

November 8, 2011

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 and Chief Green.

Chairman Shelley 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 3, 2011, 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 7, 2011; filing written notice with the Clerk of the Township of Moorestown on March 3, 2011; 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.

Chairman Shelley mentioned that most of the time tonight would deal with the 2012 Budget.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

BIDS & QUOTATIONS:

None.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 2011-33 "*Establishing the Salaries of the Board of Fire Commissioners for the Fiscal Year January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012*" was offered on a motion by Commissioner Bixby and seconded by Commissioner Schlindwein. There being no question, the resolution was adopted 5-0 on a roll-call vote.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Kirk LeBlanc of Nottingham Insurance was present at the meeting to discuss the fire district's workers compensation audit and premium increase along with the district's property and casualty insurance with VFIS.

Mr. LeBlanc explained that the fact that we are a volunteer fire department with a large number of administrative personnel makes us a unique fire district. Mr. LeBlanc further explained the 2010 and 2011 Audit conducted by New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Co. for the district's workers compensation and the increase in premium resulting from that audit. He informed the Board that those employees who are both a volunteer firefighter and district staff member would be classified as a career firefighter at a rate of 4.45 per \$100 of payroll. The law states that if an employee holds multiple positions in an organization, the position with the higher salary and greater exposure for injury is used for purposes of classifying the employee.

Mr. LeBlanc further explained that New Jersey Manufacturers used the rate of a career firefighter because the career rate is 19.89 per \$100 of payroll less than the volunteer firefighter's rate. A payment of \$19,504 needs to be made to NJM for the increase in premium for 2010 and 2011 as a result of the audit to prevent loss of coverage. The workers compensation premium for 2012 will be in the area of \$46,000.

Administrator Chesner indicated that budget transfers will be made in November to cover the increase in price as a result of the audit and the 2012 Budget will reflect the new premium amount.

Mr. LeBlanc stated that he would look into other options concerning the district's workers compensation for Year 2012 and also indicated that the district's property and casualty insurance through VFIS will remain flat with no foreseeable premium increase; the district's loss history has been good.

Chairman Shelley thanked Mr. LeBlanc for his time and Mr. LeBlanc stated again that he would research other options including Chairman Shelley's idea of the fire district self-insuring for worker's compensation.

No other business was discussed.

#### PUBLIC SESSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

No comments from the public in attendance.

Chairman Shelley announced that there was a need to meet in Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. On a motion by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Schuster, the regular meeting was recessed at 8:14 p.m. to enter into an Executive Session.

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-13), the public shall be excluded from that portion of the meeting involving personnel matters.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the discussion of such subject matter in the Executive Session can be disclosed to the public at such time as is appropriate without prejudice to the interest of the Commissioners of Fire District No. 1 in the Township of Moorestown.

The Executive Session started at 8:15 p.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Bixby, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, the Executive Session was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Schlindwein, seconded by Commissioner Schuster, the 2012 Budget Work Session convened at 8:33 p.m.

During the workshop session salary adjustments for 2012 were discussed and decided on for both the administrative staff along with the stipends for the Chief Officers.

On a motion by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Schuster, the Budget Workshop Session was adjourned and the regular meeting reconvened and adjourned without further official action at 10:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles H. Schuster  
Secretary/Clerk