

January 13, 2009

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 Giorgi with Commissioners Fisher, Moriuchi, Bowman and Bixby present. Also present were, Chief Dave Constantine Jr., Asst. Chief Green and Administrative Clerk Williams.

Chairman Giorgi 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 9, 2008, 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 9, 2008; filing written notice with the Clerk of the Township of Moorestown on March 9, 2008; 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 Giorgi led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, after which he indicated the emergency exits.

Chairman Giorgi conveyed the Administrator’s apologies for not being present. He had desperately tried to get here, but could not. He had been sick since Saturday. The chairman also thanked Administrative Clerk Williams for facilitating the resolution that required last minute changes at the request of the Division of Local Government Services. The chairman also explained that tonight’s meeting would focus on the Public Hearing on the 2009 Budget and the approval of a series of resolutions done this time of the year.

MINUTES:

On a motion by Commissioner Moriuchi, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, the minutes of the December 9, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously by the five Board members present.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 2009-01 “*Amending Resolution 2008-32 Approving the Budget for the Fiscal Year January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009*” was offered on a motion by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Bixby. Chairman Giorgi stated that the resolution approved in December had to be amended to include the referendum per the State’s instructions to Angie on today. On a roll-call vote, the resolution was unanimously adopted 5-0.

Resolution 2009-02 “*Authorizing the Reading of the 2009 Budget by Title Only at the Public Hearing of January 13, 2009*” was offered on a motion by Commissioner Bowman, seconded by Commissioner Moriuchi. On a roll-call vote, the resolution was unanimously adopted 5-0.

Resolution 2009-03 “*Authorizing a Property Tax Cap Levy Referendum on February 21, 2009*” was offered on a motion by Commissioner Moriuchi, seconded by Commissioner Bixby. Chairman Giorgi complimented Administrator Chesner on the great job he did working on this resolution adding that Chesner went to great length to make sure that it read as clearly as possible and spelled out exactly what we are doing and why. There being no questions or other comments, the resolution was adopted by the five Board members present on a roll-call vote.

PUBLIC HEARING:

On a motion by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Bowman, Chairman Giorgi opened the Public Hearing on the 2009 Budget at 7:45 p.m. The Chairman pointed out that copies were available for those that desired them.

Chairman Giorgi stated that a lot of time and work had been spent on the budget to stay within the 4% cap. He pointed out that the additional \$195,000 is necessary to provide essential firefighting breathing apparatus (SCBA) to replace aging units.

Commissioner Bowman stated that due to the extremely challenging economic process facing us, the commissioners entered into the budget process with that theme in mind which resulted in the final budget appropriations going down by over 4% from last year. We decreased appropriations for the picnic, dinner, saved on equipment and kept costs contained in operations. Due to the current economic times, we deferred the purchase of apparatus and postponed construction of the new fire station. We did find it necessary to purchase SCBA this year in view of the fact that firefighter safety comes first. Health benefit costs are the same, but in 2010 there will be some type of health benefit premium sharing as discussed with the employees. We took a hard look at salaries, comparing them with the public and private sector and considering performance rating. We also discussed developing a salary range in the future. Overall, we did deliver a well thought out and strong budget.

Member of the audience Karl Shelley asked what \$132,000.00 from the restricted fund balance was used for last year. Treasurer Bowman stated that these funds were used to pay down some of the debt service that was owed for the 2003 capital project. The session proceeded with a few other questions and comments from Mr. Shelley that the Board members addressed.

There being no further comment on the 2009 Budget, a motion was offered by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Bowman to close the Public Hearing on the 2009 Budget at 8:05 p.m. Motion carried.

Resolution 2009-04 “*Adopting the 2009 Approved Budget as Read by Title Only at the Public Hearing of January 13, 2009*” was offered on a motion by Commissioner Bixby and seconded by Commissioner Moriuchi. On a roll-call vote, the resolution was unanimously adopted 5-0.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Giorgi acknowledged the letters of commendation from Richard O. Lockwood, Vice President of New Ventures at Lockheed Martin. The letters of thanks concerning the professionalism of our staff praised Apparatus Engineer Richard Bowman, Chief Constantine and Training Officer Bickmore for being extremely gracious hosts as Lockheed and the fire district collaboratively developed a vehicle tracking and situational awareness system.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 2009-05 “*Approving the Temporary Budget for the Fiscal Year 2009 Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-78.17*” was offered on a motion by Commissioner Bowman and seconded by Commissioner Fisher. On a roll-call vote, the resolution was unanimously adopted 5-0.

Resolution 2009-06 “*Establishing a Petty Cash Fund for the Fiscal Year 2009*” was offered on a motion by Commissioner Moriuchi, seconded by Commissioner Bixby. On a roll-call vote, the resolution was unanimously adopted 5-0.

Resolution 2009-07 “*Appointing Officials of the First District and Establishing their Compensation for the Fiscal Year January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009*” was offered on a motion by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Bowman. On a roll-call vote, the resolution was unanimously adopted 5-0.

Resolution 2009-08 “*Appointing Members of the Fire Department to Serve in Certain Official Capacities of the Fire Department and Fire District for the Period January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009*” was offered on a motion by Commissioner Bixby, seconded by Commissioner Moriuchi. On a roll-call vote, the resolution was unanimously adopted 5-0.

Resolution 2009-09 “*First Responder Joint Insurance Fund Resolution to Join*” was offered on a motion by Commissioner Moriuchi, seconded by Commissioner Bowman. On a roll-call vote, the resolution was unanimously adopted 5-0.

Resolution 2009-10 “*Designating a Risk Management Consultant in Accordance with the Bylaws and Risk Management Plan in Conjunction with the Board of Fire Commissioners’ Membership in the First Responder Insurance Fund*” was offered on a motion by Commissioner Bixby, seconded by Commissioner Fisher. On a roll-call vote, the resolution was unanimously adopted 5-0.

Resolution 2009-11 “*Appointment of a Fund Commissioner to the First Responder Insurance Fund*” was offered on a motion by Commissioner Bowman, seconded by Commissioner Moriuchi. On a roll-call vote, the resolution was unanimously adopted 5-0.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS:

Chief Constantine reported that Robert J. Worrell’s membership status had been changed from active to reserve. He also noted that probationary firefighter Brian Apgar’s membership was terminated effective Nov. 30, 2008.

OTHER BUSINESS:

It was decided that Commissioner Peter Bowman would serve as “Clerk of the Election” at Fire District No. 1’s Annual Election on February 21, 2009.

PUBLIC SESSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

On a motion by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Bixby, the regular meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred T. Moriuchi
Secretary/Clerk