

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

July 20, 2015

Fire Department Headquarters Station
Meeting Minutes #10

IN ATTENDANCE:

1. Commissioner Cornue
2. Commissioner Ridenour
3. Commissioner Hamilton
4. Chief of Department Colucci
5. Deputy Chief Burnett
6. Administrator Jones
7. Solicitor Braslow

NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

1. Commissioner Shestack (vacation)
2. Commissioner Roura (vacation)

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Ridenour at 8:04 PM.

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

Public announcements were read by Commissioner Hamilton.

PRESENTATION of 2015 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARD TO LIEUTENANT SYLVAN ENISTEIN by the KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

Mike Miller, a member of the Lady Fatima Council of the St. John Newman Church presented the Firefighter of the Year award to Lieutenant Sylvan Einstein.

Chief of Department Colucci then presented the crew of Station 363 'D' Platoon (Lieutenant Kirvan, Firefighter Oatman and Firefighter Chenier) with a CPR Save award.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the 5/18/15 Regular Meeting Minutes that was seconded by Commissioner Cornue. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Commissioner Cornue made a motion to approve the 6/17/15 Regular Meeting Minutes that was seconded by Commissioner Hamilton. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #2015-34 "Appointment of Richard G. Bates 3rd as a 'Junior' Member of the Mount Laurel Fire Department". Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Cornue and unanimously approved by the Board.

Resolution #2015-35 "Appointment of Nickolas A. Tyson to Active Membership in the Fellowship Fire Company #2 and the Mount Laurel Fire Department". Commissioner Cornue made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Hamilton and unanimously approved by the Board. Commissioner Cornue administered the oath of office to the new member.

Resolution #2015-36 "Appointment of John L. Colucci to Active Membership in the Fellowship Fire Company #2 and the Mount Laurel Fire Department" Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Cornue and unanimously approved by the Board. Commissioner Cornue administered the oath of office to the new member.

Resolution #2015-37 “Authorizing Membership in a Mutual Aid & Assistance Agreement with Participating Units”.
Commissioner Cornue made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Hamilton and unanimously approved by the Board.

The Board took a brief recess at 8:22 PM so that the families of the award recipients and the new members could take pictures. The Board reconvened at 8:36 PM.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Administrator Jones reported that Commissioner Roura had reviewed the July monthly bills before he went on vacation and that he had no questions or issues to report. He added that there were 2 large payouts made this month. The 1st was a \$250,000 payment to the Phase 1 Building Envelope Renovation contractor for substantial completion of the HQ roof replacement and the 2nd was for the final 2015 insurance policy premium payment of almost \$100,000. He added that the new phone systems at HQ and Masonville were installed last week and that we are working out some bugs. Commissioner Ridenour asked him if we were under-budget on this project and Administrator Jones replied that we were well under budget so far. Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve monthly bills in the amount of \$1,117,955.59 that was seconded by Commissioner Cornue. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

MONTHLY REPORT BY ADMINISTRATOR:

The Administrator had submitted his monthly report to the Board for their review prior to the meeting and there were no comments or questions from the Board.

BOARD QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT:

Chief of Department Colucci reported that he did not submit a report to the Board this month but does have some items to discuss in Closed Session.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building & Grounds: Administrator Jones reported that we are working with the Civil Engineer to get the site work plans completed so that we can get that phase of the project out to bid. We have had several meetings and have received County approval of our draft plans since each facility fronts a County road. Commissioner Ridenour asked if they required any changes that would cost us more money and Administrator Jones replied that they did not and were only concerned about storm water drainage onto the County roadway if any new impervious surface is added at each location. He added that we are also working with the property owner next to the Masonville Station to obtain a temporary construction easement that would allow us to extend our paving several feet into his parking lot so that we can make sure we have good pavement at the property line. His parking lot, driveway and base are in bad shape and if we just pave up to the property line, we will not have a good joint between the new and old paved surfaces. He emphasized that there may not be enough time this fall to complete all of the concrete and paving work at all facilities, which means that some work may carry over into the spring of 2016. Once schools open in late August / early September, we expect the contractors to be on site and a lot of work being done at once in a race to finish things before the onset of winter weather. He added that knowing that the construction will require more of his time to deal with issues related to it, he has already begun working on the 2016 budget template.

OTHER MATTERS:

None.

COMMENTS OF FIRE DISTRICT PROFESSIONALS:

Solicitor Braslow reported that the bill allowing easier consolidation of Fire Districts and to permit consolidation of Fire Districts across municipal boundary lines has been unanimously passed in the Assembly. He believes that the Senate will vote on it before the end of this term and then we will see if Governor Christie will sign it. He also reported that the bill changing the Fire District annual election date to November has been amended by Assemblyman Danser to permit the inclusion of Capital Projects in the next annual budget by resolution of the Board instead of the current requirement of holding of a “special meeting/election” in December for the public to vote on it. The only concession that he had to make was to have a 21 day public notice period instead of the currently required 10 days. The resolution would have to be posted in 10 public places, which is 5 more than currently required and which he felt might be problematic because some Fire Districts don’t have 10 public buildings to post it in. He also reported that after meeting with the County Clerks Association, they had some concerns about the bill because they could have problems getting the entire November election ballot on the voting machine screens unless they are permitted to remove the voting instructions from the screen. They also confirmed that if the

bill is passed to move the election from February to November and becomes their responsibility, they would shoulder all of the costs and the Fire Districts would no longer have to budget for the election or any of the legal notices that would be required.

COMMENTS OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Ridenour reported that he attended the Firefighter Graduation ceremony @ BCESTC where former Chief of Department Dukes received a Lifetime Achievement Award and he was very impressed with how it was handled. He added that in his acceptance remarks, former Chief of Department Dukes made a point of saying that he was especially proud of the Mount Laurel Fire Department because of the quality of the people that make up our organization. Commissioner Ridenour agreed with that assessment and although former Chief of Department Dukes was the primary force in building the Department that we have today, it was the responsibility of our current membership and officers to continue that excellence and make it even better. He congratulated everybody on their hard work and thanked them for what they do every day.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None.

Resolution #2015-38 "Closing of Meeting Pursuant to Open Public Meetings Act". Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Cornue and unanimously approved by the Board.

**THE OPEN SESSION ENDED AT 8:51 PM.
A CLOSED SESSION BEGAN AT 8:54 PM.
THE CLOSED SESSION ENDED AT 9:52 PM.**

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

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:53 PM.