

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire District No. 1 was held on Monday, August 19, 2024 at 6:40 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 and please keep in mind over this past summer we had lost one of our Edison Firefighters and Police Officer and today they just had the burial for one of our Fire Marshalls in New York City, very tragic, and people should really take the time to use the Buscio Program that is available to all First Responders in the State; it does save many lives.

PRESENT: Commissioner John C. Kenny, Commissioner Robert Minkler, Sr., Commissioner Jay Barcellona, Commissioner Jeffrey Moran

ALSO PRESENT: Christopher Howell, Attorney
Chief Robert Minkler, Jr.
Maria Bucsanszky, District Clerk

Commissioner J.C.K.: I need a motion to hold the minutes of the previous meeting until the September meeting.

Commissioner Robert Minkler, Sr. made a motion to hold the minutes of the previous meeting until the September meeting which was seconded by Commissioner Jay Barcellona and carried unanimously.

Commissioner J.C.K.: We will move on to what tonight is really about. Good Evening, welcome I’m John Kenny. I am the President of the Board of Fire Commissioners for Fire District No. 1. It is the Board’s distinct honor to stand before you today and celebrate this special occasion for our community and for our fire department. Today we have the privilege of introducing six outstanding firefighter candidates. Among them two remarkable women and four dedicated men who all have demonstrated exceptional courage and commitment and readiness to serve. With the addition of these two female candidates, we proudly increase our female enrollment to five making a significant step towards greater diversity and inclusion within our ranks. Our new candidates are about to embark on rigorous training where they will hone in their skills to prepare to meet the challenges of this notable profession. The willingness to step into the demand of the role is a testament to their character and to their commitment to protecting the residents of Woodbridge. As we

welcome these brave individuals into our firefighting family, I would like to extend our gratitude to the families and the loved ones of those who will be supporting them through their journey. Please join me in congratulating our new candidates and wishing them success in their training. Together we will continue to uphold the highest standards of service and dedication to our community. At this time, I am going to turn it over to Chief Minkler who will call one up at a time and take the oath.

Chief Robert Minkler, Jr.: John Alcott and your family.

Christopher Howell, Attorney: I, John Alcott.

John Alcott: I, John Alcott.

Christopher Howell, Attorney: Do solemnly swear that I will faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties of Firefighter for Fire District No. 1, Township of Woodbridge, New Jersey according to the best of my abilities and render full service in the District and to the Fire Department and will be at all times subordinate to the orders and direction of my superiors and in conformity with the rules. I further solemnly swear 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 government established in the United States and in this State so help me God.

John Alcott: I do.

Christopher Howell, Attorney: Congratulations.

Audience applauds.

Chief Robert Minkler Jr.: Matthew Scherb and your family.

Christopher Howell, Attorney: I, Matthew Scherb.

Matthew Scherb: I, Matthew Scherb.

Christopher Howell, Attorney: Do solemnly swear that I will faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties of Firefighter for Fire District No. 1, Township of Woodbridge, New Jersey according to the best of my abilities and render full service in the District and to the Fire Department and will be at all times subordinate to the orders and direction of my superiors and in conformity with the rules. I further solemnly swear 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 government established in the United States and in this State so help me God.

Matthew Scherb: I do.

Christopher Howell, Attorney: Congratulations.

Audience applauds.

Chief Robert Minkler, Jr.: Margaret Rodas and your family.

Christopher Howell, Attorney: I, Margaret Rodas.

Margaret Rodas: I, Margaret Rodas.

Christopher Howell, Attorney: Do solemnly swear that I will faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties of Firefighter for Fire District No. 1, Township of Woodbridge, New Jersey according to the best of my abilities and render full service in the District and to the Fire Department and will be at all times subordinate to the orders and direction of my superiors and in conformity with the rules. I further solemnly swear 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 government established in the United States and in this State so help me God.

Margaret Rodas: I do.

Christopher Howell, Attorney: Congratulations.

Audience applauds.

Chief Robert Minkler, Jr.: Jonathan Alves and family.

Christopher Howell, Attorney: I, Jonathan Alves.

Jonathan Alves: I, Jonathan Alves

Christopher Howell, Attorney: Do solemnly swear that I will faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties of Firefighter for Fire District No. 1, Township of Woodbridge, New Jersey according to the best of my abilities and render full service in the District and to the Fire Department and will be at all times subordinate to the orders and direction of my superiors and in conformity with the rules. I further solemnly swear 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 government established in the United States and in this State so help me God.

Jonathan Alves: I do.

Christopher Howell, Attorney: Congratulations.

Audience applauds.

Chief Robert Minkler, Jr.: Nadia Caraballo and family.

Christopher Howell, Attorney: I, Nadia Caraballo.

Nadia Caraballo: I, Nadia Caraballo.

Christopher Howell, Attorney: Do solemnly swear that I will faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties of Firefighter for Fire District No. 1, Township of Woodbridge, New Jersey according to the best of my abilities and render full service in the District and to the Fire Department and will be at all time subordinate to the orders and direction of my superiors and in conformity with the rules. I further solemnly swear 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 government established in the United States and in this State so help me God.

Nadia Caraballo: I do.

Christopher Howell, Attorney: Congratulations.

Audience applauds.

Chief Robert Minkler, Jr.: Anthony Alves and family.

Christopher Howell, Attorney: I, Anthony Alves.

Anthony Alves: I, Anthony Alves.

Christopher Howell, Attorney: Do solemnly swear that I will faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties of Firefighter for Fire District No. 1, Township of Woodbridge, New Jersey according to the best of my abilities and render full service in the District and to the Fire Department and will be at all times subordinate to the orders and direction of my superiors and in conformity with the rules. I further solemnly swear 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 government established in the United States and in this State so help me God.

Anthony Alves: I do.

Christopher Howell, Attorney: Congratulations.

Audience applauds.

Chief Robert Minkler, Jr.: That is it for today.

Commissioner J.C.K.: I need a motion to pass Resolution 2024-8-1.

Commissioner Robert Minkler, Sr. made a motion to pass Resolution 2024-8-1 which was seconded by Commissioner Jeffrey Moran and carried unanimously.

Commissioner J.C.K.: At this time this is going to conclude the public portion of the meeting. We are going to go into Executive Session for legal and personnel matters so thank you for coming and once again good luck to all of you – I'm sure you are going to do great.

Commissioner Robert Minkler, Sr. made a motion to go into Executive Session for legal and personnel matters at 6:50 P.M. which was seconded by Commissioner Jay Barcellona and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robert Minkler, Sr. made a motion to return to the regular portion of the meeting at 9:17 P.M. which was seconded by Commissioner Jay Barcellona and carried unanimously.

Commissioner J.C.K.: Okay Mr. Attorney, do you want to give a summary.

Christopher Howell, Attorney: Yes Mr. President. Tonight's Executive Session involved the following items. We first discussed the sale of the Brook Street property and reviewed that negotiating that is going on. We then went and spoke about the purchase of the ladder truck and outfitting the new truck. We discussed the sale of our existing ladder truck and potentially entering it into a contract for the sale of that. We then talked about Grant Funds for training and PPE. We then went on to a project for the addition to the bays to the fire house. We reviewed that contract and the status of that project. We then got extensively into personnel matters; some ongoing investigation of personnel, we discussed that. We discussed training and testing for personnel and shift inspectors. We discussed the Fire Prevention vacancy and we also discussed personnel matters involving performance review on certain personnel. We then went and discussed the renewing and reviewing the lease for Queens Road and those ongoing negotiations and then talked about purchasing of our pickup truck and Kubota and the status of where we are at with that. We talked about the status of the 109 Green Street project, the addition, and the garage construction and then we concluded with some discussion about promotions for certain personnel that I believe the boys are going to address now and that would conclude our Executive Session for tonight's meeting.

Commissioner J.C.K.: Okay, anything else from the audience? Alright, I'd like to make a motion as we try to strive for excellence within the department and see the need of growth and to meet those demands to the give the right balance of oversight with our rank and file. I'd like to present the following names for the position of

Deputy Chief of Woodbridge Fire District No. 1. Mark Minkler, Michael Mastanduno and Steven Weber.

Commissioner John C. Kenny made a motion for the position of Deputy Chief of Woodbridge Fire District No. 1 which was seconded by Commissioner Jeffrey Moran and carried unanimously except for Commissioner Robert Minkler, Sr. abstaining on the name of Mark Minkler but vote yes on the rest.

Commissioner J.C.K.: I have another motion as we have just moved our Battalions up to Deputy Chiefs. We have a void of the Battalion Chiefs and I present the following names for Battalion Chief of Woodbridge Fire District No. 1. Robert Fizer will be Battalion Chief of the Fire Prevention Bureau as the Fire Official, Michael Barcellona and Keith McGrath.

Commissioner John C. Kenny made a motion for the position of Battalion Chief which was seconded by Commissioner Jeffrey Moran and carried unanimously except for Commissioner Jay Barcellona abstaining Michael Barcellona and vote yes on the rest.

Commissioner J.C.K.: The Administration will set the start date of all the promotions and transfers. Anybody have anything else?

Commissioner R.M.: The ladder truck. I'd like to make a motion that we give the administration the go ahead to sell our previous ladder truck and he's going to work with our attorney, Chris Howell, on that.

Commissioner Robert Minkler, Sr. made a motion to give the administration the go ahead to sell the previous ladder truck which was seconded by Commissioner Jeffrey Moran and carried unanimously.

Commissioner J.C.K.: Anything else?

Commissioner Robert Minkler, Sr. made a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting at 9:22 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 six (6) 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 John Alcott, III; Matthew Scherb; Margaret Rodas; Jonathan Alves; Nadia Caraballo; and Anthony Alves with an official start date of August 26, 2024.

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FIRE DISTRICT #1

JOHN C. KENNY

ADOPTED: August 19, 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 special meeting held on August 19, 2024

MARIA BUCSANSZKY – Clerk