

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

September 6, 2016

Fire Department Headquarters Station

Meeting Minutes #11

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Ridenour at 8:00 PM.

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

The Public Announcements were read by Commissioner Hamilton.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Commissioner Roura made a motion to approve the 8/15/16 Regular Meeting minutes that was seconded by Commissioner Hamilton. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #2016-27 "Appointment of Steven L. Munoz to the Position of Firefighter for the Year 2016". Commissioner Shestack made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Roura." The motion was unanimously approved by the Board. Commissioner Hamilton administered the oath of office.

Resolution #2016-28 "Appointment of Michael J. Blair to the Position of Firefighter for the Year 2016". Commissioner Shestack made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Roura." The motion was unanimously approved by the Board. Commissioner Roura administered the oath of office.

The Board took a brief recess at 8:10 PM so that the families of the new members could take pictures. The Board reconvened the meeting at 8:26 PM.

Resolution #2016-29 "Establishment of Mount Laurel Fire Company #3". Chief of Department Colucci explained that adoption of this resolution by the Board will result in the establishment of a 3rd Fire Company strictly for the purposes of the Relief Association. It will provide an option for current and future career firefighters to join the New Jersey State Firemen's Relief Association instead of requiring them to join either the Masonville or Fellowship Fire Companies when they are hired. They will then be eligible for a burial benefit and/or relief assistance of up to \$5,000 annually should any of them ever have a need for it. There are no dues required for to join or maintain membership in the new Fire Company or any monthly or quarterly meetings to attend. Commissioner Roura made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Hamilton." The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

OTHER MATTERS:

None.

COMMENTS FROM FIRE COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Shestack announced that the MLFD softball team won the Mt. Laurel Recreation League championship 3 weeks ago. He thanked Commissioner Hamilton for coming to the game and providing towels for the players to use when it started raining really hard.

He also thanked Deputy Chief Burnett for putting up a tent and Firefighter Matt Gardner for helping dry off the bats and softballs that they were using.

Commissioner Roura reminded everyone that the Mount Laurel Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, 9/17/16 at Laurel Acres Park. Chief of Department Colucci reported that we are currently having problems getting enough volunteers to commit to attending and doing some of the events that we had planned to do with only 2 volunteers signing up so far. Commissioner Roura added that absent a better commitment from our volunteers, we may have to cancel the vehicle extrication demonstration that had been planned and just do a static apparatus vehicle display using on-duty career staff. As a last resort, he stated that he could call in career staff on overtime to staff the event with the 9 people that are needed but Commissioners Shestack and Ridenour both commented that they didn't think that it was appropriate. Chief of Department Colucci added that Battalion Chief Santone is coordinating the event and if we have a last minute surge of volunteers sign up, we'll do what we had planned to do but if not, we'll cancel the demonstrations that are not fully staffed. Commissioner Hamilton asked him why the Township didn't want us responding to calls and Chief of Department Colucci replied that they were worried about the safety of apparatus coming and going because the travel routes and parking lots are very congested during the event with a lot of people coming and going and he agreed that it could be a safety concern. Commissioner Ridenour asked him if there were an incentives that we could provide to our volunteers for showing up and participating and Chief of Department Colucci replied that there are already getting incentives for everything that they do through the LOSAP and stipend programs and he didn't know what other things might be helpful in motivating them. Commissioner DiPietrantonio asked him if the volunteers had provided him with any feedback on why they aren't signing up to participate and Chief of Department Colucci replied that they just don't respond when we put out the request for participants. She asked him if they were just too busy and he replied that they don't provide reasons, they just don't respond back. He added that this is also the weekend of the Wildwood Firemen's Convention but that it should not be impacting us because it is pretty much only attended by our convention delegates. Commissioner Roura asked him to keep the Board in the loop and let them know what the situation is by the end of next week.

Commissioner Hamilton congratulated the softball team on their championship.

Commissioner Ridenour stated that he was very happy to see the large turnout tonight for the swear-in of our 2 newest career staff firefighters.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None.

Resolution #2016-30 "Closing of Meeting Pursuant to Open Public Meetings Act". Commissioner Roura made a motion to adopt the resolution that was seconded by Commissioner Hamilton. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

THE OPEN SESSION ADJOURNED AT 8:38 PM.

A CLOSED SESSION BEGAN AT 8:30 PM.

THE CLOSED SESSION ADJOURNED AT 8:48 PM.

Commissioner Ridenour asked Chief of Department Colucci about the status of Quint 3614 and what we are doing to address it. Chief of Department Colucci replied that he and Deputy Chief Burnett had met with Emergency One representatives again last week and it was pretty clear that after discussing it further we are leaning strongly toward the purchase of a new piece of fire apparatus instead of spending a lot of money on extending the life of the current truck. A refurbishment of the truck would cost between \$500,000 and \$600,000, which is approaching 75% of the cost of a new truck. Refurbishment would use the existing engine, pump, body and ladder, which would leave a lot of the original components in service on a new chassis and cab. He stated that the Deputy Chief had briefed the Board at the last meeting about whether or not we needed to start considering what the best piece of apparatus that we would want to purchase to replace it. We also should look at our current staffing and response protocols and meet with ISO to determine what is best and is needed for our community. Emergency One apparatus are sold as part of on the Houston-Galveston Co-op and it would be cheaper for us to use the Co-op for replacement apparatus instead of going through the effort of writing a detailed specification and going out to bid like we did the last time in 2011. There is some flexibility on the configuration of apparatus sold through the Co-op, so there is some room for customization. He added that the Administrator was preparing a resolution for the Board to consider adopting at the 9/19/16 Regular Meeting that will allow us to join the Co-op and begin seriously looking at what we would want to purchase. He added that our current apparatus replacement schedule is not very coordinated, with the new KME apparatus being 4 years old and the Emergency One apparatus being 16 years old. We may want to consider accelerating the purchase of 2 or 3 pieces of apparatus now so that we are on a more spread out apparatus replacement schedule and not replacing so many pieces each time. He added that Quint 3614 is currently out-of-service, so the Board will have to decide whether to sell it "as is", understanding that we only received about \$85,000 for the other quint a few years ago and that it was in much better re-sale shape than this one. Commissioner Ridenour asked

him if it had to be in an operable state to sell it and Chief of Department Colucci replied that we would sell it "as is" and advise interested buyers up front of the problems that it has.

Commissioner Ridenour asked him for an update on the Masonville antique apparatus repair issue. Chief of Department Colucci reported that he had spoken with Masonville President Tremper earlier this evening to see where he was at in providing Solicitor Braslow with the documents that he had requested. He reported that Solicitor Braslow had e-mailed President Tremper on 8/24 asking for copies of the Masonville Fire Company by-laws, certificate of incorporation, constitution, meeting minutes from the past few years, copies of their annual filing with the New Jersey Secretary of State, federal and state income tax filings and any other documentation pertaining to their incorporation and tax exempt status. He reported that President Tremper has not provided Solicitor Braslow with anything so far. He added that they have only raised about \$2,000 so far on their "Go Fund Me" Facebook page and have not made any payment toward the \$11,000+ repair bill that they incurred. He did not believe that President Tremper knew the whereabouts of most of the documents that Solicitor Braslow was requesting.

Commissioner Roura 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 8:54 PM.