

January 16, 2025 Special Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners

District #3 in the Township of Hanover

County of Morris, Cedar Knolls, New Jersey

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on January 16, 2025 in accordance with the Public Meeting Act of 1975, Chapter 231. The Board observed a moment of silence for all those who have given their lives in service of their communities and nation.

ATTENDANCE: Commissioners Steven Cornine, Michael Dugan Jr., Michael Dugan Sr., and Gary Keyser were present. Commissioner Mary Lou DeSimone was absent.

Administrator Schultz and Deputy Administrator Hark Jr. were also in attendance.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF THE SPECIAL MEETING: Commissioner Cornine read the following statement of purpose.

This meeting is being held for the purpose of allowing Public information and commentary on the Fire District's 2025 Budget.

MOTION TO OPEN THE MEETING TO PUBLIC COMMENTARY ON THE 2024

BUDGET: Commissioner Keyser made a motion to open the meeting to public commentary on the 2025 budget, seconded by Commissioner Dugan Sr. All were in favor. Commissioner Mary Lou DeSimone was absent.

The meeting was opened to Public Commentary at 6:02 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY: None.

MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO PUBLIC COMMENTARY ON THE 2025

BUDGET: Commissioner Keyser made a motion to close the meeting to public commentary on the 2025 budget, seconded by Commissioner Dugan Sr. All were in favor. Commissioner Mary Lou DeSimone was absent.

The meeting was closed to Public Commentary at 6:17 P.M.

DISCUSSION AMONG BOARD MEMBERS: Commissioner Keyser asked if there was anything in the 2025 Budget that could be removed to allow the tax increase to come down. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that nothing could be cut from the 2025 budget without putting the District in a worse financial position than it already is. Commissioner Keyser asked if the District would be going for a

referendum in 2025 if the 2024 referendum had passed. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that it is possible that the District would have been able to make it through 2025 without a referendum but more than likely the District would still have gone for a referendum but asked for \$200,000 less which was the amount of the 2024 referendum. Commissioner Keyser asked for clarification that the failed 2024 referendum set the District back. Commissioner Dugan Sr. confirmed that the failure of the 2024 referendum set the District back tremendously.

RESOLUTIONS: Commissioner Cornine read Resolution 25-01-16-04 Adopting the 2025 Fire District Budget, authorizing total revenues of \$3,038,955 of which \$2,242,485 to be raised by taxation. Commissioner Dugan Sr. made a motion to introduce the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Keyser. All were in favor. Commissioner DeSimone was absent.

ADJOURN: A motion was made by Commissioner Keyser, seconded by Commissioner Dugan Sr., to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. Commissioner DeSimone was absent.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Mary Lou DeSimone, Secretary