

**BOARD of FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MOUNT HOLLY FIRE DISTRICT No. 1**

*Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 2, 2023
37 Washington Street
7:00pm*

Call to Order:

Chairman McIlwee called the March 7, 2023 meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Mount Holly Fire District No. 1 to order at 7:10 PM.

Statement of Adequate Notice:

Director Donnelly read the following statement aloud:

Statement of Adequate Notice:

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and the right to attend all meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting the public's interest is discussed or acted upon.

In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire District No. 1 has caused notice of this meeting to be given by having the date, time, place, and agenda to the extent known thereof posted as follows:

- Published in the Burlington County Times on January 31, 2023.
- Published in the Courier Post on January 31, 2023.
- Forwarded to the Municipal Clerk for posting on January 27, 2023.
- Posted in the Fire District Administration Office.
- Posted at the Good Intent Fire Company
- Posted on the Official Fire District Website.

The Notice set forth that formal action may be taken.

Roll Call:

Present: Commissioner Sheppard, Commissioner Saucier (Arrival: 7:19pm), Commissioner Brown, Vice Chairman Fajgier, Chairman McIlwee

Absent:

Staff & Professionals: Director Donnelly, Clerk Brooks, Solicitor Sendzik-Haines

Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence:

Chairman McIlwee requested that all present stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and remain standing for a moment of silence for our departed members and those lost in the line of duty.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

March 7, 2023 Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting

Commissioner Brown offered a motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 7, 2023, as presented. Vice Chairman Fajgier provided a second to the motion. At call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

Aye: Sheppard, Brown, Fajgier, McIlwee

Nay:

Approval of Vouchers:

As prepared and presented.

Bill list held for June meeting.

Matters Presented by the Public:

JS presented questions regarding the positions of fire inspector which are listed in the 2023 MHFD budget. He also presented budgetary questions with respect to funding for recruitment and retention. Final comments included his desire for a junior firefighter program within the District.

RA presented questions related to recognition of former chief officers of the District.

Old Business:

Relief project update

Director Donnelly presented an update on the project citing access control and door issues which are precluding the District from occupying the building. The punch list items are slowly being addressed by the GC and the Director is hopeful that occupancy will occur by July.

Union Fire Company

A meeting with the executive board of the Union Fire Company is scheduled as previously discussed.

New Business:

Apparatus Replacement

The Director presented the need to discuss future apparatus acquisition(s) as timelines for delivery are running approximately 30-36 months dependent upon manufacturer. The Chief, Director, and Solicitor will discuss ideas to return to the Board in the near future for further discussion.

Resolution 2023-4 Executive Session

Commissioner Brown presented a motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters of personnel and contracts. Commissioner Sheppard provided a second to the motion. At call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

Aye: Sheppard, Saucier, Brown, Fajgier, McIlwee

Nay:

The Board entered into executive session at 7:21pm.

During executive session, the Director and Board discussed a request presented by the Fire Official for an increase in salary. Following discussion regarding hours worked, correspondence lacking submission to the Board and to the State, as well as other factors, the Board was not in favor of entertaining a salary adjustment at this time and will move forward with the hiring of a Fire Official/Fire Subcode Official as outlined in 2022.

Following discussion, Commissioner Saucier presented a motion to return to public session. Commissioner Sheppard provided a second to the motion. At call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

Aye: Sheppard, Saucier, Brown, Fajgier, McIlwee

Nay:

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 8:12pm.

Matters to be Presented by the Director:

Staffing & incident response

The Director again presented the need to discuss and plan for adequate staffing for fire response within Mount Holly Township. Presented were options of remaining volunteer with a more attractive stipend program, per-diem, part-time, and full career options. Each of these will be discussed with the solicitor and the solicitor and Director will formulate proposals and cost analysis for consideration in the 2024 MHFD budget.

Matters to be Presented by the Solicitor:

Staffing options and hiring discussions will continue with the Director.

Matters to be Presented by the Board:

No business presented for consideration or discussion.

Next Meetings:

With no additional items being presented, Chairman McIlwee announced the next meetings of the Board as follows:

Meeting: Board of Fire Commissioners
Date: Tuesday, June 6, 2023
Time: 7:00pm
Location: 37 Washington Street, Mount Holly, NJ 08060

Meeting: Board of Fire Commissioners
Date: Wednesday, July 5, 2023
Time: 7:00pm
Location: 37 Washington Street, Mount Holly, NJ 08060

Adjournment:

Lacking additional business or discussion presented for consideration, Commissioner Saucier offered a motion for adjournment. Commissioner Sheppard provided a second to the motion. At call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

Aye: Sheppard, Saucier, Brown, Fajgier, McIlwee
Nay:

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman McIlwee at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Saucier, Secretary
(As prepared by Director Donnelly)