

**MOUNT LAUREL FIRE DISTRICT #1  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

May 16, 2011

Fire Department Headquarters Station  
Meeting Minutes #10

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

1. Commissioner Cornue
2. Commissioner Roura
3. Commissioner Shestack
4. Commissioner Shapiro
5. Administrator Jones
6. Deputy Chief Colucci
7. Solicitor Braslow

**NOT IN ATTENDANCE:**

1. Commissioner Nash (vacation)

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Cornue at 8:01 PM.

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

The public announcements were read by Commissioner Shapiro.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

- Commissioner Roura made a motion to approve the minutes of the 4/18/11 Regular Meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Cornue. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board with Commissioners Shestack and Shapiro abstaining.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

- Resolution #2011-23      "Appointment of Dennis M. Radtke as an Active Member of the Masonville Fire Company #1 and the Mount Laurel Fire Department". Commissioner Shestack made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Roura. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board. Commissioner Cornue administered the oath of office to the new member.
  
- Resolution #2011-24      "Appointment of Tyler J. Butler as an Active Member of the Fellowship Fire Company #2 and the Mount Laurel Fire Department". Commissioner Shapiro made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Shestack. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board. Commissioner Cornue administered the oath of office to the new member.
  
- Resolution #2011-25      "Acceptance of Audit Report for 2010". Commissioner Roura made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Shapiro. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

The Board took a brief recess at 8:22 PM so that the families of the new members could take photographs. The Board reconvened the meeting at 8:32 PM.

**FINANCIAL MATTERS:** Commissioner Shestack reported on the cost involved with the 5/7/11 Leadership Seminar that we sponsored and invited other Departments to participate in. The cost for the instructor was \$3,500 plus \$500 in travel costs. Approximately 8 other Departments participated in sharing the costs, paying about \$600 each. Commissioner Shestack made a motion to approve the bills for May in the amount of \$460,193.67, which was seconded by Commissioner Roura. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

**MONTHLY REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR:** The Administrator had submitted his monthly report to the Board for their review prior to the meeting. There were no questions on his report from the Board.

**BOARD QUESTIONS FOR THE FIRE OFFICIAL:** There were no questions from the Board.

**BOARD QUESTIONS FOR THE DEPUTY CHIEF:** There were no questions from the Board. Deputy Chief Colucci reported that the “pass and review” ceremony for Chief of Department Gallos is being moved from 7/1 to 6/30 because there is a conflict with a previously scheduled Summer Camp at Station 363 involving about 170 children.

**OTHER MATTERS:** Administrator Jones reported that he has received a Facilities Use Request from Girl Scout Troop #24316 for use of the Headquarters Station Meeting Room for a Daisy Scout Bridging Ceremony. There would be 12 children and 30 adults in attendance on 6/3 for this event. He recommended approval of their request and the Board unanimously approved it.

**COMMENTS OF FIRE DISTRICT PROFESSIONALS:** Solicitor Braslow reported that the State Commission on Investigations (SCI) is apparently investigating Fire District apparatus purchases again. They are sending out letters requesting a significant amount of information on fire apparatus purchases dating all the way back to 1998. They are asking for information on apparatus committees, committee member credentials, inspection trip attendee information (with receipts) and original bid specifications. He also is aware of 2 Fire Districts that recently were asked for similar information about their fire equipment purchases. In meetings with the DCA Director on this and other issues, they have expressed displeasure with the manner that we secure bids for fire apparatus, how the bid specifications are developed and the fact that although multiple bids packages are sent out, many times we only get 1 bid back. He has also heard that the Local Finance Board (LFB) is now more thoroughly investigating fire apparatus financing applications. They have retained an ex-Chief from Elizabeth to work with the DCA in vetting these applications. He has been advised that applicants will be required to answer about 150 questions pertaining to the process used to develop the apparatus specifications and to make sure that there are no conflicts of interest between bidders and any Fire District personnel. Solicitor Braslow advised the DCA that although Fire Districts do not object to the increased scrutiny, the decision to purchase new fire apparatus rests solely with the elected Board of Fire Commissioners and the voters that approved the ballot questions. In addition, the LFB may relax the requirement for representatives to appear at LFB hearings on some applications. He added that the moral of the story is that they are apparently going to start scrutinizing fire apparatus purchases more intensely.

Commissioner Shestack recalled that before we went out to bid 10 years ago for our last fire apparatus purchase, the Board passed a resolution or an SOG that prohibited any conflicts of interest between Fire District personnel and apparatus manufacturers.

**COMMENTS OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS:** Commissioner Shapiro announced that her son Andrew is being deployed again on 6/12 and that everyone is invited to a party in his honor on 6/5/11 from 2 to 9 PM.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Battalion Chief Kirvan updated the Board on what he has done to try and stimulate interest in the Community Relations Committee, stating that he has sent out e-mails requesting interest with very little response from the membership. There are no new events planned other than efforts by Deputy Chief Colucci to speak before community groups that want to hear from us. He stated that the “Meet the Firefighters” events at the library will continue to be held if someone wants to get involved with them. The Department will be involved with a Memorial Day Service on 5/27 at 5 PM at Laurel Acres Park. Commissioner Shapiro asked him if the Duty Crews were still visiting Laurel Acres Park now that the weather is nicer. Battalion Chief Kirvan replied that they do occasionally, but not without some prodding. Commissioners Shapiro and Cornue thanked him for all of his efforts.

Captain McCorkle reported that he was sending out an e-mail tonight to remind everyone of the Junior/Explorer Competition on 5/21 from 8:30 AM to around 4:00 PM at the County Training Grounds. Commissioner Cornue thanked him for taking the lead on organizing this annual competition.

Resolution #2011-26 “Closing of Meeting Pursuant to Open Public Meetings Act”. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Commissioner Roura and seconded by Commissioner Shapiro. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

**THE OPEN SESSION ENDED AT 9:00 PM.  
A CLOSED SESSION BEGAN AT 9:05 PM.  
THE CLOSED SESSION ENDED AT 10:33 PM.**

Commissioner Shestack reported that to date, the improvements to our computer network have cost about \$7,000 leaving us with about \$26,000 to work with. We still have to replace some desktop laser printers and some computer monitors that we have earmarked about \$5,000 to do. In addition, we are investigating a grant for a GIS inkjet plotter for the GIS system, but if that falls through, we are earmarking about \$7,000 for it, which will compliment our previous GIS equipment investments. With some of the remaining \$14,000, he requested the Boards' permission to invest in Motorola Xoom 10" tablet computers for the Board so that they will have access to much more information at their fingertips. The Board meeting agenda, reports and attachments would be electronically transmitted instead of being delivered by the Duty Battalion Chief. He requested 8 tablet computers, 5 for members of the Board, 1 for the Chief of Department, 1 for the Administrator and a spare for the IT department at \$600 each plus some accessories to protect the units. He anticipated that we could go with fewer than 8, but that the total anticipated cost of \$9,800 is within our budget and would be a worthwhile expenditure. Administrator Jones added that these tablet computers would be wireless so as long as you were within a wi-fi hotspot, you could get your e-mail and use the internet. Commissioner Roura made a motion to accept Commissioner Shestacks' basic recommendation but for a total of 6 instead of the 8 that he had suggested, which was seconded by Commissioner Shapiro. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Commissioner Roura made a motion to accept Deputy Chief Colucci's recommendation to promote Lieutenant Santone to Captain, promote Firefighter Cimino to Lieutenant and to backfill the resulting vacancy in the Bureau with a firefighter, which was seconded by Commissioner Shestack. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Commissioner Roura made a motion to adjourn the meeting that was seconded by Commissioner Shapiro. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

**THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:55 PM.**