

MINUTES
TOMS RIVER FIRE COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT NO. 1
1144 Hooper Ave
Conference Room “A”
May 21, 2025

Commissioner Tutela called a regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with a Salute to the Flag. A moment of silence was observed. The following statement was made:

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with the Provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act by notice being posted in the Municipal Building, 33 Washington Street, Toms River; being filed with the municipal clerk and being transmitted to the Asbury Park Press and Star Ledger and to all persons who have requested copies in accordance with statute.

ROLL CALL

Tutela – present	Krohn –present
Minkler – present	Roman -present

Administrator Kubiel present and Attorney Koutsouris was present
Bisceglie present to take minutes.

APPROVING THE MINUTES

Minkler requested a correction to the minutes to reflect the motion to pay the invoice to Starkey, Kelly, Kenneally, Cunningham, Turnbach & Yannone to add that the commissioners were part of the civil action and were also represented. Also Minkler stated in the future if a special meeting is needed two commissioners can call for it.

Motion Krohn second Roman to approve the May 7, 2025 minutes with a correction to reflect that Commissioners were also part of the civil action and providing a copy is made available for inspection by the public during this meeting. Ayes – 4 Nays – 0 CARRIED

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMUNICATION –Krohn stated Communication Supervisor advised him in the process of getting all the back end software up and running re: accountability program. He did mention that unless the chief officer on scene puts the officer using their officer radio on assignment they must use the truck radio for accountability purposes. This will ensure that the air pak matches up with the radio as well as the Scott air paks. Some of the other apparatus positions will have to be re-numbered to match the radio ID. The firefighters have to make sure they are taking the correct portable to the proper air pak. Great progress

BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION - Roman stated the contract with the clerical staff has been voted on at the joint board meeting. Just waiting for the response back from Chief/Assistant chief re: counter offer. Kubiel stated it still has not gone out yet was waiting for some clarification but will have out by the end of the week. Minkler stated in process of receiving resumes for the Fire Inspector Class II position.

FIRE ACADEMY. Krohn stated the Firefighter Level 1 & 2 class had their family day over the weekend. This was very well attended with approximately 75 family members attending. Had three different stations to show off their skills. Afterwards the recruits all chipped in for pizza for their families. Instructor Lonergan did a fantastic job setting up this event as well as the academy staff.

Hoping this continues in the future. Bringing the family in and seeing what they do is beneficial to the fire service.

INSURANCE-No report

POLICE/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT- No report

LEGISLATION –Minkler stated the DEP is relaxing regulations on forever chemicals (PFAS). Krohn stated the police and fire pension is increasing by 3% to try to get all at a Tier 1 rate.

COUNCIL AND MAYOR – No report

VEHICLE REPAIR/NEW APPARATUS – No report

FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION- No report

ADMINISTRATOR KUBIEL REPORT –Kubiel stated:

1. Truck report has been placed in the folders for review.
2. Received a call from Signal 5 which is a vehicle broker stating an offer was received from a Utah fire company offering \$15,000 for the Dodge Dakota because they are desperate and lost everything. The board can negotiate a different price if they choose.
3. Reminder for the board to appoint two liaisons re: NERIS
4. Received notice today that the State Health Benefits plan will go up at least 27%. Requesting permission to start shopping around for comparable benefits.
5. As of today corporate circle radio tower is decommissioned. East Dover is decommissioned except for the antennas because of the Osprey nest, this cannot be done until September. Co.2 should be complete next week.
6. 25-1 has approximately 10 Scott bottles that were dropped off without authorization, requesting permission to reach out to the person that purchased our last bottles to see if interested in purchasing.
7. Was at the fire academy and saw Chief Uffer filling air bottles. Initially he found it odd but then realized Co.1 air compressor was out of service. He questioned why Uffer just didn't go to Co.2. Gorman responded he was informed that all the air compressors are out of service. Brian found that odd because the only air compressor the board received notice on was Co.1's. When he got back to the office he was notified that Chief Veth also reported an issue (low pressure light) with their compressor. Later in the day Chief Rice stopped at the office and his answer was yes it was reported to me that it was being wonkey but he did not have an opportunity to check it yet. Air & Gas is coming out to fix Co.1's on Friday because that's when the parts will be in, East Dover is called in and now the possibility that Co.2 's is also out of service. It is unacceptable to have all three air compressors out of service and to possibly add another service call because the chief has not had time to look at it. Commissioner Krohn will stop by on his way home to check it and let the Administrator know.

ATTORNEY REPORT – No report

REMOVALS FROM THE ROLLS- Harry Clayton Co.2

Motion Roman second Krohn to remove Harry Clayton Co.2 from the rolls with regrets.

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0 CARRIED

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP Bryana MacDonald Co.2 as a firefighter pending physical.

Motion Minkler second Krohn to accept Bryana MacDonald Co.2 pending physical.

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0 CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Commissioner Roman recommended moving forward with the pay per call policy that Administrator Kubiell emailed to all commissioners for their review and guidance. All commissioners agreed that all looked great but just have to come up with the percentage. The current percentage is 40% for clothing allowance so keeping it at the 40% for the pay per call is acceptable. Roman asked if this was retroactive, Kubiell responded yes and it would go back to October 1, 2024 which is the start of the point's year.

Motion Roman second Minkler to accept the pay per call policy to commence October 1st 2024.

ROLL CALL VOTE

**Roman-Yes Tutela-Yes
Krohn-Yes Minkler-Yes**

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS- None

BILLS

Krohn questioned the purchase Witmer Associates Co.2 stream lights for \$3,523.00. Kubiell stated it was for helmet lights and personal lights.

Motion Minkler second Roman to approve the bills for May 21 2025 providing funds are available. (SEE INSERTED LIST) Ayes – 4 Nays – 0 CARRIED

PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC

Andrew Goresh stated:

1. Commissioner Krohn had mentioned the recruits all chipping in for pizza on family day and suggested the boards could budget for that next year. Krohn stated he does not disagree with that but it was something done last minute. This could be something brought up at the next joint board meeting and suggested the fire academy place it in their budget. He also mentioned to instructor Lonergan and academy staff to reach out to places like Applebee's who may provide free food for these kind of events.
2. The pay per call motion that was just voted on is that implemented immediately. Krohn stated now that the percentage is updated it will be going out soon.
3. Speaking on the air compressors at last night's drill (Tuesday night) it was reported to Chief Veth that the low oil light came on and Chief Veth reported it to the board office that night and not sure where the delay was.

Motion Krohn second Minkler to go into Private Executive Session @ 6:34 p.m.

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0 CARRIED

Private Executive Session- *Matters Relating to Litigation, Negotiations, Attorney-Client Privilege and legal advice:* Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is, or may become a party. Any matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is require in order for the attorney to exercise his ethical duties as a lawyer.

1. **Personnel- Anticipated litigation/Attorney Client Privilege**

Motion Krohn second Minkler to go back into open session at 6:55 p.m.

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0 CARRIED

A motion was made to pay the outstanding legal bill to the former law firm. Seconded and

