

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., Training Officer Bickmore, Battalion Chief Poole, Fire Official Worrell, FP Captain Keyes and FP Lieutenant Boileau.

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 reported that Commissioner Bowman would be absent and Commissioner Moriuchi would arrive later in the evening.

MINUTES:

On a motion by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Bixby, the minutes of the August 26, 2008 meeting were approved by the three Board members present.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Assistant Treasurer Bixby presented the cash report for the month of August indicating balances of \$0.09 in the Commerce Bank account, \$24,337.81 in the PNC Bank checking account, \$20,455.18 in the PNC Bank Payroll account, \$319,320.25 in the PNC Bank Sweep account, \$27,800.04 in the PNC Unemployment Trust account and \$1,061,988.66 in the NJ Cash Management Fund for a total cash balance of \$1,453,902.03. Administrator Chesner stated that the Commerce Bank account has been closed and the \$0.09 will be credited to the fire district and placed in the general fund. On a motion by Commissioner Bixby, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, the cash report was approved as presented.

Asst. Treasurer Bixby presented the Statement of Expenditures and Vouchers through the disbursements of September 23, 2008. He also presented for approval checks #5120-5160 and a payroll transfer which totaled \$87,237.26. A motion was offered by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Bixby. Commissioner Fisher questioned checks 5136 and 5137. Administrator Chesner indicated that check 5136 made payable to First Due Emergency Supply

was for new member station uniforms and check 5137 payable to Fire & Safety Services was for replacement parts for the front inlet valve actuator on Engine 3112. Chairman Giorgi inquired about check 5146. Administrator Chesner indicated that payment was to the NJ State League of Municipalities for attendance to a Pension and Benefits update course by Administrative Clerk Williams. There being no further questions, the bills were approved unanimously by the Board members present.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Giorgi acknowledged the letter from Thomas M. Barron and Dan Posternock that advised the Board of Daniel M. Baker's departure from their law firm. The chairman also acknowledged the donation and thank you card from Mrs. Hannah Haughey of Mount Laurel, NJ and he made mention of the correspondence that he sent to Commerce Bank to initiate the closing of the checking account that the Board had with them.

Administrator Chesner mentioned the correspondence from the Safe Ride Program in which they thanked the Board for the use of our building and he made note of the invitation from the office of Barron and Posternock for a luncheon that they are hosting.

#### ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Administrator Chesner offered a few comments on his written report dated September 23, 2008.

He spoke briefly about our workers compensation carrier, Public Alliance Insurance Coverage (PAIC) fund, which will no longer supply coverage to those fire districts in which they only insure for workers compensation. Chairman Giorgi further explained the effects that it would have on our District. Both Administrator Chesner and Chairman Giorgi are looking into alternative coverage for 2009 and will keep everyone posted.

#### CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Constantine commented on his written report dated September 23, 2008.

The Chief reported that the fire department responded to 36 calls during the month of September that consisted of 3 fire calls, 2 overpressure ruptures/explosions, 1 rescue and emergency medical, 7 hazardous conditions (no fire), 2 service calls, 8 good intent calls and 13 false alarms/false calls. There were 4 station drills and 2 fire police drills.

Chief Constantine added that the apparatus committee has been meeting with different apparatus manufacturers and had visited some of them in Wildwood during the N.J. Firemen's Convention.

Chief Constantine stated that he provided the Board last month with an executive summary/proposal that outlined the Fire District and Lockheed Martin coming together with an apparatus and staffing partnership. He would like the Board's feelings on the proposed idea.

#### FIRE OFFICIAL'S REPORT:

Fire Official Worrell commented on his written report dated September 23, 2008.

Commissioner Bixby asked why the Ladies Auxiliary was unable to assist with Fire Prevention Night. Fire Official Worrell stated that he sent a letter requesting their help and they indicated

that they would be unable to assist this year because of health reasons. Fire Official Worrell commented that this is the third year that they have not attended the event.

#### BIDS & QUOTATIONS:

None.

#### RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 2008-28 "*Appointing Virtua at Work to Assist the Board of Fire Commissioners on Health and Safety Matters Beginning September 23, 2008 and Remaining in Force for One Year from the Date of this Resolution*" was offered on a motion by Commissioner Bixby and seconded by Commissioner Fisher. Administrator Chesner stated that this announcement would be published in the Burlington County Times, the District's official newspaper. Chairman Giorgi briefly mentioned the need for the resolution; the resolution was adopted 3-0 on a roll-call vote with Commissioner Moriuchi abstaining.

Commissioner Moriuchi arrived at 8:14 p.m. after the reading of Resolution 2008-28.

Resolution 2008-29 "*A Resolution Acknowledging a Collaboration & Bailment Agreement Between Lockheed Martin MS2 and the Board of Fire Commissioners, Moorestown Fire District No. 1*" was offered on a motion by Commissioner Fisher and seconded by Commissioner Moriuchi. Chairman Giorgi stated that we talked at length concerning this project in past meetings and had reviewed this with our Solicitor. Administrator Chesner stated that he had advised our insurance carrier as well. There being no question on the motion, the resolution was unanimously adopted 4-0 on a roll-call vote.

#### APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS:

Training Officer Bickmore reported that Michael J. Warren's membership status changed from probationary to active, new probationary member Danny Borrero was assigned to Station 311 and Samuel Still's membership was terminated on August 8, 2008.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Buildings & Grounds: Commissioner Fisher added comments to the Administrator's report concerning building and grounds. He stated that a report would be issued shortly with the results of Structural Engineer Tom Kulp's examination of the bell tower and roof structure at Relief Engine Company. Mr. Kulp mentioned that the structure looks to be in good shape for its age. Commissioner Fisher also stated that the overhaul appearances of the buildings are in good shape and that the staff is doing a fine job.

Chairman Giorgi suggested that the Battalion Chiefs ask the presidents of the companies to remind the members to be cognizant of the cigarette butts around the buildings and to please place them in the appropriate receptacles.

Apparatus: Commissioner Fisher commented that he as well as many other members of the apparatus committee attended this year's N.J. State Firemen's Convention in Wildwood and talked with the many apparatus vendors that were on hand. Information and literature were collected; more information concerning the visit will be discussed at the next apparatus meeting.

Discussion was opened concerning the recently issued State of New Jersey Commissioner of Investigation report on the purchasing of fire apparatus. Administrator Chesner commented on his interviews with the different newspapers that reached out to his office. He also stated that the press release from the Fire District is located on the District's website and is available to the public during tonight's meeting.

Master/Station Planning: Commissioner Moriuchi informed the Board that some of the members of the station planning committee (Chesner, Constantine, Jr., Moriuchi and Ritchie Bowman) met on Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> with Garrison Architects at their recently finished project on the Camden County Fire Training Grounds. Commissioner Moriuchi explained the features of that building which could be utilized in our new station. He also informed the Board that Garrison supplied the committee with a preliminary drawing and an outline of the cost of the building and indicated that the cost of such a building has historically increased 5% to 10% a year.

Commissioner Moriuchi also informed the Board of the Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> meeting with Lockheed Martin at which time the station planning committee presented the proposed layout of the fire station and how it would be situated on the property to Dave Sutton and Ken Walters of Lockheed.

Administrator Chesner indicated that he has reached out to a civil engineering firm that is able to supply preliminary numbers as to the cost of such a service. He went on to state that he would like to have engineering costs and architectural costs for the 2009 Budget.

Chairman Giorgi asked that the committee take a very close look at the cost of this building and bring it back to the Board for public discussion and feedback.

Commissioner Fisher asked former District Administrator Karl A. Shelley if he would like to sit on the committee; Mr. Shelley replied that he would. Chairman Giorgi asked former Board Treasurer Arthur J. Collins if he would also like to sit on the committee; he also accepted the offer. The Administrator stated that he would assist in bringing them both up to speed.

Recruitment and Retention: Commissioner Bixby stated that the Annual Awards Dinner would be held at the Doubletree Guest Suites Ballroom in Mt. Laurel, N.J. on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> and the attire would be Class A's again. Invitations will be sent out in the next day or so. Commissioner Bixby also mentioned that the Fire Dept. was present at Moorestown's Family Fun Day.

Benefits: None.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Fisher mentioned that the meetings between the Squad leadership and the Fire District concerning the consolidation of their services have been placed on the back burner. The Squad's membership has posed a number of questions that need to be examined and will be discussed at their next meeting on January 8, 2009.

Administrator Chesner spoke briefly on items that need to be addressed in the 2009 Budget and talked about year-to-date expenditures and revenues. He also reminded the Board that the first budget workshop is scheduled for the evening of October 14<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Giorgi opened discussion on this year's flu shots. It was agreed that the flu shots would be provided to all firefighters and squad members. Fundraising activities of both

companies were also discussed and it was decided that a letter would be sent to both presidents advising them of the District's position concerning fundraising.

Chairman Giorgi apologized for the lack of conversation on the resolution that added Richard Braslow as additional counsel for Department of Personnel matters. He explained that we had spent a considerable amount of time in past workshop sessions looking at alternative counsel. Mr. Braslow was looked at because of the special nature in what he practices. Chairman Giorgi stated that the Board decided to stay with Tom Barron, but would bring on Richard Braslow to help with questions concerning the Squad and the possibility of them consolidating with the Fire District. He was also considered because of the recent issues that have arisen with the appointment of our provisional Fire Chief. Chairman Giorgi stated that we need to have an expert opinion in the direction the Board should take concerning these issues.

Chairman Giorgi mentioned that he would like to meet with the Ladies Auxiliary to discuss the relationship the Fire District has with the auxiliary and to discuss whether or not that relationship is working. He would like to have dialogue with President Stella Hearn to discuss the auxiliary's future.

Chairman Giorgi spoke briefly on the upcoming budget, the need to avoid using surplus money to balance the budget and the need to look into the replacement of air packs.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT:

Member of the audience Arthur Collins advised Administrator Chesner that he will be receiving a letter from Edwin R. Jones of the Moorestown Exempt Firemen's Association requesting that an appropriation be made available in the 2009 Budget for the hosting of their meeting on August 31, 2009.

Member of the audience Beth Shelley talked briefly about the fundraising issue. She asked if the letter that Relief Engine Company sent to the residents concerning the restoration of the Ahrens Fox was cleared by the Board. Chairman Giorgi mentioned that Relief Engine Co. ran everything by the Board and the Board felt that everything was ok. Mrs. Shelley went on to state that with today's economy we should be conservative with the budget and watch our spending. She also mentioned that we should look at the size of the building that is proposed out on the east end of town. A discussion took place concerning the building and the cost of the building. Chairman Giorgi mentioned that it will be very difficult to present any new project out in the east end of town with the economy that we are in.

Member of the audience Barry Middleton asked for the specific reason for hiring special counsel for Department of Personnel matters. Chairman Giorgi replied that this counsel will work with the Department of Personnel to determine whether or not certain specifications concerning age that now have come into question actually apply to the position of Fire Chief.

Member of the audience Arthur Collins asked the Board how much this special counsel will cost and has the Treasurer of the Board certified that there are available funds to cover the contract. Chairman Giorgi indicated he was unaware as to the Treasurer certifying such funds, but stated that monies are available in our professional services budget line item.

Member of the audience Howard Schuster asked if Lockheed Martin was pressuring us into building a station on the east end of town. Commissioner Moriuchi advised Mr. Schuster that

Lockheed Martin has in no way pressured the Board. The Board went to Lockheed Martin to inform them that we were moving forward with the building and that we wanted to meet with them to get their input on the building and to see if additional land was available in the event we would need it.

Member of the audience Karl Shelley talked briefly about the resolution concerning special counsel. He stated that if there is a contract, that Mr. Collins is correct in saying that the Treasurer of the Board needs to certify that there are funds available to cover the cost of such contract. Mr. Shelley asked if the Board should be using taxpayer money to pay for counsel that is dealing with an employee and the merit system board. He also mentioned that this may set precedence for future employees.

Mr. Shelley asked if the siren tower at Relief was checked with the bell tower. Commissioner Fisher stated that Structural Engineer Tom Kulp did climb into the attic to look at the structure below the siren tower and found it to be in favorable condition and seemed to be sound even though it is of older construction. Commissioner Fisher stated that we are looking at both the siren and bell towers. Mr. Shelley mentioned the SCI investigation and the suggestion of generic specifications of fire trucks; his opinion was to stay away from such a vehicle.

FP Lieutenant Boileau informed the Board that the Safe Ride program was moved from October 10<sup>th</sup> because Fire Prevention Open House was scheduled for the same night. He also mentioned that the Burlington County Firefighters Assoc. will have their annual memorial meeting on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>. He will meet with the Administrator and Chief concerning the same.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

On a motion by Commissioner Bixby, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, the regular meeting was adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred T. Moriuchi  
Secretary/Clerk