

**MOUNT LAUREL FIRE DISTRICT #1**  
**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
November 17, 2014  
Fire Department Headquarters Station  
Meeting Minutes #15

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

1. Commissioner Cornue
2. Commissioner Ridenour
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 Roura (arrived @ 8:24 PM)

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Shestack at 8:05 PM.

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

Public announcements were read by Commissioner Hamilton.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

Resolution #2014-57 "Appointment of Justin Z. Dunn to Junior Membership in the Mount Laurel Fire Department".  
Commissioner Ridenour made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Cornue. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

**FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

Commissioner Ridenour reported that he had reviewed the November 2014 monthly bills and questioned Administrator Jones about a bill to repair a leaking gas line at Station 361 that was adequately answered. Commissioner Ridenour made a motion to approve November bills totaling \$631,433.17 that was seconded by Commissioner Hamilton.

**MONTHLY REPORT BY ADMINISTRATOR:**

The Administrator had submitted his monthly report to the Board for their review prior to the meeting. He asked the Board for approval to schedule the Public Hearing on the proposed LOSAP changes as the 1<sup>st</sup> order of business at the 12/1/14 Special Meeting. He has to notify the volunteer membership about the meeting to meet the requirements of the State Statute and also advertise it as a legal notice. He advised the Board that in order to include the Capital Improvement Program budget in the 2015 Budget, we have to have a Special Meeting / Election to approve it and he wanted to do this as the 2<sup>nd</sup> order of business at the 12/1/14 Special Meeting. Commissioner Shestack apologized for not being at the last meeting and asked if the Board had discussed and approved the proposed LOSAP changes and Commissioner Cornue replied that they had. Commissioner Shestack affirmed his support and asked the Board if anyone objected to holding the required LOSAP Public Hearing and Special Meeting on 12/1/14. He explained what the Special Meeting / Election process for the Capital Improvement Program involved and why it had to be done. Commissioner Ridenour asked him if the Public Hearing and Special Meeting were open to the public and does it require legal notice advertisement. Administrator Jones replied that both are required to be open to the public and were intended for the Board to address any questions that the public has.

Chief of Department Colucci asked Administrator Jones if Supervising Mechanic Skeenes had spoken to him about including 2 new pickup trucks in the 2015 Capital Improvement Program budget instead of the 1 that he was proposing. Administrator Jones replied that he had not but that he did provide him with State Contract specifications and a price quote to replace the existing pickup truck because the undercarriage was rusting out badly but he didn't know why we would be considering 2 of them. Chief of Department Colucci asked the Board to consider replacement of the existing pickup truck and the existing Shop Truck. He added that the Shop Truck was almost 20 years old and wasn't suitable for plowing but replacing it with another pickup truck would give us 2 vehicles for snow plowing and

towing the boats and trailers that we have. Administrator Jones stated that he knew that Supervising Mechanic Skeenes was in favor of selling the Shop Truck and replacing the pickup truck but it is a surprise that he wanted to replace both of them with pickup trucks because we rarely have a need to use both of these vehicles at once. Chief of Department Colucci felt that that replacing the current Shop Truck and our current pickup truck with 2 new pickup trucks was important because they are used often to move things between the stations and to tow the boats and trailers and he was concerned that we would run into a problem if we needed to do that at the same time the shop pickup truck was being used by the Shop staff. Administrator Jones didn't think that the Shop mechanics were requesting 2 new pickup trucks to replace these vehicles because they were more than willing to share 1 pickup truck tow the boats and trailers on the rare occasions that we had to do this. Commissioner Shestack clarified that it seems the Administrator and Supervising Mechanic were requesting 1 new pickup truck and recommending that we liquidate 2 existing vehicles in return and that we need to make a decision tonight so that this can be placed on the 12/1/15 Special Meeting agenda. Chief of Department Colucci felt that if we can spare the \$60,000 being requested, we should obtain 2 new pickup trucks so that we can properly operate. Administrator Jones clarified that he put \$60,000 in the budget as a placeholder because Supervising Mechanic Skeenes had not yet finished researching the State Contracts and had not come up with the final cost yet. He added that he did not put that figure in the budget with the intent to spend it all because we still have to make some cuts in order to finalize the 2015 Budget. Chief of Department Colucci stated that if the will only budget to purchase 1 pickup truck, then he would not be in favor of liquidating the Shop Truck. Administrator Jones added that Supervising Mechanic Skeenes believed that the Shop would be able to manage and operationally support towing the boats and trailers with a single new pickup truck and save some money by liquidating the existing Shop Truck and pickup truck while they still have some value. Deputy Chief Burnett stated that the pickup truck gets used for a number of things besides towing the boats and trailers and that only having 1 to share with the Shop was going to create problems. Commissioner Hamilton asked how bad the rust on the pickup truck is and Chief of Department Colucci replied that it is bad and the vehicle really should be taken out of service today. He repeated that it was his recommendation that we replace both vehicles for under \$60,000 and if we can't afford to purchase a 2<sup>nd</sup> snowplow package as part of it, that we purchase it separately later on. Commissioner Ridenour clarified that the Shop Truck would be replaced with a 2<sup>nd</sup> pickup truck customized with some bed storage boxes to hold some tools and supplies for the mechanics. Commissioner Ridenour felt that we still needed to cut some money out of the 2015 Budget proposal and that only buying 1 vehicle would help us with that.

Administrator Jones stated that the Expedition command vehicles are equipped for towing and are heavy duty enough to tow the boats and the trailers when necessary, which is very infrequent. He did not think that the Shop needed another vehicle to take to the stations when they pick up a vehicle when the spare Battalion Chief Expedition is sitting in the Shop every day. Commissioner Ridenour asked if our apparatus could tow the boats and trailers and Chief of Department Colucci replied that they cannot. Chief of Department Colucci did not like relying on using the command vehicles to tow the boats and trailers because they might be needed to respond to emergencies. If we can only replace the existing pickup truck and still want to liquidate 2 existing vehicles, he would advise the Shop that the new pickup truck has to be available for towing whenever it is needed. If, however, we intend to dedicate that vehicle to the Shop, then we need to purchase 2 of them to maintain operational readiness. Commissioner Cornue felt that this makes sense to him and Commissioner Hamilton agreed. Commissioner Roura was fine with that and Commissioner Shestack agreed with the request by Chief of Department Colucci to include 2 new pickup trucks for \$60,000.

#### **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. He reported that one of our junior members attends Lenape High School and wanted to do a documentary about becoming a firefighter for his Communications II class. Solicitor Braslow added that he looked at the release form that they were asking the Board to sign and stated that it was not a standard release form and suggested substantial modifications had to be made before he could be comfortable with the Board signing it. Commissioner Shestack asked him what changes needed to be made and Chief of Department Colucci provided them with some of the details on what the project would involve. Interviews would be filmed with new applicants going through the membership process to show what it takes to actually become a firefighter with our Department. Solicitor Braslow added that there were no limitations in the release about how the product could be used or who could use it, leaving the Board completely without the ability to control its' dissemination. He added that they wanted the Board to indemnify and hold them harmless against anything that might possibly come up. Deputy Chief Burnett felt that we should be able to review and approve it before it is released to anyone for any purpose. Commissioner Shestack felt that we should tell the junior member that we have reviewed this with our counsel and that the release form is unacceptable. He expressed his concern about filming in the fire stations and on the fire apparatus because of concerns that the State has expressed about those activities. Commissioner Roura said he doesn't have a problem with the project itself but that maybe we need to come up with a release that is worded the way we want it. Commissioner Ridenour felt that the release is probably well intentioned but that Solicitor Braslow made a lot of great points and we should not ignore them. Chief of Department Colucci stated that he will meet with the junior member and express the Boards' concerns.

Chief of Department Colucci announced the line of duty death of a Cinnaminson Fire Department career Lieutenant Chris Hunter and provided the Board with details that he was aware of.

Commissioner Roura asked him how the VCOS conference in Tampa was and he replied that it was a good conference with a lot of good information about combination departments.

Commissioner Shestack asked Administrator Jones about the Architect bids and he replied that bids were opened for the Architectural work on 10/30 and the Civil Engineering work on 11/13 and that the bids came in lower than we expected, so there is a good possibility that we won't have to spend nearly as much in professional services as we had anticipated. We are reviewing them and plan to have the Building & Grounds Committee interview the top candidates soon. Once the Committee completes this, they will present the Board with a recommendation for appointments in December so that we can get going and hopefully get out to bid in February.

Commissioner Hamilton asked the Chief of Department about the leave of absence / inactive members listed in his monthly report and Chief of Department explained that most of them are members that are away in college or are out of service with medical issues.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Building and Grounds:** Commissioner Ridenour thanked Administrator Jones' for all of the hard work that he has put into the professional service selection process. He thinks that we'll be very happy with the renovations that are being planned and that we are going to come in under budget as well.

**Labor/Management:** Commissioner Cornue reported that things are moving along with the LOSAP changes taking up a majority of their discussions. He added that Battalion Chief Bigoss and Captain McCorkle have been sitting in on some meetings, which allowed them to provide input on a number of issues.

**COMMENTS OF FIRE DISTRICT PROFESSIONALS:**

None.

**COMMENTS OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioner Ridenour asked the Chief of Department about the e-mail that he had sent out regarding the improper storage of a US flag in a members' locker and whether the issue had been resolved. Chief of Department Colucci replied that changes have been made and the issue resolved with the individual involved. Some members didn't like that he had singled out the lockers at Station 363 only, but that was where he found the problem and he made no apology for it.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

None.

Resolution #2014-58 "Closing of Meeting Pursuant to Open Public Meetings Act". Commissioner Ridenour made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Roura. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

**THE OPEN SESSION ENDED AT 8:51 PM.  
A CLOSED SESSION BEGAN AT 8:52 PM.  
THE CLOSED SESSION ENDED AT 9:07 PM.**

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

**THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:08 PM.**