

OCEAN GROVE
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
NEPTUNE TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT No. 2.

MINUTES

February 13, 2025

OPENING

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm followed by a flag salute, and a moment of silence acknowledging the passing of Loren Lee Moses on February 7, 2025.

The clerk announced the meeting is held in compliance with the provisions of Chapter 231, New Jersey Public Laws of 1975, "Open Public Meetings Act" having been published in a March 2024 issue of the Coaster.

Roll Call:

present	Commissioner Robert McEwan, Chairman
present	Commissioner Paul Bagdanov
present	Commissioner Matthew Gannon
present	Commissioner Scott Jarmer
absent	Commissioner Lori Moses-Day

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2025 meeting.

Motion: Comm. Jarmer Second: Comm. Gannon

Roll Call:

yes	Commissioner Robert McEwan, Chairman
yes	Commissioner Paul Bagdanov
yes	Commissioner Matthew Gannon
yes	Commissioner Scott Jarmer
absent	Commissioner Lori Moses-Day

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2025 special meeting.

Motion: Comm Bagdanov Second: Comm. Jarmer

Roll Call:

yes	Commissioner Robert McEwan, Chairman
yes	Commissioner Paul Bagdanov
yes	Commissioner Matthew Gannon
yes	Commissioner Scott Jarmer
absent	Commissioner Lori Moses-Day

COMMUNICATIONS

none

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

(attached)

Motion to approve bill list and accept the report of the Financial Officer.

Motion: Comm. Jarmer Second: Comm. Gannon

Roll Call:

yes	Commissioner Robert McEwan, Chairman
yes	Commissioner Paul Bagdanov
yes	Commissioner Matthew Gannon
yes	Commissioner Scott Jarmer
absent	Commissioner Lori Moses-Day

DISCUSSION ITEM

1. Chief Ben Benfer presented the updated MARP (mutual aid response plan) and will forward to the Monmouth County Fire Marshal.
2. Dep Chief Ed Deuchar presented a schematic plan at the behest of the Eagle Truck Committee, further reporting the apparatus was already in production and available for \$1.9 million, a cost savings \$1 million, and urging the Board to act to purchase same immediately. Other company committee members also commented regarding the need to act immediately or risk that another entity would purchase the apparatus and the Board would lose the opportunity to save \$1 million. The chairman described the process for purchasing apparatus, including voter approval, Local Finance Board, bond process, and thanked the committee for their work, and referred the plan to the apparatus planning committee.
3. Comm. McEwan asked Attorney Hundley to comment regarding a potential voluntary life insurance benefit, as further described by the chairman. If approved, a whole life policy would be available to Board employees and volunteer personnel. The employee or volunteer would bear the cost of premiums. The Board would have no expense. Attorney Hundley verbally opined that a program, as described, could be done if it was authorized by a Board resolution.

OLD BUSINESS

The faulty electrical circuit or appliance has yet to be identified at the Eagle Firehouse.

The turtle has been deployed on an engine.

NEW BUSINESS

2025-02-01

A Resolution to approve installation of a camera to monitor radio bank at Olin Street Firehouse and to upgrade network communications equipment.

The Olin Street bay network switch is experiencing fan failure and approaching obsolescence, as are the other routers and switches in both firehouses. The proposal is to replace routers and switches. The equipment purchase proposal is \$2,615, along with parts and labor of \$2,100.00.

Motion: Comm. Bagdanov

Second: Comm. Gannon

Roll Call:

yes	Commissioner Robert McEwan, Chairman
yes	Commissioner Paul Bagdanov
yes	Commissioner Matthew Gannon
yes	Commissioner Scott Jarmer
absent	Commissioner Lori Moses-Day

2025-02-02

A Resolution to acknowledge receipt of the 2023 Audit

Motion to acknowledge receipt of the 2023 Audit. The Board will have the opportunity to review the audit. A resolution to approve the audit will be on the agenda at the next regular meeting of the Board, expected to be March 4, 2025.

Motion: Comm. Jarmer

Second: Comm. Gannon

Roll Call:

yes	Commissioner Robert McEwan, Chairman
yes	Commissioner Paul Bagdanov
yes	Commissioner Matthew Gannon
yes	Commissioner Scott Jarmer
absent	Commissioner Lori Moses-Day

REPORT OF FIRE OFFICIAL

Fire Official Scott Liddick

1. Monthly report attached.
2. New camera and network switch replacement needed.

REPORT OF FIRE CHIEF

Chief Benjamin Benfer

1. Turtle is in and deployed, hen is imminent.
2. Alarms year to date: 31
3. May 6, 2025 Smokehouse training at MCFA
4. Funeral Service for Loren Moses will be 2 pm -3:30 pm, 2/15/25.

PUBLIC HEARING

The chairman opened the floor for public comment.

A local resident and member of the fire department requested a copy of the audit; asked when a new chief's vehicle would be purchased; would the Deputy Chief be able to have the current vehicle when a replacement vehicle is purchase, commented at length regarding apparatus acquisition, the cost of new apparatus will be \$2.5m, 2027 standards will add \$85k to the cost of new apparatus, commented specifically the apparatus proposed for immediate purchase; and the fire district election. Chairman McEwan responded, along with Commissioner Jarmer, commenting that the process is more than selecting apparatus; it includes establishing what apparatus is needed or required, where apparatus would be housed, and financing.

A line officer commented that he was unaware of the apparatus committee, and that the Eagle committee should or would have been working with the apparatus committee if they knew; questioned why the commissioners appointed committee did not attend the Eagle committee meeting. Comm. Jarmer responded, indicating the planning and acquisition is a whole department function, having evolved from a company function.

The local resident and member spoke again, asserting the fire companies still exist, and expressing frustration decision making not being made at the company level, and asserting the price will be \$3m.

The deputy chief asked if a door prop was purchased at the township. The information was not immediately available.

After reminding those present that the fire district election was this weekend, and the hours, and after sufficient time for additional comment and none requesting to be heard, the Chairman entertained a motion for adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board at this meeting, motion to adjourn meeting.

Motion: Comm. Gannon Second: Comm. Bagdanov

Roll Call: unanimous agreement.