

**MOUNT LAUREL FIRE DISTRICT #1
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING / WORK SESSION**

February 2, 2015

Fire Department Headquarters Station

Meeting Minutes #2

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

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

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

The public announcements were read by Commissioner Hamilton

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #2015-06 "Provisional Appointment of Patrick W. Bigoss to the Part-Time Position of Fire Prevention Specialist for the Year 2015". Commissioner Cornue made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Roura. Commissioner Roura asked whether this appointment would remain in effect if Mr. Bigoss was elected to the Board and Administrator Jones replied that it would not and that Mr. Bigoss is aware of that. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Resolution #2015-07 "Provisional Appointment of James W. Arpino to the Part-Time Position of Fire Prevention Specialist for the Year 2015". Commissioner Ridenour made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Cornue. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Resolution #2015-08 "Provisional Appointment of James J. Bannar to the Part-Time Position of Fire Prevention Specialist for the Year 2015". Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Ridenour. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Resolution #2015-09 "Formal Adoption of Administrative Policy #04-015 (revised 1/15/15) Additional Work Hours". Chief of Department Colucci reported that we changed the length of the overtime blocks for Firefighters from 8 hours to 12 hours to make overtime scheduling easier and more attractive, matching the block size already in place for the Officers. Commissioner Ridenour made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Cornue. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Commissioner Roura made a motion to approve the 9/15/14 Regular Meeting, 10/6/14 Special Meeting and 12/1/14 Special Meeting minutes that was seconded by Commissioner Cornue. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Commissioner Ridenour made a motion to approve the 12/23/14 Special Meeting minutes that was seconded by Commissioner Cornue. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board with Commissioner Roura abstaining.

Commissioner Ridenour made a motion to approve the 1/19/15 Regular Meeting minutes that was seconded by Commissioner Cornue. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board with Commissioner Shestack abstaining.

OTHER MATTERS:

Administrator Jones reported that preparations are on schedule for the election and asked the Board members to let him know who will be available to help with voters at each polling place that day. He added that he was short a couple of poll workers but believes that he'll be okay. There was a brief discussion about electioneering and the polling place entrance 100' boundary limit for campaigning.

He reported on the status of the newsletter and provided everyone with a copy of the final draft. Administrator Jones thanked Commissioner Roura for working with the sorting firm this week to improve the delivery of the newsletters because in each of the past few elections whole neighborhoods never received a newsletter. Commissioner Roura explained how the new addressing would be done and that it would blend the newsletters into the sorted mail that each carrier gets for delivery instead of requiring them to pull newsletters from a separate tray. It would make the carrier's job much easier which should result in better delivery and allow us to run a tracking report. The cost to send out the 18,300 newsletters will not increase and he felt that it was actually easier for the sorter to do it this way. Administrator Jones added that the newsletter will be dropped off at the Bellmawr sorting facility on Friday 2/13/15 and should be delivered to everyone by Tuesday 2/17/15.

COMMENTS by FIRE COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Cornue asked how the banquet went because he wasn't able to attend. Commissioner Shestack felt that the venue and the atmosphere were very nice and the food was very good. He thought that the memorial set up to remember Firefighter Colbridge was nicely done. The presenters did a great job and the recognition of Captain Martin as the first recipient of the Michael K. Colbridge Sr. Award for Dedication was nicely done and classy. He observed Personnel Assistant Delp and her management of the event and was very impressed. He had the opportunity to chat with the Mayor who asked him about the cost of the event. He explained that the event was primarily to annually recognize the contributions and efforts of our volunteers with awards and a nice dinner and to also give our career staff some recognition for the valuable service that they provide to our residents. He reminded the Mayor that for the \$10,000 cost of this event, our 50+ active volunteers contribute enough time each year to save our taxpayers almost \$2 million a year in salary and benefits. He added that the banquet expense is included in our annual budget that we share with Township Council each year and we don't hide it from anyone. The Mayor reacted positively to his comments and said that he was just curious. Commissioner Ridenour felt that the seating didn't seem to be as crowded as it has been in the past.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None.

Resolution #2015-10 "Closing of Meeting Pursuant to Open Public Meetings Act". Commissioner Ridenour made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Cornue. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

**THE OPEN SESSION ENDED AT 8:29 PM.
THE 1ST CLOSED SESSION BEGAN AT 8:30 PM.
THE 1ST CLOSED SESSION ENDED AT 12:15 AM.**

Commissioner Roura stated that the Board had received a request from Receptionist Hoffman for an unpaid "leave of absence of definite duration" that was provided for under the Federal ADA and New Jersey LAD statues. Commissioner Roura made a motion to deny her request and Commissioner Shestack added that it was being denied on the grounds that it will create an operational hardship for the organization. Commissioner Cornue seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the 3 members of the Board still in attendance. Commissioner Shestack noted that Commissioners Ridenour and Hamilton were not in attendance for the vote but had both expressed their opinions on the issue when they were here earlier this evening.

Commissioner Roura stated that the members of the Hearing Panel would now deliberate over the testimony given tonight in the 1st Closed Session Disciplinary Hearing and excused Chief of Department Colucci and Deputy Chief Burnett from the meeting.

Commissioner Roura made a motion to return to Closed Session that was seconded by Commissioner Cornue. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

**THE 2ND CLOSED SESSION BEGAN AT 12:15 AM.
THE 2ND CLOSED SESSION ENDED AT 1:28 AM.**

Commissioner Roura 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 1:29 AM.