

**Buena Vista Township Fire District No. 1  
Minutes of Meeting**

September 13, 2022

The September 2022 meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Buena Vista Township Fire District No. 1 at the Richland Fire House was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chairman Andrew J. Levari III. Public notice of this meeting was sent to the Vineland Daily Journal and the Press of Atlantic City newspapers for publication as prescribed by law. All requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act have been achieved for this meeting in compliance with the Sunshine Law.

Roll Call

Linda M. Burshtin	Present: <u> X </u>	Absent: <u>      </u>
Michael L. Burshtin	Present: <u> X </u>	Absent: <u>      </u>
Andrew (Duke) Levari Jr.	Present: <u> X </u>	Absent: <u>      </u>
Andrew (A.J.) Levari III	Present: <u> X </u>	Absent: <u>      </u>
Mary Ann Micheletti-Levari	Present: <u> X </u>	Absent: <u>      </u>

Review of Prior Meeting's Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by A.J. Levari and seconded by Mary Ann Micheletti to approve the minutes as presented, and all members present voted in the affirmative.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reported the following for August:

Deposits:

Checking account (P-card rebate)	\$ 21.00
Operating savings account	None
Reserve savings account (2022 Reserve for Capital Outlay)	21,145.00

Interest:

Checking account	\$ 7.12
Operating savings account	9.78
Reserve savings account	15.94

Ending Balance (including above deposits and interest):

Checking account (register balance)	\$ 162,279.33
Operating savings account	62,442.44
Reserve savings account	139,459.36

On August 22, \$21,145.00 was transferred to the Equipment Reserve Fund (Reserve savings account) from the Operating savings account, in accordance with Resolution 2022-16. A motion was made by Mary Ann Micheletti and seconded by Duke Levari to approve the Treasurer's Report, and all members present voted in the affirmative.

Bills: The following bills were presented for payment:

Atlantic City Electric	\$ 478.81
South Jersey Gas	40.76
Comcast - internet/phone	151.32
Comcast - cable	18.49
LandPro Landscaping - Inv. 3730, April-July mowing, Spring cleanup	2,890.00
Mainiero Family Chiropractic Center - Inv.9022022, 4 firefighter physicals	160.00
V.E. Ralph & Son - Inv. 442275, AED battery	169.00
Impact Fleet/Mansfield Oil Co. - truck fuel	156.87
Atlantic Co. Fire Chief's Assoc. - Inv. 2022-029, 2022 dues	20.00
Atlantic Co. Firefighters Assoc. - Inv. 2022-028, 2022 dues	100.00
DiVal Safety Equipment - Inv. 3150717, Cascade compressor service	750.00
Bank of America - P-Card (Pump trailer battery tender)	43.38
Richland General Store - Pump trailer battery	<u>142.95</u>
Total:	\$ 5,121.58

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A motion was made by A.J. Levari and seconded by Michael Burshtin to pay all bills. Roll Call: L. Burshtin - Yes, M. Burshtin - Yes, Levari, Jr. - Yes, Levari III - Yes, Micheletti - Yes. Motion was approved.

Old Business: Secretary Michael Burshtin reported that the Pump trailer battery and battery tender were replaced. No decision yet on the NJ Department of Community Affairs SCBA grant application.

New Business: The Secretary reported that the NJ Department of Community Affairs will be requiring the Fire District to show evidence of a fire protection services agreement as per N.J.S.A. 40A:14-70.1.b with the Richland Volunteer Fire Company as a requirement for the DCA approval of our annual budget. Working with our Solicitor Richard Braslow, a basic agreement has been drawn up, and executed between the parties on August 24. The following resolution was then offered:

Resolution 2022-17: (Richland Fire Company Agreement) - A motion was made by Duke Levari and seconded by Mary Ann Micheletti for the Fire District to execute and accept a formal agreement for fire protection services for Fire District 1 in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:14-70.1.b with the Richland Volunteer Fire Company Number One. Roll Call: L. Burshtin - Yes, M. Burshtin - Yes, Levari, Jr. - Yes, Levari III - Yes, Micheletti - Yes. Motion was approved.

The NJ DCA also requires as part of its budget approval that the Fire District issue an annual resolution regarding Commissioner stipends for Buena Vista Township approval, regardless if the amount is modified or not, as was done last year, and the following resolution was then offered:

Resolution 2022-18: (2023 Commissioner Stipends) - A motion was made by Michael Burshtin and seconded by Mary Ann Micheletti, WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:14-88 states that each member of the Board of Fire Commissioners shall receive as compensation such amounts as the Board shall fix subject to review by the governing body wherein the Fire District is located, and WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of Buena Vista Township Fire District No. 1 has issued its Commissioners an annual stipend for the last several years, and WHEREAS, the NJ Department of Community Affairs now requires that the Fire District must seek annual approval of elected Commissioner compensation from the municipal governing body regardless of whether the Board is modifying the amount of compensation, and WHEREAS, the compensation shall be contingent upon the Municipal Governing Body approval, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Fire Commissioners of Buena Vista Township Fire District No. 1 hereby continues for 2023 an annual stipend to the members of the Board of \$500 for the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and \$250 for the remaining two members of the Board. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Fire District is hereby directed to promptly submit a certified true copy of this resolution to the Buena Vista Township committee for review and approval as required under N.J.S.A. 40A:14-88. Roll Call: L. Burshtin - Yes, M. Burshtin - Yes, Levari, Jr. - Yes, Levari III - Yes, Micheletti - Yes. Motion was approved.

The Secretary noted that as per the Fire District's previous discussions with Buena Vista Township and the Buena Vista Township EMS, that 2022 would be the final year for Fire District payments to the BVT EMS as reflected in Resolution 2020-13. The Fire District should formally notify the BVT EMS of the termination of our agreement, in accordance with paragraph 5 of its 2018 agreement.

Resolution 2022-19: (Termination of BVT EMS Agreement) - A motion was made by Duke Levari and seconded by A.J. Levari to formally terminate the Fire District's agreement with the Buena Vista Township EMS effective December 31, 2022 in accordance with its 2018 agreement and Resolution 2020-13. Roll Call: L. Burshtin - Yes, M. Burshtin - Yes, Levari, Jr. - Yes, Levari III - Yes, Micheletti - Yes. Motion was approved. The Secretary will have a letter sent to the EMS informing them of the termination.

The Buena Vista Township Clerk requested a Fire Commissioner point of contact regarding oversight of the NJ Blue Light permit requirements, and the Commissioners were in agreement that the Chairman be selected as the contact person.

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Correspondence: None

Public Comments: None

There being no further business, a motion was made for adjournment by Lynn Burshtin and seconded by Duke Levari. All members present voted in the affirmative. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michael L. Burshtin  
Secretary