

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

June 19, 2017

**Fire Department Headquarters Station
Meeting Minutes #8**

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Ridenour at 7:05 PM.

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

Public announcements were read by Commissioner Hamilton.

Mike Miller, Member of the Knights of Columbus, presented the 2017 Volunteer Recognition Award to Commissioner Shestack.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #2017-30 "Provisional Promotion of Todd C. Evans to the Position of Deputy Chief for the Year 2017" Commissioner Roura made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Shestack. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Resolution #2017-31 "Promotion of Alan T. Pine to the Position of Battalion Chief for the Year 2017" Commissioner Roura made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Shestack. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Resolution #2017-32 "Promotion of Kyle T. Schippers to the Position of Captain for the Year 2017" Commissioner Roura made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Shestack. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Resolution #2017-33 "Promotion of Mark D. Jenkins to the Position of Lieutenant for the Year 2017" Commissioner Shestack made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Roura. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Resolution #2017-34 "Appointment of John L. Colucci to the Position of Firefighter for the Year 2017" Commissioner Roura made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Shestack. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

At this time, Mount Laurel Township Mayor Riley presented a proclamation to Administrator Jones for his years of service.

On behalf of Congressman Tom MacArthur Chief Colucci read a proclamation that was issued to Administrator for his years of service.

Chief Colucci, on behalf of the Board, issued a Class III Merit Award to Administrator Jones for his years of service.

Resolution #2017-35 “Resolution to Recognize the Service and Dedication of Kenneth Scott Jones to the Mount Laurel Fire District #1” Commissioner Shestack made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Roura. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

The Board took a brief recess at 7:45 PM so that the families of Evans, Pine, Schippers, Jenkins, Colucci and Jones could take pictures. The Board reconvened the meeting at 8:30 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Roura made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of 5/15/17 that was seconded by Commissioner Shestack. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Commissioner Roura reported that he had reviewed the June monthly bills and found them all to be in order. He made a motion to approve the bills totaling \$743,757.76 that was seconded by Commissioner Shestack. 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. He had nothing further to add.

BOARD QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT:

Chief Colucci had submitted his monthly report to the Board for their review prior to the meeting. There were no questions or comments. He had nothing further to report.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building and Grounds: Administrator Jones reported that we are making progress in that he spoke with the architect today and was told the roofer will be here tomorrow pending no rain to finish up the punch list items on the roof. The roofer is done at Masonville and we will be able to close that contract out within the next month or so with final payment and lien release. The site work has been closed out and they are in the process finalizing the paperwork. Upon completion we will proceed with the final payment. The generator at 362, identified with a gas supply regulator issue is in process of resolution by the contractor. The plumber is going to replace the regulator with a bigger one that will allow more flow to run the generator within specifications. Jones said we will have to look at the brick and masonry work specification to include in addition to original scope to also examine that the windows are also properly sealed/chalked. We should have the bid specification completed soon to advertise the bid in the next couple of weeks.

Personnel: Commissioner Roura said he had missed an email from Administrator Jones last week about the chiefs contracts so they weren't on the agenda for resolutions. He said he distributed successor contracts to the Board for Chief Colucci, Deputy Chief Burnett, and Provisional Deputy Chief Evans, along with summaries. Commissioner Roura said if there are no questions on the contracts tonight he would like to go through the motions and have the Board approve them, and next month prepare resolutions to memorialize them. Administrator Jones said they are finished and ready to go so they'll be the first thing on the agenda. Solicitor Braslow offered his comments and said that a motion wasn't necessary and for the Board to resolve at the next board meeting.

COMMENTS OF FIRE DISTRICT PROFESSIONALS:

Solicitor Braslow reported on the Cherry Hill FD training facility appeal, which is ongoing. He said the judge told the deputy attorney general he wanted her to settle this with Mr. Braslow. The judge didn't understand why she wouldn't settle the case and thinks their position is incorrect. He said their comment was they would settle it by allowing the municipality to put up the training facility to which Mr. Braslow said that is not a settlement. He said his other objection was that a municipality could build a training facility, but that a fire district would be prohibited.

He then added that he spoke with Pat MacNamara, who is the executive secretary to the finance board, and asked her who is he supposed to call at DCA if he wanted to bounce something off them or just had a basic question. She told him they have re-evaluated what they've done these past few years and decided that they have been providing a service they shouldn't have provided, therefore, they will not be answering questions or offer any opinions. He said to himself what is the purpose of DCA isn't that what they're there for?

He continued that he testified before the senate budget committee, which heard our version of the bill regarding the moving of fire district elections to November to align with general elections. There were three abstentions, ten 'yes' votes, no 'no' votes. The abstentions were based upon the fact that these legislators didn't feel the budget shouldn't be voted on and they also voted 'no' on the Board of Education bill. Commissioner Shestack asked if it was out of committee and Solicitor Braslow replied yes. He also reported on a meeting he attended last week with Senator Beech (one of our sponsors of the bill), his aide, the senate majority aide, the assembly majority aide, a representative from the division of elections, four county clerks and their lobbyists, himself, the lobbyist for the state association, the state association president, and two representatives from DCA, and the governor's counsel. He stated DCA raised an objection and said because of the time frames we have in the statute they don't want to change the time frame to introduce the budget so if the Board switches to November and seeks cap relief that the cap relief vote will be in February. Braslow commented that this language had already been agreed to. He said that his second argument was if you have a special capital meeting that they wanted to have a ballot as opposed to a raise of hands. He said that he told them that you have to use a ballot and that the law requires it. There was also discussion on changing the election hours from 2:00 to 9:00 to 1:00 to 8:00.

Commissioner Roura asked Solicitor Braslow if there was an update on the RICE Act. Solicitor Braslow had nothing new to report, stating notify a person only if his/her name will be on the agenda.

Solicitor Braslow added one more thing, stating legislation may come back requiring that minutes be kept and posted for local committee meetings.

COMMENTS OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Cornue said he enjoyed this evening because of all the good news, and he hates to see Administrator Jones leave it's a new chapter for him.

Commissioner Shestack said the Board "got him", and then reported that the softball team won their first two games and lost the next two then won the last one. The guys appreciated Commissioner Hamilton coming out to their last game.

Commissioner Roura congratulated Commissioner Shestack and Administrator Jones.

Commissioner Hamilton said kudos, and to Administrator Jones, it's been great.

Commissioner Ridenour thanked everybody for their service to the community.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Ex-Commissioner Nash commented on the training facility issue that Solicitor Braslow reported on and stated he was in a similar situation while in Camden City and felt it all came down to politics. He gave praise to Administrator Jones and to the Mount Laurel Fire Department. He said that we continue to upgrade, to add personnel, to add apparatus, and that you are always trying to do better for two things, the citizens of this community and the safety of your men.

There were no Closed Session items to discuss.

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

THE OPEN SESSION ENDED AT 9:15 PM.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:15 PM.