

**MOUNT LAUREL FIRE DISTRICT #1  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING / WORK SESSION**

November 4, 2015

Fire Department Headquarters Station

Meeting Minutes #16

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Shestack @ 8:06 PM.

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

The Public Announcements were read by Commissioner Hamilton.

**ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS:**

Commissioner Shestack wanted to acknowledge and recognize the dedication and 9 years of service that Commissioner John Cornue has given to the Fire District and our residents as a Fire Commissioner. He also thanked John's wife Tish for allowing this amazing individual to give so much of himself. Commissioner Shestack presented Commissioner Cornue with a small gift of appreciation from the Board. Commissioner Cornue remarked that it has been an honor and a privilege to be a part of this organization.

Resolution #2015-62            "Resolution to Recognize the Service and Dedication of John I. Cornue to the Mount Laurel Fire District #1 as a Member of the Board of Fire Commissioners". Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Roura. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Commissioner Hamilton thanked Commissioner Cornue for his contributions and that it has been a pleasure knowing and working with him. Commissioner Roura thanked Commissioner Cornue for all of the things that he has taught him over the years and that it's been a pleasure working with him. Commissioner Ridenour thanked Commissioner Cornue for everything that he has done for him and the Board. Administrator Jones thanked him for all of their "parking lot" conversations after meetings. Chief of Department Colucci thanked him for his 9 years of service on the Board and that it has been a pleasure to work with him during that time. Deputy Chief Burnett thanked Commissioner Cornue for his service to the community and wished him and his family the best.

Commissioner Shestack noted that the next 3 resolutions were previously adopted by the Board at the 10/19/15 Regular Board meeting so that the promotions could take place. He thanked everyone in attendance tonight for witnessing them take the oath of office.

Commissioner Hamilton read aloud Resolution #2015-51 "Provisional Promotion of Christopher R. Santone to the Position of Battalion Chief for the Year 2015". Commissioner Ridenour administered the oath of office and Chief of Department Colucci presented Battalion Chief Santone with his new badge and collar insignia.

Commissioner Hamilton read aloud Resolution #2015-52 "Promotion of Daniel J. Opizzi to the Position of Captain for the Year 2015". Commissioner Ridenour administered the oath of office and Chief of Department Colucci presented Captain Opizzi with his new badge and collar insignia.

Commissioner Hamilton read aloud Resolution #2015-53 "Promotion of Martin J. Gaynor, Jr. to the Position of Lieutenant for the Year 2015". Commissioner Ridenour administered the oath of office and Chief of Department Colucci presented Lieutenant Gaynor with his new badge and collar insignia.

Resolution #2015-58            "Provisional Appointment of Patrick W. Bigoss to the Part-Time Position of Training Officer for the Year 2015". Commissioner Ridenour made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Cornue. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Resolution #2015-59 "Appointment of James W. Arpino to the Part-Time Position of Fire Prevention Specialist for the Year 2015". Commissioner Ridenour made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Hamilton. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board. Commissioner Ridenour administered the oath of office.

Resolution #2015-60 "Appointment of James J. Bannar to the Part-Time Position of Fire Prevention Specialist for the Year 2015". Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Cornue. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board. Commissioner Ridenour administered the oath of office.

The Board took a brief recess at 8:38 PM so that the families of the members honored tonight could take pictures. The Board reconvened the meeting at 8:58 PM.

Resolution #2015-56 "Formal Adoption of Administrative Policy #04-044 (revised 10/19/15) Volunteer Stipend Program". Commissioner Ridenour made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Cornue. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Action on Resolution #2015-57 was tabled because after opening bids for the Supply of Electricity, it was determined that the cost of electricity provided by PSE&G was lower than any of the bids that were received. Our energy consultant will monitor electricity pricing over the next 12 months and advise us if things change.

#### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

Commissioner Cornue made a motion to approve the 9/21/15 Regular Meeting minutes that was seconded by Commissioner Roura. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board with Commissioner Hamilton abstaining.

Commissioner Ridenour made a motion to approve the 10/5/15 Special Meeting and 10/19/15 Regular Meeting minutes that was seconded by Commissioner Cornue. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

#### **OTHER MATTERS:**

Commissioner Ridenour reported that there will a delay in the Station 362 emergency generator replacement project as we go through the minor site plan approval process required by the Township Zoning Board. He wasn't sure who was at fault, but in filing for the electrical permits required for the project, the Township informed us that all emergency generator installations or replacements require approval of the Zoning Board due to the potential for noise complaints by residents. He felt that we should have been advised of this requirement long ago by our Construction Manager, Architect and the Contractor because of their familiarity with the process. Administrator Jones stated that he did not agree with Commissioner Ridenour because it appears that this requirement seems to be unique to Mount Laurel and in response to past noise complaints that arose when commercial properties have added emergency generators to their properties.

He added that the site plan process is complex and that a number of items will need to be addressed. The Architect, Site Plan Engineer and our Construction Manager have all pledged to fully assist us in filing the Site Plan Application and any documents that are required to be submitted with it. In addition to the increased size of the generator being proposed, there may be issues regarding the size of the new concrete pad along with the addition of the dumpster enclosure on the other side of the building. Our professionals are attending a meeting with the Zoning Board professionals next Monday to review our plans and determine exactly we need to do before we appear before the Zoning Board at their 12/10/15 meeting. Commissioner Shestack wanted Solicitor Braslow to review the retention agreements for our professionals to determine if they are responsible for making us aware of this requirement. He felt that as our Construction Managers, New Road Construction should have known of our Townships' requirements and advised us accordingly. If this is going to cost the Board more money and they aren't willing to step up and pay for it, he wants Solicitor Braslow to be prepared to force their hand.

Commissioner Ridenour felt that we were fortunate that our Administrator is stepping up and doing whatever is necessary in getting the problems resolved because this is taking a lot more of his time than anyone anticipated and at the end of the day we will have to do whatever is needed to deal with it because we need to replace the emergency generator so that the entire building can operate when utility power is lost. Commissioner Roura asked how this will affect the project schedule and Administrator Jones replied that it will delay things by at least 6 to 8 weeks because the Township will not issue any permits for the work until the Zoning Board takes action. He

added that the delay will eat up any of the decent weather that we might have been able to use in December for the switchover work when the building will be without either electricity or natural gas.

**COMMENTS BY FIRE COMMISSIONERS:**

Everyone wished Commissioner Cornue good luck and best wishes on his move to Chicago and Commissioner Hamilton presented him with a going away present.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Battalion Chief Evans thanked Commissioner Cornue for all that he has done as a member of the Board over the years, that it has been a pleasure working with from a personal, professional and labor standpoint and that he has learned a lot from him.

Fellowship Fire Company President Jarry Jones thanked the Board for approving the changes to the Volunteer Stipend Program and added that he was disappointed that several members of the Board were not attired for the meeting knowing that they would be recognizing Commissioner Cornue's service to the Fire District.

Resolution #2015-61 "Closing of Meeting Pursuant to Open Public Meetings Act". Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Roura. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

**THE OPEN SESSION ADJOURNED AT 9:34 PM.**

**A CLOSED SESSION BEGAN AT 9:35 PM.**

**THE CLOSED SESSION ADJOURNED AT 9:46 PM.**

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

**THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:46 PM**