

BOARD of FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
MOUNT HOLLY FIRE DISTRICT No. 1

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday April 3, 2024

17 Pine Street

7:00pm

Call to Order: Chairman Brown called the April 3, 2024 meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Mount Holly Fire District No. 1 to order at 7:05 PM.

Statement of Adequate Notice:

Chairman Brown read the following statement aloud:

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 4, 2024.
- Published in the Courier Post on January 4, 2024.
- Forwarded to the Municipal Clerk for posting on December 29, 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: Chairman Brown, Commissioner Fajgier, Commissioner Sams, Commissioner Saucier, Commissioner Sheppard

Absent:

Staff & Professionals: Clerk Brooks, Clerk Mangan

Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence: Chairman Brown requested that all present stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and remain standing for a moment of silence.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: March 6, 2024 Board of Fire Commissioners Meetings. Commissioner Sams offered a motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 6, 2024 as presented. Commissioner

Sheppard provided a second to the motion. The Board tabled approval of the March 6, 2024, minutes. At call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

Aye: Sheppard, Saucier, Brown, Fajgier, Sams

Nay:

Abstain:

Approval of Vouchers: As prepared and presented. Commissioner Fajgier offered a motion to approve the payment of vouchers, as presented. Commissioner Sams provided a second to the motion. At call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

Aye: Sheppard, Saucier, Brown, Fajgier, Sams

Nay:

Abstain:

Matters Presented by the Public: CJ- concerns about the Board being disrespectful to firemen, they have no keys to the building. AD- suggests that we record and post our meeting on YouTube or Department page. He feels we would benefit from this and improve public image and get a sense of community. LL- Congratulations to Lee Eckart. What's the next step toward a full paid Firefighter, do we have funding from the state? He would like to see everyone have a wonderful time and he mentioned his YouTube channel. He offered people to watch and observe his channel as well. His next question was about suggesting Robert Allen for a promotion. When will the firehouse be open and active for him to see the firefighters to say hi to like before. JG- he mentioned he is the Secretary for Firemen's Relief Association and back in November he asked if they would be promised the upstairs room to store records as per his conversation with Ryan Donnelly last year. Chairman Brown confirmed that is true. He also asked if he can hold his 5 meetings a year there. Lee Eckart let JG know that he is aware of that request and Commissioner Sheppard asked if she could reach out to him to let him know. The board confirmed that JG will go through Lee Eckart for confirmation on the meeting questions. TF- He stated he was back again for the 8th month with questions regarding his Workman's Comp case, he has not heard from anyone or our attorney, he would like to make an appointment for a solution. Chairman Brown suggested he make an appointment with Lee Eckart to help resolve the issue. PS- he stated that he is a Life member, and that all the Fire Stations in Mt. Holy have a plaque with our deceased firefighters name on it. He mentioned a firefighter that recently passed and another on hospice and asked that we put past members names on the board please. TA- If anyone wants to communicate to the board, what would be the proper email to contact. She also stated that it is nowhere online. Chairman Brown stated that Lee Eckart would be the go to email; Lee proceeded to inform TA that his email is [leckart@mounthollyfire.org](mailto:leckart@mounthollyfire.org).

Reports from Fire Personnel:

Chief's Report: Chief Mason presented the report, See attached

Fire Official's Report: Chief Mason presented the report, See attached.

Chief Apparatus Officer Report: Chief Mason presented the report, see attached.

Committee Reports:

Building and Grounds: Commissioner Sheppard wanted to thank everyone that helped out and was thankful for their work duty hours and effort. Chairman Brown mentioned that Terry Matthews reached out to them about a meeting at Relief.

Personnel/Policies: Discussed under Closed Session.

Apparatus and Equipment: Commissioner Sams asked for approval that the chief get an approval for a \$1000.00 purchase. Right now zero gas detectors are working on the vehicles; they cannot read the gas levels in the house when they receive those calls. He mentioned a majority of their calls are gas related. Can we purchase a new one to use while the other 3 go out for repair? Commissioner Sams also asked if we could figure out ordering appropriate fitting uniforms for our volunteers.

Planning and Services: No Reports

Budget/Finance and Insurance: Commissioner Fajgier stated that there are a few vendor issues that we are working through; he is in contact with vendors about outstanding payments.

Old Business: No Reports

New Business: Resolution Approving Officer Selection for 2024; Chief Thomas Mason, Captain Rob Allen, Fire Police Lieutenant John Achey; Commissioner Sams offered a motion to move the listed resolution, Commissioner Fajgier provided a second to the motion. At call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows: Aye: Sheppard, Saucier, Fajgier, Sams, Brown; Nay: Abstain:

Matters to be presented by the Board: No Reports

Director's Report: Director Lee mentioned that we are running out of the Firehouse full time, there are still things that are a work in progress but we are making great strides with the administration and the Board to get everything squared away and we are heading in the right direction and making progress. Proud of the momentum we are making and to stay tuned. Good things are coming.

Solicitor's Report: Kate Sendzik Haines, Esq- No Reports

Chairman's Report: No Report

Next Meetings: With no additional items being presented, Chairman Brown announced the next meeting of the Board as follows, if advertised: Meeting: Board of Fire Commissioners  
Date: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 Time: 7:00pm Location: 17 Pine Street, Mount Holly, NJ 08060

Closed Session: Motion made by Commissioner Sams to go into closed session to discuss personnel at 7:23 seconded by Commissioner Saucier.

Return to Regular session at 7:45 p.m.

Thomas Mason was sworn in as Chief by Director Lee Eckart and supported by their friends and family. Chief Mason proceeded by swearing in Captain Rob Allen and Fire Police Lieutenant John Achey.

Adjournment: Lacking additional business or discussion presented for consideration, Chairman Sams offered a motion for adjournment. Commissioner Fajgier provided a second to the motion. At call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows: Aye: Sheppard, Saucier, Brown, Fajgier, and Sams Nay:

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Brown at 7:58 p.m. respectfully submitted, Commissioner Fajgiel