

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

August 15, 2011

Fire Department Headquarters Station
Meeting Minutes #15

IN ATTENDANCE:

1. Commissioner Nash
2. Commissioner Roura
3. Commissioner Shapiro
4. Administrator Jones
5. Interim Chief of Department Colucci
6. Solicitor Braslow

NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

1. Commissioner Cornue
2. Commissioner Shestack

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Nash at 8:02 PM.

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

The public announcements were read by Commissioner Shapiro.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- None.

RESOLUTIONS:

- Resolution #2011-44 “Resolution to Recognize the Service and Dedication of George LoPresti to the Fellowship Fire Company #2 and 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 #2011-45 “Formal Adoption of Administrative Policy #04-014 (revised 8/2/11) Mutual Exchange of Time (MXT)”. Commissioner Roura made a motion to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Commissioner Shapiro. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.
- Resolution #2011-46 “Appointment of Brian J. McCabe to Active Membership in the Fellowship Fire Company #2 and 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 #2011-47 “Appointment of Peter J. Toso to Active Membership in the Fellowship Fire Company #2 and 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 #2011-48 “Appointment of Michael A. Bochey to Active Membership in the Fellowship Fire Company #2 and 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.

The Board took a brief recess at 8:16 PM so that the families of the new members could take photographs. The Board reconvened at 8:22 PM.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Administrator Jones reported that monthly bills totaling \$263,007.14 were up for payment approval tonight. Commissioner Roura made a motion to approve the payment of the monthly bills, which was seconded by Commissioner Shapiro. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Commissioner Roura commented that he received his property tax bill this weekend and that the due date is 9/12. He asked Administrator Jones how this will affect our cash flow and Administrator Jones replied that he believes we will be okay as long as we receive our 3rd quarter tax payment around the second week in September. Commissioner Nash noted that a recent newspaper article indicated that municipalities are receiving lower tax collections than normal. Commissioner Shapiro noted that the government has ordered banks to hold back on processing foreclosures, which may reduce the amount of taxes that will be collected.

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 on his report from the Board.

BOARD QUESTIONS FOR FIRE OFFICIAL: Interim Chief of Department Colucci reported that Fire Official Kownatsky was ill and could not attend this evening.

BOARD QUESTIONS FOR THE DEPUTY CHIEF: Interim Chief of Department Colucci reported that Deputy Chief Burnett is attending the Township Council meeting tonight to show our support for retiring Township Clerk Pat Halbe.

Administrator Jones apologized for leaving out the agenda item "Board Questions for the Interim Chief of Department".

Interim Chief of Department Colucci reported that he has received an invitation to the "Empty Sky Memorial" Dedication on 9/10 at 10:00 AM in Jersey City and that Governor Christie and his wife will be attending. He asked if any Board members would like to attend. Commissioner Shapiro stated that she was interested.

OTHER MATTERS:

Discussion on renewal of FIRST Responder JIF membership for 2012 through 2015: Administrator Jones reported that we needed to renew our membership in the JIF for another 3 year term or begin the process of finding replacement insurance coverage for next year. He had spoken with Commissioner Shestack and they both agreed that the JIF was still a good value and had done a good job of cost containment over the last 3 years.

The Clerk read Resolution #2011-49 "FIRST Responder Joint Insurance Fund Resolution for Renewal of Membership". Commissioner Roura made a motion to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Commissioner Shapiro. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

The Clerk read Resolution #2011-50 "Resolution to Appoint a Risk Management Consultant". Commissioner Roura made a motion to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Commissioner Shapiro. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Update on implementation of IRS Section 125 & Flexible Savings Accounts required for implementation of NJ PL 2011, Chapter 78 legislation (Health & Pension Benefit Reform): Administrator Jones reported that as part of the Chapter 78 legislation signed into law by Governor Christie on 6/28, the Board needed to implement an IRS Section 125 "Cafeteria Plan" and a Flexible Spending Account (FSA) program for our employees to enroll in. The IRS Section 125 "Cafeteria Plan" treats employee income deducted under the new health benefit contribution as "pre-tax" income, reducing their FICA taxes accordingly. The FSA allows employees to set aside "pre-tax" income for use in paying out-of-pocket medical expenses. He and Commissioner Shestack had solicited 3 proposals and after reviewing them, the proposal from our payroll service, Paychex, was the best long term value. The cost to prepare the Section 125 documents and to setup the FSA was a one-time \$750 with a flat \$100 monthly fee to manage the FSA program. Paychex would conduct enrollment meetings for the employees to introduce them to the FSA program later this week so that we can get the ball rolling and implement the new law in time for the 2nd pay period in September. He added that he and Interim Chief of Department Colucci are enrolled in a DCA health benefit legislation seminar in Monroe Township that will give us a better understanding of the new legislation. Commissioner Shapiro made a motion to accept Administrator Jones' recommendation to retain Paychex, Inc. to implement the Section 125 "Cafeteria Plan" and to implement and manage the FSA program, which was seconded by Commissioner Roura. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

COMMENTS OF FIRE DISTRICT PROFESSIONALS:

Solicitor Braslow reported that there is a lot of legislation on the docket but nothing was moving and would most probably not move forward until after the November election.

Commissioner Nash explained to the audience that we are a small part of the larger fire service world. The Division of Fire Safety oversees the fire service and is part of State government. He stated that Governor Christie is reportedly making an attempt to either dismantle or streamline the Division of Fire Safety, which may mean that some of their oversight and assistance could be reduced. Solicitor Braslow added that it is safe to say that few people in the fire service supports what he was doing.

COMMENTS OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Shapiro expressed her pride in welcoming our 3 newest members, noting that it's not easy juggling the training demands they must meet and that it is good to see that there are still some young people out there that are mature enough to handle the responsibility of being a firefighter and they are great examples for our younger kids to emulate. She was thrilled to see them become senior members tonight and hoped that the new Coordinator of Volunteers person will continue this trend. Commissioner Nash commented that he became a junior member with the Slackwood Fire Company outside Trenton in 1963 and has been associated with the fire service ever since. He hoped that they will all continue their association with the Department and be dedicated to their community for years to come.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- None.

Resolution #2011-51 "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.

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

**THE OPEN SESSION ENDED AT 8:39 PM.
A CLOSED SESSION BEGAN AT 8:46 PM.
THE CLOSED SESSION ENDED AT 8:56 PM.
THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:01 PM.**