

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 and Bixby present. Also in attendance were Administrator Chesner, Chief Constantine, Jr., Fire Official Worrell, FP Captain Keyes, FP Lieutenant Boileau 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 announced that Commissioner Bowman was recuperating at home from a recent hospital stay.

MINUTES:

On a motion by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Bixby, the minutes of the January 13, 2009 meeting were approved by the three Board members present.

On a motion by Commissioner Bixby, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, the minutes of the January 27, 2009 meeting were approved by the three Board members present.

Commissioner Moriuchi arrived at 7:35 p.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Asst. Treasurer Bixby presented the cash report for the month of January indicating balances of \$21,072.87 in the PNC Bank Checking account, \$20,541.71 in the PNC Bank Payroll account, \$199,285.42 in the PNC Bank Sweep account, \$27,955.58 in the PNC Unemployment Trust account and \$942,865.43 in the NJ Cash Management Fund for a total cash balance of \$1,211,721.01. On a motion by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Moriuchi, the cash report was approved by the four Board members present.

Asst. Treasurer Bixby also presented the Statement of Expenditures and Vouchers through the disbursements of February 24, 2009. He also presented for approval Checks #5469-5529 along with a payroll transfer which both totaled \$248,580.67. On a motion by Commissioner Moriuchi, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, the bills were approved by the four Board members present.

Battalion Chief Witkowski and Training Officer Bickmore arrived at 7:41 p.m.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Giorgi stated that the holiday charity program that Moorestown Fire Dept. members participated in entitled "Pajama Program" was a huge success. He acknowledged the letters of appreciation that were mailed to Chief Constantine from the Cherry Hill Mall's marketing director and from Geri Schleich, Pajama Program N.J. Chapter President. A "Certificate of Appreciation" was also awarded to Hose Co. #1. They also thanked David Chezem and other members for a generous donation of \$525.00 which will be used to purchase pajamas and books for local children in need.

The Chairman also acknowledged the donation from David Ramsay of Mill Street Properties, LLC to Hose Co. #1 and Relief Engine Co. Mr. Ramsay thanked the fire dept. for their swift response to an alarm at his building. He also expressed his appreciation for our continued efforts to preserve property and life in Moorestown.

#### ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Administrator Chesner asked the commissioners to review the draft of the meeting schedule for the upcoming year and he explained why some specific dates were chosen. He also asked them to contact him prior to the reorganization meeting if they felt that any change should be made. The Administrator stated that Attorney Tom Barron, the District's solicitor, had agreed to be present at the reorganization meeting.

Administrator Chesner stated that his office was very busy this year preparing to use paper ballots at the Fire District's Election on February 21<sup>st</sup>. He thanked Commissioner Bixby for helping at the polls as Clerk of the Election. The Administrator stated that it was a long night; they didn't complete the ballot count until about 12:10 am. He offered thanks to the tellers and the judge for their assistance. He also stated that since the referendum did not get the 60% approval needed for passing, there would be an additional resolution to adopt at tonight's meeting.

#### CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Constantine commented on his written report dated February 24, 2009.

He reported that the fire department responded to 51 calls during the month of January that consisted of 1 fire incident, 1 overpressure rupture/explosion, 8 hazardous conditions (no fire), 8 service calls, 13 good intent calls and 20 false alarms/false calls. There were 4 station drills and 2 fire police drills.

Chief Constantine gave a brief synopsis of his written report on the following ongoing programs: Crew leader, Evening Duty Crew, Over Night Duty Crew System and the College Excusal Program. His report explained the purpose of each program, history, comments and recommendations. He stated that he will be seeking input from members of the Department to build upon the foundations of these programs as well as other projects. He will also provide further details to the Board in March after gathering additional information.

The Chief's written report also outlined many other projects that the Operation's Division is working on.

The Chief stated that the Department had been afforded another house that will be demolished soon. Training Officer Bickmore has established contact with the property owner to determine usage and length of availability.

Training Guides are continuing to be developed by the Training Officer. After 2 more sessions, the 2009 Annual Training for the membership should be completed.

The 2009 Right to Know/Haz-Mat surveys are beginning to come in from property owners in the District. Training Officer Bickmore has been reviewing and comparing them against reports from 2008. These surveys have assisted in the development of several Building Intelligence forms.

The Chief commented that Helmrich Towing and Recovery in Pennsauken has completed the annual preventative maintenance checks on our apparatus. He thanked Ritchie for handling this and Chris for his assistance on a couple of occasions. He also reported that Maintenance Engineer Bowman has been working to resolve the shoreline challenge with Engine 3121.

Chief Constantine commented on an email from Mr. Garrison who has been working with Cherry Hill to apply for fire service funds that may be available in the Congressional stimulus bill. Mr. Garrison would like to assist us with the same if we are interested.

#### SQUAD:

Fire Police Captain Keyes stated that the Squad had a list of items that they felt needed to be addressed. They would like to schedule a meeting with Commissioner Fisher and others in the near future to discuss these items. Captain Keyes thanked the Administrator for the setup at the County meeting which was almost filled to capacity. FP Lieutenant Boileau commented that as a result of limited parking at our fire station, perhaps we could move the meeting to the Lenola fire station next year and split the bill for the cost of food. Chairman Giorgi asked Lt. Boileau to bring this request before the Board next year.

#### FIRE OFFICIAL'S REPORT:

Fire Official Worrell offered a few comments on his written report dated February, 2009.

He stated that Station 311, Station 312 and the Emergency Services Building's registrations were transferred to Cinnaminson's Division of Fire Prevention to resolve any conflicts of interest.

He also mentioned that the new fire codes had arrived in his office.

BIDS & QUOTATIONS:

None.

ELECTION RESULTS:

Asst. Secretary Stephen H. Bixby, Clerk of the Election, reported the results of the Fire District Election for Moorestown Fire District No. 1, held on February 21, 2009 as follows:

	<b>Polls</b>	<b>Absentee</b>	<b>Total</b>
<u>Candidates: (Full Term)</u>			
Fred T. Moriuchi	272	54	326
Karl A. Shelley	266	210	476
Write-Ins:			
Barey Middleton	1	0	1
Douglas Oyama	2	0	2
<u>Year 2009 Annual Budget:</u>			
Yes	327	122	449
No	208	133	341
<u>Year 2009 Referendum:</u>			
Yes	307	106	413
No	224	144	368

Chairman Giorgi thanked the clerk, judge, tellers and all others that assisted the Administrator during the election process.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 2009-13 “*Approving the Consumer Price Index Adjustment for the 2008 LOSAP Contribution*” was offered on a motion by Commissioner Bixby, seconded by Commissioner Fisher. On a roll-call vote, the resolution was unanimously adopted 4-0.

Resolution 2009-14 “*Approving Volunteer Members Who Have Qualified for Credit Under the LOSAP Program for Year 2008*” was offered on a motion by Commissioner Moriuchi, seconded by Commissioner Bixby. There being no question, on a roll-call vote, the resolution was unanimously adopted 4-0.

Resolution 2009-15 “*Resolution to Amend the 2009 Budget Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-78.3 for the Fiscal Year January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009*” was offered on a motion by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Moriuchi. Administrator Chesner offered his comments on the resolution. He stated that the amount of the referendum was \$194,564 and the original amount to be raised by taxation which was \$1,838,000 included the amount of the referendum. Since the referendum received only 53% of the majority vote, it was defeated. Therefore, the figures in the adopted budget had to be changed; that is the amount to be raised by taxation needed to be reduced by the referendum amount. Two copies of the amended budget will be forwarded back to the State for approval along with two certified copies of this resolution. On a roll-call vote, the resolution was unanimously adopted 4-0.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS:

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Buildings & Grounds: Administrator Chesner commented on the building structure issue at Station 311. The sagging floor on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor outside of his office is getting worse and both doors are sticking. A structural engineer looked into the problem and reviewed the architectural prints of the original design of the building. The engineer asked that a portion of the sheetrock ceiling in the basement of the building be removed so he could further investigate the problem. Apparatus Mechanic Bowman will be removing the sheetrock and have the engineer return to see if additional floor joists or beams need to be installed to prevent the situation from getting worse.

Apparatus/Master Planning: None.

Station Planning: None.

Recruitment and Retention: None.

Benefits: None.

Public Relations: None.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Chairman Giorgi offered his sentiments along with the Administrator's to the individuals that worked at the polls. It was a very busy day and a very long night for those counting; he appreciates all their efforts. He commented on the defeated referendum which means that we will have to come up with a new game plan/other solution to purchase air packs.

Chairman Giorgi thanked Commissioner Moriuchi for 24 years of extraordinary service to the Board of Fire Commissioners and to the community at large. The Chairman also stated that the Board absolutely appreciates his efforts. He's always been a gentleman on the Board and has carried himself extremely well here and in the community. He will certainly be missed.

Commissioner Moriuchi offered thanks to the commissioners stating that they were an easy group to work with in all respects even when there were difficulties. Things were always worked out because we were all working towards a common goal. He also stated that it had been a pleasure.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairman Giorgi announced that the Reorganization Meeting would be on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 p.m. and that our solicitor would be in attendance. He stated that after the Reorg. Meeting,

they would go on to the business at hand and tackle all the issues we have before us. This year would be a very challenging year especially with the state that the economy is in.

Administrator Chesner stated that the 2008 Audit process would begin on Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Fire Official Worrell announced that he would not be able to attend the Reorg. Meeting. He would be on vacation at that time.

On a motion by Commissioner Moriuchi, seconded by Commissioner Bixby, the regular meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen H. Bixby  
Asst. Secretary/Clerk