

Mayor John E. McCormac: Congratulations.

Audience applauds.

Chief Michael Balog: Next, we have Firefighter Michael Colman.

Audience applauds.

Mayor John E. McCormac: Do you Michael Colman solemnly swear that you will faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties of firefighter of Fire District #1, Township of Woodbridge, New Jersey according to the best of your 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 your superiors in conformity with the rules. Do you further solemnly swear that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey and that Iyou will bear true faith and alliance to the State and the Governments established in the United States and in this State so help me God.

Firefighter Michael Colman: I do.

Mayor John E. McCormac: Congratulations.

Audience applauds.

Chief Michael Balog: Next, we have Firefighter Alexander Reyes.

John E. McCormac: Do you Alexander Reyes solemnly swear that you will faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties of firefighter of Fire District #1, Township of Woodbridge, New Jersey according to the best of your 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 your superiors in conformity with the rules. Do you further solemnly swear that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey and that you will bear true faith and alliance to the State and the Governments established in the United States and in this State so help you God.

Firefighter Alexander Reyes: I do.

Audience applauds.

Mayor John E. McCormac: Congratulations.

Chief Michael Balog: Next, we have Career Firefighter Kyle Eidson.

Mayor John E. McCormac: Do you Kyle Eidson solemnly swear that you will faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties of firefighter of Fire District #1, Township of Woodbridge, New Jersey according to the best of your 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 your superiors and in conformity with the rules. Do you further solemnly swear that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey and that you will bear true faith and alliance to the State and the Governments established in the United States and in this State so help me God.

Firefighter Kyle Eidson: I do.

Audience applauds.

Chief Michael Balog: Next, we have Firefighter Juan Velez.

Mayor John E. McCormac: Do you Juan Velez solemnly swear that you will faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties of firefighter of Fire District #1, Township of Woodbridge, New Jersey according to the best of your 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 your superiors and in conformity with the rules. Do you further solemnly swear that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey and that you will bear true faith and alliance to the State and the Governments established in the United States and in this State so help you God.

Firefighter Juan Velez: I do.

Mayor John E. McCormac: Congratulations.

Audience applauds.

Chief Michael Balog: Next, we have Recruit Firefighter Timothy Meehan.

Mayor John E. McCormac: Do you Timothy Meehan solemnly swear that you will faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties of firefighter of Fire District #1, Township of Woodbridge, New Jersey according to the best of your ability and that you will render full service to the district and to the fire department and will at all times be subordinate to the orders and directions of your superiors and in conformity with the rules. Do you further solemnly swear that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey and that you will

bear true faith and alliance to the State and the Governments established in the United States and in this State so help you God.

Firefighter Timothy Meehan: I do.

Mayor John E. McCormac: Congratulations

Audience applauds.

Chief Michael Balog:

Audience applauds.

Mayor John E. McCormac: I'd like to introduce my colleagues in public service. Your First Ward Councilwoman Sharon McAuliffe.

Audience applauds.

Mayor John E. McCormac: Third Ward Councilman and member of the Avenel Fire Department Cory Spillar.

Audience applauds.

Mayor John E. McCormac: Fifth Ward Councilwoman Debbie Meehan who is here tonight not only as your Councilwoman but as a proud mom of a new recruit.

Audience applauds.

Mayor John E. McCormac: I'd like to say congratulations to our two new Captains and to the fire recruits. This is a very difficult job to get. It's a very competitive process. You accomplished a lot just by sitting here today and you are joining a fantastic department with a whole lot of aggressive plans to make the Township of Woodbridge better. We appreciate that and once again congratulations.

Audience applauds.

Commissioner J.C.K.: Always we like to thank Councilman Gregg Ficarra. I know that County Commissioner Charles Kenny is here, Vice-President of Local 290 Robert Fizer and retired Commissioner Todd Howell is here tonight, thank you Commissioner for coming. I also like to thank all the retirees that are here tonight. It's really great to see you all show up tonight for this great night so thank you all for making the trip here today.

Audience applauds.

Commissioner J.C.K.: We need a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Robert Minkler, Sr. made a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting at 6:20 P.M. which was seconded by Commissioner Jay Barcellona and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Bucsanszky
District Clerk

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Fire Commissioners of Fire District No. 1 of the Township of Woodbridge are at all times desirous of maintaining a high level of fire suppression and fire prevention within the Fire District No. 1 of the Township;

WHEREAS, the Fire Department personnel has increased in size over the years to keep pace with growing demands of the District; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Fire Commissioners of Fire District No. 1 of the Township of Woodbridge that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-7; 40A:14-81 and 40A:14-81.1 the Board has approved the hiring of five (5) paid positions for the Fire Department from the certified Civil Service list of eligible employees through the New Jersey Civil Service Commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire District No. 1 of the Township of Woodbridge has approved the hiring of Michael Coman, Alexander Reyes, Kyle Eidson, Juan Velez and Timothy Meehan with an official start date of January 29, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Fire Commissioners of Fire District No. 1 of the Township of Woodbridge that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-7; 40A:14-81 and 40A:14-81.1 the Board has approved the appointment of the following paid members on a permanent basis:

Michael Walsh – Captain, effective November 27, 2023

Michael Geiger – Captain, effective November 27, 2023

Motion made by Comm. Muehlen Sr, seconded by
Comm. Barcellona, All in favor

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FIRE DISTRICT #1

John Kenny

JOHN C. KENNY

ADOPTED: January 24, 2024

I hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of the resolution adopted by the Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire District #1, Township of Woodbridge at their swearing in meeting held on January 24, 2024.

Maria Bucsanszky

MARIA BUCSANSZKY – Clerk