

January 12, 2010

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire District No. 1, was held on the above date at Hose Company No. 1. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Fisher with Commissioners Bowman, Pluckhorn, Shelley and Bixby present. Also present were Administrator Chesner, Chief Green and Fire Police Lt. Boileau.

Chairman Fisher opened the meeting by reading the following "Open Public Meetings Act;" by title only,

Public Notice of this meeting, pursuant to the "*Open Public Meetings Act*," has been given by the Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire District No. 1, of the Township of Moorestown in the following manner; by posting written notice on the Public Meetings Act Bulletin Board in Town Hall on March 6, 2009, and entering the same in the official book of the Fire District in the Municipal Library; mailing written notice to the official newspaper, the Burlington County Times on March 6, 2009; filing written notice with the Clerk of the Township of Moorestown on March 6, 2009; filing written notice with the Clerk of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire District No. 1; and mailing written notice to each person who has requested copies of the schedule of meetings and who has prepaid the fixed charge for such service.

Following that, Chairman Fisher led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag after which he indicated the emergency exits.

MINUTES:

The minutes of December 8, 2009 were deferred to the January 26, 2010 meeting.

Chairman Fisher also mentioned the passing of Albertus Maurer and thanked Chief Green and the officers and members for the exceptionally fine job they did preparing for the funeral.

PUBLIC HEARING RESOLUTIONS:

Administrator Chesner read Resolution 2010-01 "*Authorizing the Reading of the 2010 Budget by Title Only at the Public Hearing of January 12, 2010*" Afterwards, Chairman Fisher opened the floor to the public for comment on the resolution as read. There was no public comment.

Resolution 2010-01 was offered on a motion by Commissioner Bixby, seconded by Commissioner Bowman. There being no questions or comments the resolution was unanimously adopted 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Chairman Fisher opened the Public Hearing on the 2010 Budget at 7:43 p.m.

Prior to Chairman Fisher opening the floor for public comment he offered a few of his own comments on the 2010 Budget; Chairman Fisher thanked everyone involved for their efforts and believes it to be a good budget. He also mentioned that this budget has in it the purchase of new

air-packs and a new fire engine at Station 312; both are being funded by monies that were saved over the years. Pay-per-Call has also been placed in the 2010 budget. The 2010 budget has remained under the 4% Tax Levy Cap.

Administrator Chesner mentioned that copies of the approved budget were available to the public if they would like a copy.

The Chairman asked the public for comments and/or questions.

Howard Schuster, 416 Toll House Lane in Moorestown asked if the Fire District could possibly purchase new air-packs with another grant and if we were awarded a grant could the Fire District be reimbursed if the Fire District had already purchased the air-packs. Administrator Chesner commented that we are still in the running for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant and that their rules are strict concerning the disbursement of monies that are awarded. Administrator Chesner stated that he would need to look into the question but mentioned that we can no longer wait to purchase replacement air-packs.

Resident Howard Schuster also asked how the figures for the reserve fund balance and the unreserved fund balance on supplemental schedule sheet number two of the State Budget were derived. Both Commissioner Bowman and Administrator Chesner explained that portion of the budget. Mr. Schuster also asked how the Board came up with the figure that was placed in the firefighter Pay-per-Call line item. Both Chairman Fisher and Commissioner Bixby explained that no money was placed in Uniform Allowance nor Mileage for 2010 and the monies usually placed in those line items were redirected into the Pay-per-Call line item to help offset the cost; the additional monies needed was computed from response data from year 2008 and the first three quarters of 2009. Commissioner Bixby mentioned that there are a couple different models that the Board is looking at utilizing to pay the firefighters responding to calls. A brief conversation continued on the Pay-per-Call idea.

Commissioner Shelley mentioned that his intention for the Pay-per-Call is to place the money where the problem is and not a blanket payoff for the volunteers; this program needs to fix what is broken. Commissioner Shelley also commented on the remarks from Mr. Schuster concerning the supplemental schedule sheet number two, more specifically the figures in unrestricted and restricted fund balance. His opinion was that we should have placed the monies cancelled in the restricted fund balance in the unrestricted fund balance section of the page in question because we show the money being utilized in unrestricted funds to purchase the new air-packs in 2010.

Arthur Collins, 410 Pleasant Valley Ave. in Moorestown asked why the professional services line item increased by 15%. Commissioner Bowman stated that the cost of the 2009 audit which is a fixed cost went up, general legal fees increased and the Board decided to have a Community Risk Assessment performed at a cost of \$2,000.

Administrator Chesner stated that the 2010 budget was approved by the Division of Local Government Services.

There being no further comment on the 2010 Budget, Chairman Fisher closed the Public Hearing on the 2010 Budget at 8:11 p.m.

Administrator Chesner read Resolution 2010-02 *“Adopting the 2010 Approved Budget as Read by Title Only at the Public Hearing of January 12, 2010”* Afterwards, Chairman Fisher opened the floor to the public for comment on the resolution as read. There was no public comment.

Resolution 2010-01 was offered on a motion by Commissioner Pluckhorn, seconded by Commissioner Bixby. On a roll-call vote, the resolution was unanimously adopted 5-0.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Fisher reviewed the correspondences provided for the evening. Chairman Fisher mentioned the letters received from Richard Bickmore, Secretary of Hose Company indicating the roster of the 2010 Executive Officers and the nomination and election of Peter D. Witkowski as Battalion Chief. Chairman Fisher also acknowledged the letter from Joshua R. Hall, President of Relief Engine Company requesting the “TOOZ” logo be returned on the apparatus housed at Relief; Chairman Fisher mentioned that the letter from Relief would be addressed at the next regular meeting.

Chairman Fisher also acknowledged the letter sent to Township of Moorestown Manager Christopher Schultz approving the annual salaries of the Commissioners by Town Council, the letter to John Sackett from Burlington County Communications concerning programming the Moorestown Fire Department radios and a letter to Joanne Nyikita, Supt. of Elections requesting the use of two voting machines for the Fire District’s Annual Election.

#### RESOLUTIONS:

Administrator Chesner read Resolution 2010-03 *“Approving the Temporary Budget for the Fiscal Year 2010 Pursuant to P.L. 1985, Chapter 288”* Afterwards, Chairman Fisher opened the floor to the public for comment on the resolution as read. There was no public comment.

Resolution 2010-03 was offered on a motion by Commissioner Shelley, seconded by Commissioner Bowman. On a roll-call vote, the resolution was unanimously adopted 5-0.

Administrator Chesner read Resolution 2010-04 *“Establishing a Petty Cash Fund for the Fiscal Year 2010”* Afterwards, Chairman Fisher opened the floor to the public for comment on the resolution as read. There was no public comment.

Resolution 2010-04 was offered on a motion by Commissioner Pluckhorn, seconded by Commissioner Bixby. On a roll-call vote, the resolution was unanimously adopted 5-0.

Administrator Chesner read Resolution 2010-05 *“Appointing Officials of the First District and Establishing their Compensation for the Fiscal Year January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010”* Afterwards, Chairman Fisher opened the floor to the public for comment on the resolution as read. There was no public comment.

Resolution 2010-05 was offered on a motion by Commissioner Bowman, seconded by Commissioner Pluckhorn. On a roll-call vote, the resolution was unanimously adopted 5-0.

Administrator Chesner read Resolution 2010-06 “*Appointing Members of the Fire Department to Serve in Certain Official Capacities of the Fire Department and Fire District for the Period January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010*” Afterwards, Chairman Fisher opened the floor to the public for comment on the resolution as read. There was no public comment.

Resolution 2010-06 was offered on a motion by Commissioner Bixby, seconded by Commissioner Bowman. On a roll-call vote, the resolution was unanimously adopted 5-0.

#### APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS:

Commissioner Pluckhorn mentioned that probationary member Bradley J. Kenney was assigned to Station 311 on December 10, 2009, junior member Robert A. O’Donnell was assigned to Station 312 on December 30, 2009 and Firefighter Charles Maltbie of Station 312 resigned as of December 10, 2009.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

Administrator Chesner mentioned that mileage reimbursement for the volunteers has been calculated and checks will be prepared for the Board’s approval at the next scheduled meeting in January.

Administrator Chesner mentioned that he contacted the County for the use of two voting machines for the Fire District Election on February 20<sup>th</sup>. He also mentioned that for those that would like to submit articles for the annual newsletter he needs to have the article by January 22<sup>nd</sup> so he can forward to Perfect Printing. Administrator Chesner stated that he would like to have the newsletters mailed the week preceding the election.

Commissioner Shelley commented on the salary issue for past Battalion Chief Richard Booth. It was his opinion that Mr. Booth should have received compensation for the time spent serving in the position of Battalion Chief for the last quarter of 2009. After a discussion amongst the Board, it was decided to pay Mr. Booth for his three months as Acting Battalion Chief. Administrator Chesner suggested that if payment is to be made to Mr. Booth, Acting Asst. Chief Poole as well as Acting Chief Green should also have an increase in pay for their service when they assumed new positions with an increase in responsibilities; the Board agreed. Administrator Chesner was asked to draft a resolution for the January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting concerning the increase in salary for the three positions.

Commissioner Shelley also asked that member Rev. Philip Stowell become the Fire District’s official Chaplain and that the Board pass a resolution, as we do for other non-compensated official appointments, stating this. The Board agreed; Administrator Chesner was asked to prepare a resolution for the January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### PUBLIC SESSION:

Fire Police Lt. Boileau asked why the budget doesn't begin after the election so a temporary budget doesn't need to be created. Commissioner Shelley stated that the Fire District is governed by the Bureau of Authority Regulation "whose rules require a calendar year fiscal year resulting in the need for a temporary budget."

PUBLIC SESSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

On a motion by Commissioner Bixby, seconded by Commissioner Bowman, the regular meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karl A. Shelley  
Secretary/Clerk