

Board Of Fire Commissioners, Fire District No. 1

Township of Gloucester, County of Camden
P.O. Box 38, Glendora, New Jersey 08029
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January 13, 2026 Fire District Meeting Outcomes and Decisions

Creation Time: 2026/01/13

General Info

- **Date & Time:** January 13, 2026, 19:00
- **Meeting Location:** Gloucester Township Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire District 1
- **Attendees:**
 - Chairperson: Ken Glass
 - Board Members: Chris Murphy, Eric Steiner, Woody Minner, Mike Semple Jr., and others

Agenda Items:

- **Item 1:** Meeting Opening and Roll Call
 - Meeting called to order; pledge of allegiance recited.
 - Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act confirmed; previous meeting minutes approved unanimously.
- **Item 2:** Communications
 - Applications for new firefighters sent out; five returned so far.
 - Budget resolution approved by the state, requiring adoption by the board.
 - Renewal agreement for responder joint insurance fund discussed.
 - Death benefit paperwork for Phil Nance signed and returned.
 - Solicitor's report noted; budget approved at 5 PM that day.
- **Item 3:** Chief's Report
 - Ten firefighter applications received since January 1; uniform allowance checks processed.

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- Appointments proposed: Nicholas Lopaz as lieutenant, Kenneth Glass as training officer, Christopher Murphy as captain; discussed with commissioners and recommended for approval.
- Equipment updates: tablet installed, district phone in service, yearly rescue tool maintenance completed.
- Recommendation to replace four 23-year-old hydraulic lines on the squad for \$7,300 approved.
- Vehicle repairs ongoing; serious leak found in outrigger cylinders; additional issues with transmission overflow and steering box identified; truck remains in service with limitations.
- Insurance adjuster involved; certification issues with the squirt truck discussed; potential waiver for limited use considered.
- Uniforms: no new updates; duty crew attendance good in December.
- Recruitment efforts via social media successful with 12 responses; gear availability and storage discussed.
- Training: nine personnel interested in EMR training; cost \$350 per digital book or \$450 for paperback, included in registration fee; plan to organize township-wide bridge training.
- Recent fire responses praised; homeowner expressed gratitude and supports upcoming tax increase for fire services.
- Fire officials report: inspections, meetings, and fire prevention activities conducted; proposal for township fire prevention open house discussed.
- **Item 4:** Incoming Correspondence
 - Email received requiring closed session for personnel matters; scheduled for later in the meeting.
- **Item 5:** Insurance and Elections
 - Vehicle insurance cards checked.

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- Board of Elections procedures reviewed; petition deadlines and election logistics discussed.
- Coordination with election officials ongoing; responsibilities for petition handling assigned.
- Renewal of joint insurance fund (GIF) resolution discussed; extension granted due to email miscommunication.
- **Item 6: Treasurer's Report**
 - January 2026 report presented: \$17,252.76 received from NJ grant; bills totaling \$53,889.75 presented for payment and approved unanimously.
 - Discussion on CD interest rates and audit documents for grant compliance.
- **Item 7: Deferred Business**
 - Discussion on fire district consolidation proposal involving districts 1 through 4; concerns raised about staffing, tax impact, and operational challenges.
 - Commissioners expressed opposition to consolidation citing current staffing levels and complexity of process.
 - Historical context of consolidation efforts noted; no immediate action planned.
- **Item 8: New Business**
 - Adoption of the approved budget by roll call vote.
 - Renewal of the joint insurance fund agreement approved.
 - Official appointments confirmed by roll call:
 - Nicholas Lopez as lieutenant
 - Kenneth Clant Jr. as training officer
 - Approval to proceed with hydraulic hose replacement on squad for \$7,350.

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- EMR training enrollment increased to a maximum of twelve participants; motion passed.
- Motion to enter closed session for personnel matters approved.
- **Item 9:** Sensitivity Training Implementation
 - An in-person sensitivity training session will be mandatory for the entire department and the whole district.
 - Attendance is required for all, with special emphasis on certain individuals who will also have separate discussions with leadership.
 - An online training option will be made available for those with valid reasons for not attending in person.
 - Findings from individual discussions will be presented at the next board meeting for further review.
- **Item 10:** Public Requests
 - No public requests were noted during the meeting.
 - Previous requests were addressed, including those related to Durango, with a system in place for receipt and tracking.

Key Performance

- **Financial:**
 - Grant funds received: \$17,252.76
 - Bills paid: \$53,889.75
 - CD interest rates between 2.25% and 4% generating significant interest income.
- **Operational:**
 - Vehicle maintenance ongoing with significant repairs identified and addressed.
 - Duty crew attendance strong in December (29 day shifts, 30 night shifts).
 - Recruitment efforts yielding positive response.
 - Training programs planned and underway.
- **Customer:**

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- Positive community feedback following recent fire response; homeowner expressed gratitude and support for tax increase.



Decisions and Action Items

- **Decision 1:** Approve and adopt the 2026 budget as approved by the state.
 - Responsible: Board of Fire Commissioners
- **Decision 2:** Renew the joint insurance fund agreement and submit required documentation.
 - Responsible: Eric Steiner and Woody Minner
- **Decision 3:** Appoint Nicholas Lopez as lieutenant, Kenneth Clant Jr. as training officer, and Christopher Murphy as captain.
 - Responsible: Board of Fire Commissioners
- **Decision 4:** Replace four hydraulic lines on the rescue squad at a cost of \$7,350.
 - Responsible: Fire Chief and Maintenance Team
- **Decision 5:** Enroll up to twelve personnel in EMR training program.
 - Responsible: Fire Chief
- **Decision 6:** Enter closed session to discuss personnel matters.
 - Responsible: Board of Fire Commissioners