

**MOUNT LAUREL FIRE DISTRICT #1
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING / WORK SESSION**

June 2, 2010

Fire Department Headquarters Station

Meeting Minutes #13

IN ATTENDANCE:

1. Commissioner Nash
2. Commissioner Shapiro
3. Commissioner Roura
4. Chief of Department Gallos
5. Administrator Jones
6. Deputy Chief Colucci

NOT PRESENT:

1. Commissioner Shestack
2. Commissioner Cornue

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Nash at 7:31 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence observed.

The Public Announcements were read by Commissioner Roura.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- 1/19/10 Special Meeting, 1/19/10 Regular Meeting, 2/2/10 Special Meeting and 2/16/10 Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Roura made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Shapiro. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

General Discussion Items:

Vehicle Asset Sale Results: Administrator Jones reported that the highest bidder for the 2 vans was submitted by Jersey One Auto Sales (\$1,060 & \$1,490) and the highest bidder for the Expedition was Mark's Motors (\$1,299). He felt that these bids were pretty good and on par with what many of our fleet vehicles have sold for in the past and he recommended that the Board accept the bids. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Shapiro made a motion to accept the bids as recommended by the Administrator, which was seconded by Commissioner Roura. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

MUA Elbo Lane Pump Station Improvement Site Plan: Administrator Jones reported that the Township Planning Board has received an application from the MUA to make site changes to the well next to Headquarters. For safety and security reasons, they would enclose the entire well-head area with a security fence and change the vehicle entrance from Elbo Lane to the main entrance of our parking lot. Landscaping would also be installed around the perimeter of the fence. They will need our permission to use our main entrance, which he did not believe would pose any traffic problems for us because they infrequently visit the site. They would add a new curb line along that side of the entrance, which would be beneficial to us. The Township Traffic Engineer was concerned about the ponding of rainwater in the area of our parking lot that they wanted to use for their new entrance and suggested that additional storm drainage be installed to resolve it. After discussing it with the Chief of Department, he recommended that since we can't afford to share the cost of any major improvements like that, we would be satisfied if the MUA could improve the drainage in the parking lot by milling and repaving the side parking lot and main entrance if that would satisfactorily address the problem.

The Board discussed the issue and had a few concerns about the potential for increased traffic flow and with the legalities involved in the MUA accessing their site from our property. Administrator Jones stated that he would send the Township Planning Board and the MUA a letter approving their request but requesting that they formally address our concerns and provide the legal documents that would grant them an easement.

Adoption of Resolutions:

- Resolution #2010-46 "Appointment of Evan D. Schwartz as 'Junior Member' of the Mount Laurel Fire Department'. Commissioner Roura made a motion to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Commissioner Shapiro. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.
- Resolution #2010-47 "Authorizing Membership in a Mutual Aid & Assistance Agreement with Participating Units". Commissioner Roura made a motion to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Commissioner Shapiro. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Chief of Department Gallos reported that Lieutenant Jones has requested that we proceed with the annual purchase of replacement batteries for our SCBA PASS units at an anticipated cost of about \$1,000 because of the delay in FEMA confirmation of the SCBA grant,. He added that reliable sources have told him that FEMA has sent out all of the grant denial letters to departments that will not be receiving a 2009 AFG grant and since we have not received one, it means that we are still in the running. He had discussed this request with Deputy Chief Colucci and Administrator Jones and they all felt that rather than purchasing batteries for all of the old SCBA PASS devices now, we would replace them on an as needed basis until we know whether we have received the grant and can order the new equipment. To speed up the process, he requested advance permission from the Board to move forward with the State Contract purchase of the SCBA equipment requested in the grant as soon as we receive official notification. This will save us time in getting the order placed and the new equipment in.

There was a brief discussion among the Board members. Commissioner Roura made a motion to authorize the purchase of the SCBA equipment as soon as official notification of the grant is received, which was seconded by Commissioner Shapiro. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Chief of Department Gallos informed the Board that he has completed and submitted the 2010 AFG grant application, requesting a new rescue truck for a total of \$790,000. The grant requires that matching funds of \$79,000 be included in the 2011 Budget so that we can accept the grant if it is awarded.

Commissioner Nash brought up the Station 362 shower replacement project and the parking lot storm drain problems and asked the Board how they wanted to handle them. Commissioner Roura had discussed the shower project with Commissioner Cornue and was in favor of putting it out to bid and getting it resolved so that we can find out how much it was going to cost. Commissioner Nash stated that he had discussed this with Administrator Jones and they both felt that we needed to get an architect involved to provide drawings and the specifications. Administrator Jones strongly advised having some kind of construction supervision because we have learned from past experience that contractors have to be closely monitored to make sure they follow the plans and meet the specifications. He added that even though we had construction management oversight with the Station 361 renovation and Station 363 addition, we still ran into problems, but not to the extent that we had when Station 362 was built without any monitoring. He expressed his reluctance to move ahead with bidding the project at this time because we were less than halfway through the year and we could have a lot of critical maintenance issues that could come up that might need to be addressed first. He felt that if we could get an architect in and started on the plans, at least we will have that done and we can go to bid on the work at any point after that. Chief of Department Gallos stated that he would meet with the Construction Official to confirm that we still need architectural drawings and a permit. Commissioner Nash stated that if we move forward on this project, we would be doing so in the interest of the health and safety of the staff working in that Station without knowing what our financial situation will be over the next 6 months. The Board briefly discussed what had been said and unanimously agreed to move forward with the project.

On the storm drain issue, Commissioner Roura suggested that if we felt a need to bring in an engineer to identify the problem and design the repairs, we should get that process moving along as well. Administrator Jones offered to contact a civil engineer that we have used in the past and get them to work up a proposal. Battalion Chief Jones had recommended several firms that do this work for the MUA and Township and offered to contact them and have them take a look at the storm drains to see what they recommended.

The Board discussed the Junior / Explorer Competition held at the Fire Academy last weekend. Commissioner Nash stated that he had provided Administrator Jones with a CD of photos that he had taken so that some of them can be posted on our website. Commissioner Shapiro suggested that the Board acknowledge each member of the team at an upcoming meeting with their families. Administrator Jones was asked to follow up on this and draft a resolution that the Board can adopt to recognize their achievement.

Resolution #2010-48 "Closing of Meeting Pursuant to Open Public Meetings Act". Commissioner Roura made a motion to accept the resolution, which was seconded by Commissioner Shapiro. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

**THE OPEN SESSION ADJOURNED AT 8:01 PM.
A CLOSED SESSION BEGAN AT 8:02 PM.
THE CLOSED SESSION ADJOURNED AT 8:30 PM.**

Chief of Department Gallos reported that he is working on several contract changes with Commissioner Roura and that he hoped to have something for the Board to review by the end of this week.

Administrator Jones reported that the law requiring public employees to contribute 1.5% of their salary towards their health benefits goes into effect on 5/21 and, with the exception of Chief of Department Gallos and those employees that "opt-out" of their SHBP benefits, it affects the rest of our staff because all of their contracts have expired. He stated that he is still trying to figure out how to make this deduction and properly account for it in the payroll system that we use. He estimated that this deduction will equal about \$2,000 each pay period.

Commissioner Nash asked Chief of Department Gallos if he has an update on the Township's financial situation. Chief of Department Gallos replied they were satisfied with the union concessions that they received and were waiting for the Local Finance Board to rule on the CAP Waiver they have applied for, which would mean a 5 cent increase for the taxpayers. If they are denied, there will be a number of layoffs, even with the concessions that they have already received. Chief of Department Gallos stated that he and Administrator Jones plan on attending that meeting to see how they are treated and to see how other capital improvement projects are evaluated so that we know what we need to do if we go before them next year for fire apparatus replacements.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:42 PM.