

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

October 11, 2022

The October 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 Mary Ann Micheletti and seconded by Duke Levari to approve the minutes as presented, and all members present voted in the affirmative.

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

Deposits:

Checking account - Buena Vista Twp 3rd quarter tax levy	\$ 66,564.25
Checking account - Buena Vista Twp supplemental fire service	821.19
Operating savings account	None
Reserve savings account	None

Interest:

Checking account	\$ 8.23
Operating savings account	7.70
Reserve savings account	17.19

Ending Balance (including above deposits and interest):

Checking account (register balance)	\$ 224,551.42
Operating savings account	62,450.14
Reserve savings account	139,476.55

The third quarter tax levy from Buena Vista Township was received and deposited on September 12, and the 2022 supplemental fire service payment was received and deposited on September 27. A motion was made by A.J. Levari 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	\$ 404.28
South Jersey Gas	51.91
Comcast - internet/phone	150.99
Comcast - cable	18.49
Buena Vista Twp EMS - Inv. 1272, 4th quarter payment	5,000.00
Continental Fire & Safety - Inv. M3965, gloves	12.00
Elmer Door Co. - Inv. 14214092122, truck bay doors annual servicing	380.75
MAB Cleaning Services - Inv. 1325, 1326, August-Sept cleaning	750.00
LandPro Landscaping - Inv. 3743, August-September mowing	1,130.00
Mainiero Family Chiropractic Center - Inv. 092122, firefighter physical	40.00
V.E. Ralph & Son - Inv. 443929, replacement AED	1,623.30
Impact Fleet/Mansfield Oil Co. - truck fuel	178.27
US Postal Service - annual PO Box rent	108.00
T-Mobile - Inv. 982839172, 3 months initial invoices	165.35
Alert-All Corp. - Inv. 222091384, fire prevention materials	618.75

Buena Vista Township Fire District Number 1
Minutes of Meeting - October 11, 2022

Richland General Store - vehicle maintenance

34.77
Total: \$ 10,666.86

Treasurer Lynn Burshtin noted that T-Mobile had the wrong billing address for the initial invoices for the recently acquired truck tablets, and the billing has been corrected. The Buena Vista Township EMS payment will be our final payment, as our contract is being terminated. A motion was made by Mary Ann Micheletti 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 no decision yet on the NJ Department of Community Affairs SCBA grant application. No response has yet been received from Buena Vista Township regarding Resolution 2022-18 for the 2023 Commissioner stipends. A letter has been sent to the Buena Vista Township EMS, and copied to the Township Clerk, notifying them of the termination of our agreement in accordance with Resolution 2022-19. The Commissioners discussed placing a capital acquisition public question on the February annual election ballot for the replacement of the 14 life-expiring SCBAs.

New Business: Treasurer Lynn Burshtin reported that proposals were received for preparation of the 2022 audit and 2023 budget from Matthew J. Preziosi of Preziosi Accounting Services, for the same cost as last year.

Resolution 2022-20: (Auditor) - A motion was made by Lynn Burshtin and seconded by A.J. Levari to authorize the Treasurer to award a professional services contract without competitive bidding pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4 and 40A:11-5(1)(a)(I) to the firm of Preziosi Accounting Services, LLC for the time period of November 2022 until October 2023, for the preparation of the 2022 audit and the 2023 budget, at a cost not to exceed \$4,400.00. Roll Call: L. Burshtin - Yes, M. Burshtin - Yes, Levari, Jr. - Yes, Levari III - Yes, Micheletti - Yes. Motion was approved. The Secretary will arrange for publication of a legal notice of contract award without competitive bidding.

The Secretary reported that a letter was received from the Buena Vista Township Clerk on September 29, to notify the Fire District of a massive upcoming increase in our Joint Insurance Fund premium (currently \$12,530.70) to \$21,075.00, a 68 percent increase. To phase in this increase, our 2023 premium would be \$13,439.18, a 7.5 percent increase. The Commissioners were greatly disturbed by the magnitude of this increase, especially as our budget is under a 2 percent increase cap by the State, and intend to seek alternative insurance quotations. The Richland Fire Chief is pursuing the needed 800 MHz truck radio upgrades for the entire fleet under State contract pricing, estimated to cost approximately \$9,000, and the Commissioners were in agreement to proceed with this necessary improvement. The 15 year old AED in Pumper 12-11 is life expired and parts are no longer available, and a replacement AED was acquired. The wiring for the rechargeable hand lights in Pumper 12-11 was replaced. A.J. Levari will attempt to schedule the truck fleet annual servicing with Berco.

The Treasurer announced that she is drafting a preliminary 2023 budget for introduction at the November meeting. While the \$20,000 annual payment will no longer be made to the EMS, this amount will be significantly consumed by inflationary increases projected for utilities, insurance, equipment, etc.

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 8:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted: _____

Michael L. Burshtin
Secretary