

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

June 20, 2016

Fire Department Headquarters Station  
Meeting Minutes #8

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

1. Commissioner DiPietrantonio
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

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Ridenour at 8:02 PM.

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

Public announcements were read by Commissioner Hamilton.

**ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION:**

Resolution #2016-19 "Appointment of Derek Riker to Active Membership in the Fellowship Fire Company #2 and the Mount Laurel Fire Department". Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Shestack. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board. Commissioner Hamilton administered the oath of office to the new member.

The Board took a brief recess at 8:06 PM so that the new member's family could take pictures. The Board reconvened the meeting at 8:15 PM.

**FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

Commissioner Shestack reported that he had met with Commissioner Roura and the Chief of Department on Saturday and that Commissioner Roura advised him that he had reviewed the monthly bills for this month and that all were in order. Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the payment of monthly bills totaling \$712,674.82 that was seconded by Commissioner Shestack. 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 comments or questions from the Board.

**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 comments or questions from the Board.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Labor/Management:** Commissioner Shestack reported the Committee met tonight and the main topic discussed was about increasing the availability of drivers for the duty crews.

**OTHER MATTERS:**

None.

**COMMENTS OF FIRE DISTRICT PROFESSIONALS:**

Solicitor Braslow reported that the bill to move our annual election date to November has been stuck in the Assembly Judiciary Committee for some time and that Assemblymen Singleton is trying to get it transferred over to his Local Government Committee so that he can hold a hearing and see if he can get it posted for a vote. Solicitor Braslow is also trying to schedule a meeting with Senator Turner to go over any concerns that she may have and that he has heard that Senator Beech is trying to have the Senate version of the bill posted for a vote in the Senate. He doesn't believe that anything will be finalized before our next election in February 2017, but he wanted to let everyone know that things seem to have come to a halt as usual.

He reported that he appeared before the Local Finance Board (LFB) earlier this month regarding his Cherry Hill FD Training Facility application and he left more confused than ever. They have denied both of his appeals, so his only remaining option is to appeal to the Appellant Division so that a court can address it. It seems that the LFB has denied his appeal based on Attorney General's office guidance but he has not been able to get them to give him a copy of that ruling. It also appears that they are concerned about the financing of the project and the fact that Camden County already has a fire training facility, which he disagreed with and advised him that the Cherry Hill taxpayers had approved the project and the financing that was required. He felt that they were now setting a new standard that required them to "like" a project and if they did not, they would deny applications and the applicant's ability to amend their budget. He advised him that this was contrary to the standard provided for in the statutes. He felt that he has a reasonable chance to have their denial overturned on appeal but has to wait for the official LFB resolution denying his application to be released before he can file an appeal with the Appellant Division. He believed that the Appellant Division judge will set up a conference to try and settle the matter before it goes before a 3 judge panel.

He felt that the LFB is thoroughly confused and doesn't really have a good handle or reason for their refusal to approve the project and what constitutes the definition of a "firehouse", which today would usually include training facilities and other things such as office space, a meeting room and space dedicated to things other than the storage of fire apparatus.

**COMMENTS OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS:**

None.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

None.

Resolution #2016-20 "Closing of Meeting Pursuant to Open Public Meetings Act". Commissioner Shestack made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner DiPietrantonio. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

**THE OPEN SESSION ENDED AT 8:29 PM.  
A CLOSED SESSION BEGAN AT 8:30 PM.  
THE CLOSED SESSION ENDED AT 8:39 PM.**

Chief of Department Colucci reported that the Burlington County Firefighter 1 graduation will be held on 6/30/16 and that we have 2 members graduating. If anyone on the Board would like to attend, it is being held at the Burlington County Institute of Technology and starts at 7:30 PM. Commissioner Ridenour suggested that he get a notice out about it so that everyone is aware of it.

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

**THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:40 PM.**