

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 Fisher with Commissioners Bowman, Bixby, & Shelley present. Also in attendance were Administrator Chesner, Acting Fire Chief Green, Acting Asst. Fire Chief Poole and Fire Police Lieutenant Boileau.

Chairman Fisher 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 6, 2009, 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 6, 2009; filing written notice with the Clerk of the Township of Moorestown on March 6, 2009; 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 Fisher led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag after which he indicated the emergency exits.

MINUTES:

On a motion by Commissioner Bowman, seconded by Commissioner Bixby, the minutes of the November 24, 2009 meeting were approved by the four Board members present.

On a motion by Commissioner Bixby, seconded by Commissioner Shelley, the minutes of the December 1, 2009 meeting were approved by the four Board members present.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Bowman stated that the November cash report would be deferred till January 26th because of this meeting being early.

Treasurer Bowman presented the Statement of Expenditures through the disbursements of December 8, 2009. He also presented an electronic fund transfer and Checks #5961-5995 for \$53,881.95 plus a payroll transfer of \$42,692.72 for an overall total of \$96,574.67. Treasurer Bowman mentioned that we have spent 85% of our allocated budget. Following the explanation of a few bills by the Administrator, on a motion by Commissioner Shelley, seconded by Commissioner Bixby, the monthly bills were unanimously approved by the four Board members present.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Fisher acknowledged the resignation of Anthony S. Green from the Membership Committee that would be handled later in the meeting.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

No written report was distributed by the Administrator; Administrator Chesner did comment that he has been working on the budget, fire district election, district newsletter and preparing for the 2009 audit.

ACTING CHIEF'S REPORT:

Acting Chief Green gave a verbal review of his written report dated December 8, 2009.

The fire department responded to 55 incidents during the month of November that consisted of 7 fire calls, 2 overpressure ruptures, 2 rescue calls, 11 hazardous conditions (no fire), 5 service calls, 12 good intent calls and 16 false alarms. There were 4 department drills and 2 fire police drills.

Chief Green mentioned that we have received some new turnout gear as well as two new four gas meters.

Chief Green spoke briefly on the e-mail he received from Andrew T. Caruso, Director of Operations from MONOC Emergency Medical Services in response to Chief Green's letter concerning assisting paid ambulance services. After a brief discussion it was decided by the Board to have both Administrator Chesner and Chief Green send a letter to Township Council explaining the policy of the fire district concerning assisting paid ambulance services since the Township was included in Mr. Caruso's e-mail.

FIRE OFFICIAL'S REPORT:

No report was filed for the evening; Chairman Fisher mentioned that Fire Official Worrell couldn't attend tonight's meeting because he was at the Burlington County Fire Marshal's Annual Dinner Meeting.

BIDS & QUOTATIONS:

None.

RESOLUTIONS:

Administrator Chesner read Resolution 2009-37 "*Approving the Budget for the Fiscal Year January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010*" Afterwards, Chairman Fisher opened the floor to the public for comment on the resolution as read. There was no public comment.

Resolution 2009-37 was offered on a motion by Commissioner Bixby, seconded by Commissioner Bowman. There being no question, on a roll-call vote, the resolution was unanimously adopted 4-0 with Commissioner Shelley passing on his turn to vote in order to vote last. Commissioner Shelley commented that while the budget included some items he was opposed to, the budget included some very important items that are needed and voted yes on the resolution.

Administrator Chesner read by title only Resolution 2009-38 "*Establishing the Date, Time and Place for the Holding of a Public Hearing on the 2010 Budget of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire District No. 1, Township of Moorestown, County of Burlington, New Jersey*" Afterwards, Chairman Fisher opened the floor to the public for comment on the resolution as read. Fire Police Lieutenant Boileau asked when copies of the budget will be available; Administrator Chesner advised that they would be ready a week prior to the public hearing.

There being no further questions Resolution 2009-38 was offered on a motion by Commissioner Bowman, seconded by Commissioner Bixby. There being no question, on a roll-call vote, the resolution was unanimously adopted 4-0.

Administrator Chesner read by title only Resolution 2009-39 "*Canceling Balances in the 2009 Budget Appropriations at December 31, 2009*" Afterwards, Chairman Fisher opened the floor to the public for comment on the resolution as read. Fire Police Lieutenant Boileau asked why we do this resolution; Administrator Chesner stated that it cancels all balances in the budget as of December 31st and it's a requirement that we pass such a resolution.

There being no further questions resolution 2009-39 was offered on a motion by Commissioner Shelley, seconded by Commissioner Bixby. There being no question, on a roll-call vote, the resolution was unanimously adopted 4-0.

Administrator Chesner read by title only Resolution 2009-40 "*Authorizing the Award of Purchase Orders for Materials and Supplies Purchased Under Contract by the State Division of Purchase and Property Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12*" Afterwards, Chairman Fisher opened the floor to the public for comment on the resolution as read. There was no public comment.

Resolution 2009-40 was offered on a motion by Commissioner Shelley, seconded by Commissioner Bowman. There being no question, on a roll-call vote, the resolution was unanimously adopted 4-0.

Administrator Chesner read by title only Resolution 2009-41 "*Canceling Certain Outstanding Checks*" Afterwards, Chairman Fisher opened the floor to the public for comment on the resolution as read. There was no public comment.

Resolution 2009-41 was offered on a motion by Commissioner Bixby, seconded by Commissioner Bowman. There being no question, on a roll-call vote, the resolution was unanimously adopted 4-0.

Administrator Chesner read by title only Resolution 2009-42 "*Establishing the Salaries of the Members of the Board of Fire Commissioners for the Fiscal Year January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010*" Afterwards, Chairman Fisher opened the floor to the public for comment on the resolution as read. There was no public comment.

Resolution 2009-42 was offered on a motion by Commissioner Bowman, seconded by Commissioner Bixby. Chairman Fisher commented that our District Solicitor was contacted as to whether the additional health benefits that are offered to Commissioners be placed on the resolution as additional compensation. Solicitor Barron advised the Board that he saw no reason to change how we report the resolution to the Township Council. However, Solicitor Barron stated there is no prohibition in reporting any stipend and adding that Commissioners are eligible to receive health care benefits pursuant to the State Health Care Benefits plan like other employees of the district, if the Board so desired or the Township or another agency requested the information. Chairman Fisher mentioned that the Board may seek another legal opinion concerning this question. There being no further comment on the resolution, on a roll-call vote, the resolution was adopted 3-0 with Commissioner Shelley as a no vote.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS:

Chairman Fisher talked further concerning Chief Anthony S. Green's resignation from the Membership Committee effective December 31, 2010. Chairman Fisher mentioned that Commissioner Pluckhorn will Chair the committee and an e-mail has been sent to the President of Hose Company requesting that a member of their station fill the vacancy so the committee can be in compliance with the rules and regulations of the department. Commissioner Bixby asked Chief Green if an officer should sit on the committee; Asst. Chief Poole indicated that he would sit on the committee if Commissioner Pluckhorn needed his assistance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Buildings & Grounds: No Report

Apparatus: No Report

Station/Master Planning: Commissioner Shelley mentioned that the next Planning Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, December 10th.

Recruitment and Retention/Public Relations: No Report

Benefits: No Report

Information Technology: No Report

SQUAD:

No Report

OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Bowman presented to the Board a written job description for the Chief of the Department that he, Commissioner Bixby and Chief Green worked together on. Chairman Fisher asked that the Board review and respond to Commissioner Bowman with concerns and/or suggestions.

Commissioner Bowman also thanked Administrative Clerk Williams and Administrator Chesner for all of their hard work on the 2010 budget.

Commissioner Pluckhorn arrived at 8:18pm.

Administrator Chesner and Commissioner Shelley mentioned that they met with the district's insurance broker earlier today and reviewed the proposals received from VFIS, First Responder Insurance and Selective. Although the costs to remain with VFIS for our general insurance and utilizing the State of New Jersey plan for workers compensation insurance was \$6,557 greater than that of the First Responder Insurance, it was their recommendation to remain with VFIS. They went on to say that we have been happy with how promptly claims have been handled in the past and the flexibility the district has with VFIS. After a brief discussion, it was decided by the Board to remain with VFIS and enter into the State of New Jersey Workers Compensation plan that will become effective January 1, 2010.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Chief Green mentioned that the station held their Battalion Chief's elections and that Jeff Nutt was nominated and elected as Battalion Chief at Station 312 and the same for Pete Witkowski at Station 311.

Asst. Chief Poole wished everyone present a happy and safe holiday.

Fire Police Lieutenant Boileau also wished everyone a happy and safe holiday and mentioned that the Annual Fire Police Association Meeting in January will be held at Station 313.

On a motion by Commissioner Bowman, seconded by Commissioner Bixby, the regular meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karl A. Shelley
Secretary/Clerk

