

**MOUNT LAUREL FIRE DISTRICT #1
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

February 18, 2014

Fire Department Headquarters Station
Meeting Minutes #2

IN ATTENDANCE:

1. Commissioner Cornue
2. Commissioner Roura
3. Commissioner Shestack
4. Commissioner Hamilton
5. Chief of Department Colucci
6. Deputy Chief Burnett
7. Administrator Jones
8. Solicitor Braslow

NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

1. Commissioner Ridenour

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Roura at 8:01 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence observed.

Public announcements were read by Commissioner Hamilton.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Shestack made a motion to approve the minutes of the 12/2/13 Special Meeting and 12/12/13 Special Meeting that was seconded by Commissioner Cornue. The motion was approved by the Board with Commissioner Hamilton abstaining.

Commissioner Cornue made a motion to approve the 12/16/13 Regular Meeting minutes that was seconded by Commissioner Roura. The motion was approved by the Board with Commissioner Shestack abstaining.

Commissioner Shestack made a motion to approve the 1/20/14 Regular Meeting minutes that was seconded by Commissioner Cornue. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

RESOLUTIONS:

None.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Administrator Jones reported that Commissioner Ridenour had reviewed the monthly bills last week and did not have any questions.

Commissioner Shestack made a motion to approve February 2014 monthly bills totaling \$533,469.43 that was seconded by Commissioner Cornue. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

MONTHLY REPORT BY ADMINISTRATOR:

The Administrator had submitted his monthly report to the Board for their review prior to the meeting. There were no questions or comments from the Board. Commissioner Roura commented that the annual election last Saturday went smoothly and thanked Administrator Jones for his efforts in coordinating everything. Administrator Jones thanked the Commissioners and staff that gave up their Saturday to man the polls and help make everything run smoothly. Chief of Department Colucci stated that he observed some confusion among several voters about the wording of the budget question on the ballot, specifically the term "amount to be raised by taxation". He asked if there was anything that we can do to assist voters in understanding that question through an interpretive statement. Commissioner Roura didn't think that we can have an interpretive statement on the budget ballot question and Solicitor Braslow confirmed that this was correct. Commissioner Roura offered to tinker with the wording of the ballot question for review by Solicitor Braslow for next year's election. Administrator Jones added that if we change the wording, we would also need to send it up to the State DCA for their concurrence.

BOARD QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT:

Chief of Department Colucci had submitted his monthly report to the Board for their review prior to the meeting. There were no questions or comments from the Board. He noted that Firefighter Callahan has successfully completed his Bachelors degree and that he has thanked the Board for authorizing his tuition assistance request.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None.

OTHER MATTERS:

The Administrator announced the "unofficial" results of the annual election, which would become official as soon as the County certifies the mail-in ballot totals.

COMMENTS OF FIRE DISTRICT PROFESSIONALS:

Solicitor Braslow commented that once again this year, there were several newspaper articles around the State that pointed out the low voter turnout at the annual election, although they noted that the weather may have had more of an impact this year.

COMMENTS OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Shestack referred to legislation that was vetoed at the end of 2013 by Governor Christie that would have required sprinkler systems in new residential homes and hoped that it would be reintroduced again because it was a good thing. He added that a friend of his from Holiday Village had recently asked him about fire hydrants in their neighborhood that were covered up by snow after their streets were plowed. Chief of Department Colucci had informed him that fire hydrants in Holiday Village should be cleared by the contractors that they hire to plow the snow and that we do our best to remind all homeowner associations that this needs to be done. Commissioner Shestack suggested that we should put something up on our website to educate residents about what they should do if their fire hydrant is blocked by snow. His Holiday Village friend appreciated the information and hoped to get it into their next monthly newsletter.

Commissioner Roura noted that the Board will hold a Special Meeting on 3/4/14 to swear in the re-elected Commissioners and for Board reorganization. He would like to spend some time at that meeting discussing the proposed Facilities Maintenance bond issue. Administrator Jones asked Solicitor Braslow if there were any restrictions that the Board should be aware of regarding Special Elections and when they can be held. Solicitor Braslow replied that he knows of no restrictions and that the Board can hold a Special Election anytime that it wants.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None.

Resolution #2014-15 "Closing of Meeting Pursuant to Open Public Meetings Act". Commissioner Shestack made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Hamilton. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Commissioner Shestack commended Personnel Assistant Delp for her efforts in putting together the annual banquet and that it was a really nice time.

**THE OPEN SESSION ENDED AT 8:20 PM.
A CLOSED SESSION BEGAN AT 8:21 PM.
THE CLOSED SESSION ENDED AT 8:30 PM.**

Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to adjourn the meeting that was seconded by Commissioner Shestack. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:31 PM.