

**MOUNT LAUREL FIRE DISTRICT #1  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**

**REGULAR MEETING**

October 18, 2010

Fire Department Headquarters Station  
Meeting Minutes #20

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

1. Commissioner Cornue
2. Commissioner Nash
3. Commissioner Shapiro
4. Chief of Department Gallos
5. Administrator Jones
6. Solicitor Braslow

**NOT IN ATTENDANCE:**

1. Commissioner Roura (arrived during Closed Session @ 8:13 PM)
2. Commissioner Shestack (work travel commitment)

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Cornue at 7:04 PM.

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

The Public Announcements were read by Commissioner Shapiro.

A Public Hearing to introduce a proposed LOSAP Amendment was opened by Commissioner Cornue. Administrator Jones read aloud the proposed LOSAP Eligibility Document changes to the audience. He added that copies of the proposed changes were available in the back of the room. The proposed changes were as follows:

**Section 4 – Eligibility:**

Active Volunteer Firefighters - Fire Company Meeting attendance requirements are removed, the total minimum points required to qualify is reduced from 396 to 384.

Active Volunteer Fire Police Officers - Fire Company Meeting attendance requirements are removed, the total minimum points required to qualify is reduced from 36 to 24.

MLFD Station / Open Enrollment Volunteers - Fire Company Meeting attendance requirements are removed.

Other Active Volunteer Fire Company Administrative Officers - Fire Company Meeting attendance requirements are removed, the total minimum points required to qualify is reduced from 116 to 100.

Active Volunteer Fire Company Chief Officers – - Fire Company Meeting attendance requirements are removed, the total minimum points required to qualify is reduced from 360 to 348.

Commissioner Cornue commented that the Board had the opportunity to discuss the proposed changes at length at the last meeting and felt that this change is important and will significantly benefit a number of active volunteers that have been unable to qualify for LOSAP awards in the past because they cannot meet the Fire Company meeting attendance requirements. He added that there are other changes to the LOSAP program that may be considered for adoption next year.

Commissioner Shapiro underscored that this was the first of several proposed changes that the Board would consider in the coming months and stated that it is her intention is to support the award of points to members that attend meetings but not to penalize members that don't.

Commissioner Cornue added that the proposed changes are consistent with those discussed at the last Volunteer Labor / Management Committee meeting.

Resolution #2010-68

“Resolution Amending the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) for the Mount Laurel Fire District #1.

Commissioner Nash made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Shapiro. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

The public hearing was closed by Commissioner Cornue and the Regular Meeting agenda resumed.

#### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

- Regular Meeting of July 20, 2010  
A motion to approve the minutes of this meeting was made by Commissioner Nash and seconded by Commissioner Shapiro. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

#### **RESOLUTIONS:**

- Resolution #2010-69      "Appointment of Robert W. Vlearbone to Active Membership in the Masonville Fire Company #1 and the Mount Laurel Fire Department". Commissioner Nash made a motion to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Commissioner Shapiro. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.
- Resolution #2010-70      "Appointment of Joshua Persaud and Benjamin W. Campbell as 'Junior' Members of the Mount Laurel Fire Department". Commissioner Shapiro made a motion to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Commissioner Nash. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.
- Resolution #2010-66      "Award of Contract for the Reconstruction of Shower Areas at the Fellowship Fire Station #362 to J.H. Williams Enterprises, Inc. for \$19,800". Commissioner Nash made a motion to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Commissioner Shapiro. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.
- Resolution #2010-67      "Award of a Contract for the Replacement of One (1) SCBA Compressor at the Masonville Fire Station #361 to Airpower International, Inc. for \$19,950". Commissioner Nash made a motion to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Commissioner Shapiro. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.
- Resolution #2010-72      "Authorization for the Sale of Surplus Vehicle Assets". Commissioner Nash made a motion to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Commissioner Shapiro. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

#### **FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

- Commissioner Shapiro made a motion to approve the October monthly bills totaling \$484,256.46, which was seconded by Commissioner Nash. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

#### **MONTHLY REPORT BY FIRE OFFICIAL:**

- Fire Official Kownatsky was not present.

#### **MONTHLY REPORT BY ADMINISTRATOR:**

- The Administrator had submitted his monthly report to the Board for their review prior to the meeting. There were no questions from the Board on his report. He reported that it was a little more lengthy than normal due to the updates on the Station 362 shower construction and Station 361 SCBA Compressor replacement projects. He reported on a proposal for the Board to authorize the future use of on-line auction services for disposal of surplus assets. The "GovDeals" website is designed to help all levels of government dispose of surplus assets, which we will potentially have in the future with fire apparatus and SCBA equipment. He felt that this might be a more effective and lucrative method of getting interested parties involved in bidding on our surplus assets. Solicitor Braslow added that his clients have used this particular on-line service on a number of occasions and have enjoyed a tremendous amount of success. Administrator Jones briefed the Board on the contract, recommending that we select the 7.5% fee payable by the Seller and the 5% fee payable by the Buyer. He has met with the local GovDeals representative and felt that this fee schedule will provide us with the best chance for bidder participation. If we shift more of the fee to the buyer, we could end up getting significantly lower bid prices for our items because the buyer has to pick up more of the expense. GovDeals will take care of collecting payment and remit our share to us. He added that we would still have to pass resolutions authorizing items for sale and who they are being sold to along with the normal legal notice.

#### **MONTHLY REPORT BY DEPUTY CHIEF:**

- Deputy Chief Colucci thanked the members that participated in the Fire Prevention Open House and commended Fire Marshal Kownatsky for pulling it together. Commissioner Cornue agreed and felt that the site layout was well done.

**MONTHLY REPORT BY THE CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT:**

- Chief of Department Gallos had submitted his monthly report to the Board for their review prior to the meeting. There were no questions from the Board on his report.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***TRAINING:***

- Commissioner Nash had nothing to report.

***LONG RANGE PLANNING:***

- Commissioner Nash had nothing to report.

***EQUIPMENT:***

- Commissioner Roura was absent.

***BUILDING & GROUNDS:***

- Commissioner Roura was absent.

***FIRE PREVENTION:***

- Commissioner Shapiro commended the efforts of Fire Marshall Kownatsky and our members at the recent Open House.

***COMMUNITY RELATIONS:***

- Commissioner Shapiro had nothing to report.

***INSURANCE:***

- Commissioner Shestack was absent.

***INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:***

- Commissioner Shestack was absent.

***FINANCE:***

- Commissioner Shestack was absent.

***PERSONNEL:***

- Commissioner Cornue had nothing to report in Open Session.

***LABOR / MANAGEMENT RELATIONS (combined):***

- Commissioner Cornue had nothing to report in Open Session.

**OTHER MATTERS:**

- Commissioner Cornue reported that the Township is dedicating a new 9/11 memorial at the Turf Field on Mount Laurel Road on Saturday for anyone that can attend. Deputy Chief Colucci added that the ceremony starts at 8:00 AM with dedication of a piece of steel from the World Trade Center and the official naming of the Turf Field Complex.

**COMMENTS OF FIRE DISTRICT PROFESSIONALS:**

- Solicitor Braslow stated that he has an item for Closed Session.

**COMMENTS OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS:**

- None.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

- None.

Resolution #2010-71

"Closing of Meeting Pursuant to Open Public Meetings Act". A motion to approve the resolution was made by Commissioner Nash and seconded by Commissioner Shapiro. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

**THE OPEN SESSION ENDED AT 7:32 PM.**

**A CLOSED SESSION BEGAN AT 7:44 PM.**

**THE CLOSED SESSION ENDED AT 9:38 PM.**

Commissioner Roura made a motion that the Board move forward with Union negotiations to finalize the CBA language required in adding the 12 hour schedule to the CBA's and that the Board Chairman be authorized to approve those changes within the next 2 weeks once they are acceptable, which was seconded by Commissioner Nash. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Commissioner Nash asked Administrator Jones about the 2011 Budget and what the next step was. Administrator Jones reported that he has a few minor changes to make and is awaiting approval to release it to the Board from Finance Committee Chairman Shestack. He added that the Finance Committee did meet and discussed the general approach for 2011 but did not have time to get into many of budget details. Administrator Jones stated that provisions for the SAFER Grant should be added if we are applying for it along with adjustments needed for expenses associated with the new 12 hour shifts. Commissioner Cornue felt that pushing the budget through the Finance Committee was the best way to get it ready for the Board to review as a whole, but agreed with Commissioner Nash that we needed to get moving on it as soon as possible. Administrator Jones stated that he agreed, but that it has been difficult to get the Finance Committee together in order to get that process completed. He felt that because of the ongoing arbitration process, many of the normally open discussions on the budget cannot be held because it would compromise our negotiating position. Commissioner Roura stated that he will touch base with Commissioner Shestack to see if he can help getting this process moved along to the next step. Administrator Jones added that he will be on vacation and will miss the next meeting on 11/1.

Commissioner Nash asked Solicitor Braslow if there has been any further action by the State on moving our election date. Solicitor Braslow stated that no decisions on moving the election to another date have been made, although there is still discussion about combining our election with the school district election. It will almost certainly remain unchanged for 2011 because of the conflicts between election districts and Fire District boundary lines in those towns with multiple Fire Districts. They are realizing that this is a difficult challenge to overcome and presents major headaches in combining our election with any other elections. He added that although the Governor doesn't support it, if our election gets moved to a different date, there may be support to eliminate voter approval of our annual budget as long as it is under the Levy CAP limit.

**THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:50 PM.**