

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 Shelley with Commissioners Fisher, Bixby, Schlindwein & Schuster present. Also in attendance were Administrator Chesner, Administrative Clerk Williams, Fire Chief Green, Squad President Keyes, Squad Treasurer Collins, Battalion Chief Nutt and Fire Police Lt. Boileau.

Chairman Shelley opened the meeting by reading the following statement in accordance with the "Open Public Meetings Act:"

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 3, 2010, 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 3, 2010; filing written notice with the Clerk of the Township of Moorestown on March 3, 2010; 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 Shelley led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag after which he indicated the emergency exits.

MINUTES:

On a motion by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Schuster, the minutes of the February 23, 2010 meeting were approved by the five Board members present.

On a motion by Commissioner Schuster, seconded by Commissioner Bixby, the minutes of the March 2, 2010 Reorganization Meeting were approved by the five Board members present.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Schlindwein presented the cash report for the month of February indicating balances of \$25,000.00 in the PNC Bank Checking account, \$20,258.03 in the PNC Bank Payroll account, \$110,721.56 in the PNC Bank Sweep account, \$28,901.08 in the PNC Unemployment Trust account and \$748,275.46 in the NJ Cash Management Fund for a total cash balance in all the bank accounts of \$933,156.13. On a motion by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Bixby, the cash report was approved by the five Board members present.

Treasurer Schlindwein presented checks #6170-6220 totaling \$125,369.87 for payment along with the payroll expenses of \$44,853.73 for a grand total of \$170,223.60. On a motion by

Commissioner Bixby, seconded by Commissioner Schuster, the monthly bills were approved for payment by the five Board members present.

Treasurer Schlindwein stated that the Statement of Expenditures as of March 23, 2010 indicates that we have expended 20% of this year's budget.

PRESENTATION:

Fire Police Lt. Boileau presented a replica of the monument outside the Emergency Services Training Center in Westampton, N.J. Four models were given in appreciation for donations made by Fire District No. 1, Hose Co., Relief Engine Co. & the Emergency Squad towards the building of the emergency personnel memorial. The chairman thanked Lt. Boileau for the presentation.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Shelley acknowledged the following outgoing/incoming correspondence:

- Letter to Relief Engine Co.'s President Joshua Hall in which the Board allowed the "TOOZ" logo to be returned to each of the apparatus at Relief.
- Letter to FF Andrew Stowell in which the Board commended the Moorestown firefighters for their participation in the American Lung Association's "Fight for Air Stair Climb".
- Authorization letter to PNC Bank for Board Treasurer Schlindwein to transfer funds among accounts.
- Statement of the mail-in ballot results for our fire election from the Burlington County Board of Elections, Mount Holly, NJ.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Administrator Chesner commented on a few items in his monthly report that he provided to the Board members prior to this meeting.

He stated that President Obama declared some counties, including Burlington as major disaster areas after the December storms. Federal funding was been made available through the Public Assistance Grant program to state and eligible local governments for emergency protective measures, including snow plowing/removal, volunteer time and food reimbursement. He met with representatives from FEMA and filled out all the appropriate forms for reimbursement of expenses; we should receive 75% of the costs that we incurred.

During the past storm, one of our large pine trees on the Squad side of the building fell onto our neighbor's parking lot. It caused damage to one section of our fence; Miller Tree Service removed the tree and repaired the fence.

Booker Flooring will replace the stair treads at Station 311 that run from the engine bay to the second floor as well as the treads that run to the lounge. We are also pricing the cost of replacing the bathroom floor in the ladies restroom outside the district office.

The 2009 Financial Audit and 2009 LOSAP Audit have been completed and copies distributed to Board members. The audit this year was excellent with no remarks or discussion. He thanked Administrative Clerk Williams for her part in its outcome.

The administrator also mentioned that he had requested competitive quotations for new Air-Paks a few days ago. Quotes are due back in his office no later than March 30th.

Chairman Shelley offered thanks to the Administrative Clerk, Administrator, former Treasurer Bowman and all others that were involved in the finances of the Board. He also thanked them for their efforts in making sure our records were pristine and accurate. He urged the Board members to take time to go through it to see what's there. Administrator Chesner announced that the audit had been placed on the Fire Dept.'s website for public review.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Acting Chief Green gave a verbal review of his following written report dated March 23, 2010.

The fire department responded to 97 incidents during the month of February that consisted of 5 fire calls, 4 rescue & emergency medical service, 46 hazardous conditions (no fire), 7 service calls, 10 good intent calls and 25 false alarms. There were 3 fire department drills and 2 fire police drills.

We got slammed by two significant snowstorms in a matter of a few days. The first snow started falling on Friday, February 5th and dumped 27 inches of snow on us. The Battalion Chiefs started making calls Friday afternoon to try to set up crews in both stations for a storm standby. Central also made a storm standby announcement and firefighters were to report to their respective stations at 2100 hrs. There were a total of 3 calls, including 2 EMS assist calls. Station 311 was running with EMS on a simultaneous dispatch because of the weather conditions. There were a total of 15 firefighters in the station during the standby.

On February 9th, Mother Nature decided that we did not have enough snow and dumped another 17 inches on us. Again we went into storm standby mode. In contrast to the last storm, this snow was much heavier and caused many problems. The standby crews ran a total of 32 calls, most of which came at the height of the blizzard. We ran a total of 36 storm related calls.

One drill was cancelled because of the weather.

We received notice that Motorola will no longer be servicing or supplying parts for the XTS3000 series portables or the Astro mobile radios. This service will be discontinued in June. This will affect almost all of our portables and mobiles with the exception of the newer portables just purchased for the line officers. We will be contacting our usual repair shops to see what plans they have to continue service. The County Radio Shop and the Public Safety Director will also be in contact with shops about continued repairs.

We now have the capability to mass text our members on their cell phones. Text messages to the membership will only be sent out on time sensitive stuff. Line Officers will be getting more text

than firefighters. This will give us greater flexibility than having to rely on Central for announcements since Service is part of the IAMRESPONDING program.

I reported at an earlier meeting that I was in the process of combining the inspection forms and the building intelligence forms into one so that better information could be gathered by the Fire Marshall and Assistant Fire Marshall when they do inspections. Combining of the two did not turn out as I had hoped. I will be reworking this concept and get it off the ground soon. The Fire marshals office is onboard with collecting this information. We just wanted to make it less cumbersome in doing so.

As everyone is aware, the hotline system is no longer in existence for all Fire and EMS except for one department. Contact phone numbers for Central have been distributed to our firefighters. The email rip and run system is still working, but not reliable at the moment. The county IT Department has identified the problem and has purchased the necessary hardware to remedy the problem.

Apparatus:

All of the apparatus had regular chassis maintenance service performed on them by Helmrich in Pennsauken.

Pump Testing was done on March 8th in the back parking lot at Station 311. All pumps passed. Engine 3112 had a problem with the primer pump. That has been repaired. Engine 3112 went to Vineland Electric to have the batteries and electric system checked; everything was ok. Engine 3112 had its roll up doors replaced. The work was performed at Fire and Safety in Piscataway; the engine should be returned on tomorrow. It will then be out of service until Thursday for striping.

The officers' seat belts have been replaced in 3112, 3119 and 3125 because of wear caused by them being shut in the doors. Pierce has configured the replacement belts a little differently to try to prevent this from happening again. The ones for 3121 were the wrong size; the correct size has been ordered.

The fire chief's truck had a flat yesterday that was repaired by Maintenance Engineer Bowman.

Chairman Shelley asked the Chief to identify the members that participated recently in American Lung Association's "Fight for Air Stair Climb" and the fundraiser at Bertucci's.

FIRE OFFICIAL'S REPORT:

Fire Official Worrell was sick and could not attend the meeting. The Commissioners acknowledged receipt of his report for March.

The fire official asked the Administrator to mention the passing of Ron Horstman. Mr. Horstman was a retired State Policeman, fire investigator for the Burlington County Prosecutor's office and friend of the Moorestown Fire Department who had assisted Fire Official Worrell on many occasions.

Motion was entered by Commissioner Fisher and seconded by Commissioner Bixby that the Fire Official's written report dated March 2010 be received and filed. Motion carried.

BIDS & QUOTATIONS:

Administrator Chesner stated that he, Commissioner Fisher and Mechanic Bowman were present at the opening of bids for the new fire engine at 11:00 a.m. on March 18th. We received only one bid which was from Pierce Manufacturing, Inc. Of the four (4) bid packages that were picked up by Continental Fire & Safety, Campbell Supply, EVS Firefighting Technology and Pierce Mfg. Co., only Pierce Mfg. Co. returned a package. The administrator announced to the public that there was a sheet on the table that reviews the bid proposal from Pierce. There were several options (add, delete & discount) in the bid that Administrator Chesner then read.

Chairman Shelley announced that Mr. Ed Miller was in the audience. He added that Mr. Miller from Fire & Safety was the dealer from Pierce that placed the bid. Shelley also made mention that our fire department has a good history with Pierce Mfg. and noted that the company was not a new vendor.

Chairman Shelley expressed his disappointment in the fact that we received only one bid and was baffled as to why the other companies came in and took a package, yet they did not bid.

After an in-depth discussion and comments on the options, a proposal was made to add the Rudd 6 strand rear tire chains, add the electrical cord reel and delete the treadplate cover. A motion was entered by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Schuster to award the bid for the new fire engine to Pierce Mfg. Company in the amount of \$464,725.00. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS:

Chairman Shelley stated that he would like to withdraw Resolution 2010-16 "Disallowing the Providing of Healthcare Benefits to Members of the Board of Fire Commissioners and Part-Time Employees of the Fire District by First Reading" which was to be presented tonight for a first reading.

Shelley explained that after the administrative staff's extensive research with the Division of Pensions & Benefits with regard to our members' health benefits plan, the content of the resolution is in direct contradiction to existing statutes and to the Division of Pensions' legislation that was passed on yesterday. The new law will affect both elected officials and part-time employees. There was no objection from any commissioner to withdraw the resolution.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS:

Commissioner Schlindwein stated that there were three (3) applications out awaiting medical reports.

Chief Green announced the new appointments and changes in member status as follows: Nicholas J. Brandimarto, II – new probationary member assigned to 311, John Roccato – new junior

assigned to 312, Gerard A. Toscani – new junior assigned to 311, Kevin Middleton & Douglas Oyama placed on reserve membership, Peter Bowman & Jason Miller – memberships reinstated on 3/4/10 after falling in their attendance.

Chairman Shelley acknowledged the revised 2010 Committee List that the Administrator had provided, noting that some committee members are fixed by position. He also stated that a resolution at the next meeting will appoint Fire Police Lt. Boileau and Battalion Chief Nutt to the Awards Committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Buildings & Grounds:

Apparatus: See discussion under “Bids & Quotations”.

Station/Master Planning: Committee Chairman Shelley reported that he had distributed a report that summarized what the Planning Committee had done. He also stated that they will schedule an April meeting.

Recruitment and Retention/Public Relations: No report.

Benefits: No report.

Information Technology: Chief Green reported that the “First Look Program” pre-fire software that the District recently purchased had been installed in his vehicle and was working great.

SQUAD:

Squad President Keyes reported that everything was normal. Squad Treasurer Collins stated that their audit had been completed.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Chairman Shelley suggested that we have a workshop meeting to discuss the pay-per-call program. It was decided that a work session would be held on next Tuesday, March 30, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. to deal with benefits and more specifically the pay-per-call program. The commissioners would like the line officers to attend. The meeting will be published on tomorrow.

Chairman Shelley suggested that we restore our fire chief’s election process as stipulated in our rules and regulations in our Fire Dept. manual since Chief Green is our current appointed chief and we had not used the election process since we had a paid chief. Commissioners Fisher and Schuster volunteered to serve on the Interview Board. Also, Administrator Chesner will serve along with 2 firefighters (one from each station).

Commissioner Fisher suggested that we undertake a Community Risk Assessment Review as part of our planning for the District. He stated that we should contact Bill Jenaway and proceed since

it was recommended as part of our planning and we did establish funding this year for that purpose. It was agreed by the commissioners present.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Barry Middleton, of the audience, asked if other fire companies had complained about Motorola's decision to discontinue servicing their portables. Chief Green replied that it is affecting everyone in the County. Suggestions were made that the companies come together and make a formal complaint to Homeland Security or even report them to the Better Business Bureau. Barry Middleton stated that we should not drop the matter and asked that the Board make some complaints.

Fire Police Lt. Boileau announced that on Wednesday, May 19th, the memorial service at the communication's center would be held at 7:00 p.m. He also thanked the Board for hosting the County's Fire Police Officer's Meeting.

On a motion by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Schlindwein, the regular meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles H. Schuster
Secretary/Clerk