

MOUNT LAUREL FIRE DISTRICT #1
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 18, 2017
Fire Department Headquarters Station
Meeting Minutes #11

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

1. Commissioner Roura
2. Commissioner Shestack

Commissioner Ridenour acknowledged the Boy Scouts Troop #42 attendance at the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Ridenour at 8:00 PM.

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

Public announcements were read by Commissioner Hamilton.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #2017-44 "Appointment of Joshua E. Nemeth to active membership in the Fellowship Fire Co. #2 and the Mount Laurel Fire Department. Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Cornue. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

The Board took a brief recess at 8:10 PM so that the family of the new member could take pictures. The Board reconvened the meeting at 8:15 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 21, 2017 that was seconded by Commissioner Cornue. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Deputy Chief Burnett reported the bills were processed for the month of September. He did point out there were two bond payments totaling \$566,031 for the 2014 bond. The total amount of the September bills totaled \$742,246.00. Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the monthly bills of September that was seconded by Commissioner Cornue. The motion was unanimously approved by Board.

MONTHLY REPORT BY ADMINISTRATOR:

Deputy Chief Burnett had provided a verbal report to the Board and financial summary statements for the Board's review prior to the meeting. The finance committee held their first meeting September 25th for the 2018 budget.

BOARD QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT:

Chief of Department Colucci had submitted his monthly report to the Board for their review prior to the meeting. Chief commended the staff for the 9-11 Memorial. We had a great turnout for the Fall Fest. We have two recruitment activities coming up, one on October 4 during fire prevention night and will be held at Wegmans from 6:00PM to 9:00PM, and the other on October 10 which is a volunteer recruitment drive at the township's community center. There were no questions or comments.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building and Grounds: Commissioner Ridenour reported there are a couple of things that have to be worked out on the maintenance bond, of which we should have a report sometime next month.

OTHER MATTERS:

None

COMMENTS OF FIRE DISTRICT PROFESSIONALS:

Solicitor Braslow reported the Cherry Hill appeal continues. Regarding the new election legislation, DCA will promulgate regulations as to its implementation.

COMMENTS OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Cornue stated it was good to see our Boy Scouts.

Commissioner Hamilton stated it's always good to see people come to our meeting especially the young people. He then extended congratulations and the heartfelt things that were said at the ceremony, especially by the master of the dedication Deputy Chief Evans.

Commissioner Ridenour welcomed the Boy Scouts to the meeting. Regarding the 9-11 memorial he could not say enough about the dedication, preparation and time spent to get that memorial up and running.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A Scout leader/chaperone referred to the bills and budget and asked if the staff works with the volunteer Commissioners and they are the ones that approve and validate. Commissioner Ridenour answered in the affirmative and explained the process.

Another Scout member asked if someone could speak to the agency here on what the policy is on becoming a volunteer. Chief Colucci replied and proceeded to explain the junior program and its parameters. He stated we fall under the guidelines of the Boy Scouts because of our insurance. He then went on to explain the process if a junior member wishes to move on to becoming a firefighter. He stated we have a handful of guys that started out as explorers or juniors and are now career firefighters. Commissioner Ridenour said he started out as an explorer. Commissioner Hamilton stated besides the swearing in of new firefighters we also have promotions, and service recognition of our personnel for things such as saving one's life. Chief Colucci then explained the meritorious awards program. Another Scout member asked if there was a designated time when this is done. Chief Colucci replied we used to have an annual awards program, but we converted it to the Board meetings to recognize the individuals soon after the event occurred.

Chief Burnett indicated we also work with Mount Laurel EMS and Police Departments, and went into how the Department functions collaboratively.

Resolution #2017-46 "Closing of Meeting Pursuant to Open Public Meetings Act". A motion to approve the resolution was made by Commissioner Cornue that was seconded by Commissioner Hamilton. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the position of part time account clerk that was seconded by Commissioner Cornue. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Solicitor Braslow stated if you look at the statute there is dual argument; one is if you have a Civil Service position you don't have to separately create one by resolution, and the other argument is that Title 40A requires that every time you create a new position you do one by resolution. He is willing to accept either one because it's very unclear under the statute. Chief Colucci stated the last one we did it was with a resolution, a hearing and a final resolution.

He then referred to a proposed regulation from DCA about compensation, and stated moving forward any time you have compensation or change compensation for any employee you have to have a hearing, and put out a notice, and there are forms to fill out. He said this applies to every public entity and will go into effect probably the beginning of the year.

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

**THE OPEN SESSION ENDED @ 8:44 PM.
A CLOSED SESSION BEGAN @ 8:44 PM.
THE CLOSED SESSION ENDED @ 9:31 PM.**

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:45 PM.