

MINUTES

The Reorganization meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire District No. 1, held on the above date, was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Giorgi with Commissioners Fisher and Bixby present. Also present were Commissioner-Elect Karl Shelley, Administrator Chesner, Chief Constantine, Assistant Chief Green, Fire Police Captain Tom Keyes, Fire Police Lieutenant Boileau and Solicitor Thomas Barron.

Chairman Giorgi opened the meeting by reading the following statement in accordance with the "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 also mentioned that Commissioner Bowman would not make the meeting due to illness.

OATHS OF OFFICE:

Chairman Giorgi requested Solicitor Barron to administer the Oath of Office to Commissioner-Elect Karl A. Shelley for a full three-year term ending March, 2012.

NOMINATIONS:

The nomination of officers was opened on a motion by Chairman Giorgi and seconded by Commissioner Shelley.

Chairman Giorgi turned the chair over to Commissioner Fisher, whom in turn handled the nomination of Chairman for 2009-2010. Commissioner Fisher was nominated for the office of Chairman by a motion from Commissioner Giorgi, seconded by Commissioner Bixby. There being no question on the motion a second motion was offered by Commissioner Shelley that the nomination be closed, seconded by Commissioner Giorgi; both motions were carried by the four Board members present.

Commissioner Bixby was nominated for the office of Vice Chairman by a motion from Commissioner Giorgi, seconded by Commissioner Fisher. There being no question on the motion a second motion was offered by Commissioner Shelley that the nomination be closed, seconded by Commissioner Giorgi; both motions were carried by the four Board members present.

Commissioner Giorgi was nominated for the office of Secretary/Clerk by a motion from Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Shelley. There being no question on the motion a second motion was offered by Commissioner Bixby that the nomination be closed, seconded by Commissioner Shelley; both motions were carried by the four Board members present.

Commissioner Bowman was nominated for the office of Treasurer by a motion from Commissioner Giorgi, seconded by Commissioner Bixby. There being no question on the motion a second motion was offered by Commissioner Shelley that the nomination be closed, seconded by Commissioner Giorgi; both motions were carried by the four Board members present.

Commissioner Shelley was nominated for the office of Assistant Secretary/Treasurer by a motion from Commissioner Giorgi, seconded by Commissioner Bixby. There being no question on the motion a second motion was offered by Commissioner Bixby that the nomination be closed, seconded by Commissioner Giorgi; both motions were carried by the four Board members present.

Resolution 2009-16 "*Appointment of the Officers of the Board of Fire Commissioners for the Fiscal Year March 1, 2009 to February 28, 2010*" was introduced confirming the election of officers as a result of the prior motions. A motion was offered by Commissioner Giorgi and seconded by Commissioner Shelley. There being no question, the resolution was adopted 4-0 on a roll-call vote.

Following the adoption of Resolution 2009-16, Board Solicitor Barron administered the oaths of office to the four commissioners present.

REORGANIZATION RESOLUTIONS:

Administrator Chesner asked if any of the commissioners or Solicitor Barron would have an objection in having Resolution 2009-17 read by title only. A motion was offered by Commissioner Shelley, seconded by Commissioner Bixby allowing Resolution 2009-17 to be read by title only with an explanation of the content of said resolution. The motion was carried by the four Board members present. Resolution 2009-17 "*Fixing the Time & Place of Regular Meetings & Making Provisions for Special & Emergency Meetings*" was offered on a motion by Commissioner Giorgi and seconded by Commissioner Shelley. There being no question, the resolution was adopted 4-0 on a roll-call vote.

Resolution 2009-18 "*Appointing an Auditor, Solicitor, Insurance Broker, Depository of District Funds and Official Newspaper of the District*" was offered on a motion by Commissioner Giorgi and seconded by Commissioner Bixby. There being no question, the resolution was adopted 4-0 on a roll-call vote.

Resolution 2009-19 "*Authorizing the Fidelity Bond*" was offered on a motion by Commissioner Giorgi and seconded by Commissioner Shelley. There being no question, the resolution was unanimously adopted 4-0 on a roll-call vote.

Resolution 2009-20 "*Establishing Statutory Fees for Reproducing Costs*" was offered on a motion by Commissioner Giorgi and seconded by Commissioner Bixby. Commissioner Shelley asked if the fees as indicated on the Resolution were checked against N.J.S.A. 47: 1A-2. Solicitor Barron indicated that the fees had not changed for the past few years. There being no further questions, the resolution was unanimously adopted 4-0 on a roll-call vote.

Resolution 2009-21 "*Establishing the Rate of Reimbursement for Mileage on Personal Vehicles & Establishing a Per Diem Rate for Official Travel*" was offered on a motion by Commissioner Giorgi and seconded by Commissioner Bixby. Commissioner Shelley asked what the mileage rate is for year 2009; Administrator Chesner indicated that the rate is 55 cents per mile driven. There being no further questions, the resolution was unanimously adopted 4-0 on a roll-call vote.

Resolution 2009-22 "*Authorizing Additional Payment for the Election Tellers and the Judge of the Election for Time Spent Counting Ballots at the Annual Fire District Election Held on February 21, 2009*" was offered on a motion by Commissioner Giorgi and seconded by Commissioner Shelley. Commissioner Giorgi explained that this was payment for the additional hours that it took two tellers and the judge of the election in counting ballots since this year fire districts were unable to utilize the voting machines and the ballots had to be hand tallied. There being no question, the resolution was adopted 4-0 on a roll-call vote.

REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN:

Chairman Fisher spoke briefly to his fellow commissioners and members of the audience; he thanked the Board members for their hard work over the past year. He also thanked past Commissioner Fred Moriuchi, not present at the meeting, for all of his time and commitment as a commissioner and welcomed newly elected Karl Shelley to the Board. Chairman Fisher mentioned that the Board and fire district will have an ambitious agenda this year and welcomes everyone to a new year.

Commissioner Bixby mentioned that we have a big year ahead of us and looks forward to working on the projects that are on the table.

Commissioner Shelley commented on this year's fire district election and thanked those that supported him with his recent election. Commissioner Shelley stated that during his campaign the term ethics had been discussed and he wanted the members of the department and his fellow commissioners to understand that he wasn't singling out any one person or the Board as being unethical; that ethics is comparative and that some may be more ethical than others. He further mentioned that the ethics of the Board need to be looked at, sighting a situation of an official on this Board of Fire Commissioners who works for the bank in which we conduct business, and that this is one case of the ethics that needs to be reviewed. He further mentioned that he isn't implying that this case is neither right nor wrong, but that ethics can be viewed as either relative and/or comparative.

Commissioner Shelley also mentioned that he would like to see the roles of the volunteer fire stations reestablished and a review of the accountability of the Board members and the employees of the fire district; are the employees doing what they were hired to do and are their efforts paying off for the fire district.

OTHER REMARKS:

Chairman Fisher handed out the proposed committee assignments for the year ahead and would like to have this firmed up during the next regular meeting.

Administrator Chesner explained the Financial Disclosure Statements that he handed out to the Board members, Chief Constantine and Solicitor Barron; he asked that they be completed and returned to his office no later than April 1st.

On a motion by Commissioner Giorgi, seconded by Commissioner Shelley, the reorganization meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph J. Giorgi
Secretary/Clerk