

BOARD of FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MOUNT HOLLY FIRE DISTRICT No. 1

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday March 5th, 2025

17 Pine Street

7:00pm

Call to Order: Chairperson Saucier called the March 5th, 2025 meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Mount Holly Fire District No. 1 to order at 7:04 PM.

Statement of Adequate Notice:

Chairperson Saucier read the following statement aloud:

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., 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, 2025.
- Published in the Courier Post on January 4, 2025.
- Filed written notice with the Township Clerk for posting on December 29, 2024.
- Posted Written Notice on the Official Bulletin Board at the Township Municipal Building
- Posted on the District Website

The Notice set forth that formal action may be taken.

Roll Call: Present: Commissioner Logue, Commissioner Sheppard, Commissioner Gaskill, Commissioner Brown, Chairperson Saucier

Absent:

Staff & Professionals: Clerk Brooks, Clerk Mangan, Solicitor Stephen Raymond Jr.

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes: February 5th, 2025 Board of Fire Commissioners Meetings. Commissioner Gaskill offered a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 5th, 2025 as presented. Commissioner Brown provided a second to the motion. The Board approved minutes of February 5th, 2025. At call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

Aye: Commissioner Logue, Commissioner Sheppard, Commissioner Gaskill, Commissioner Brown, Chairperson Saucier

Nay:

Abstain:

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

Aye: Commissioner Logue, Commissioner Sheppard, Commissioner Gaskill, Commissioner Brown, Chairperson Saucier

Nay:

Abstain:

Commissioner Logue made a Point Of Order to suggest that we follow our historical procedure and open the meeting to public comment at this point. They asked if that was a motion, if so she would like to motion to move public comment back to its historical position on the agenda. There was no second. Motion was not passed.

RESOLUTION- 2025-008- Resolution Awarding A Contract For Legal Services to Stephen E. Raymond, Esq. of Raymond, Coleman, Heinold, LLP. As Solicitor. Commissioner Brown offered a motion to approve. Commissioner Gaskill provided a second to the motion

Roll Call: Commissioner Sheppard, Commissioner Gaskill, Commissioner Brown, Chairperson Saucier

Abstain: Commissioner Logue

Commissioner Sheppard requested they visit the Resolution to place public comment back, now that there is a solicitor in place. Commissioner Logue seconds the motion. The solicitor clarified for the record this would amend the agenda to move item #9 up to what will now be item #7.

Aye: Commissioner Logue, Commissioner Sheppard

Nay: Commissioner Brown, Chairperson Saucier

Abstain: Commissioner Gaskill

The solicitor stated the motion does not carry.

Commissioner Logue questioned if an Abstention counts or not, Commissioner Sheppard stated that it is half and half. The solicitor stated that the motion did not carry because there was no majority vote. Commissioner Logue asked again if an abstention doesn't make it a majority. The solicitor stated that it does not. Commissioner Logue thanked the solicitor for clarifying.

RESOLUTION-2025-009 RESOLUTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL AND CONTRACTS- FORMAL ACTION MAY BE TAKEN

Commissioner Brown offered a motion to go into Closed Executive Session at 7:11 pm. Commissioner Gaskill provided a second to the motion.

Roll Call: Commissioner Sheppard, Commissioner Gaskill, Commissioner Brown, Chairperson Saucier

Nay: Commissioner Logue

Commissioner Gaskill offered a motion to return from Executive Session at 7:56 pm. Commissioner Brown provided a second to the motion.

Roll Call: Commissioner Logue, Commissioner Sheppard, Commissioner Gaskill, Commissioner Brown, Chairperson Saucier

Nay:

Abstain:

RESOLUTION- 2025-010-Resolution Appointing a Director of Fire Services, Jason Carty. Chairperson Saucier asked for a motion. Commissioner Logue made a motion to amend, then apologized and then allowed the motion for Resolution 2025-010 to continue with guidance from Solicitor Raymond. Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-010. Commissioner Gaskill seconds the motion. During Roll Call Commissioner Logue asked for clarity from the solicitor “is this, motion, Resolution number 10 will have. You’re now doing what.” The solicitor explained “there was a motion for Resolution 2025-010, a resolution appointing a Director of Fire Persons named Jason Carty; there was a motion and a second”. Commissioner Logue stated “okay”. (The lights went out briefly when a switch was accidentally hit by a resident) Commissioner Logue made a motion to amend. The solicitor requested that because there was a motion and a second on Resolution 2025-010 appointing Jason Carty as Director of Fire Services, they should vote on that first before amending. Commissioner Logue asked for clarification again and the solicitor said to follow through with the existing motion before amending. Chairperson Saucier was asked to speak louder by the audience. They stated there is a motion and a second to approve the Resolution appointing Director of Fire Services. The solicitor added “with Jason Carty as” Commissioner Logue then stated they “have not named anyone yet”. Chairperson Saucier stated “yes, I said it at the original part”. Commissioner Logue asked if we had taken a vote yet. Solicitor Raymond stated that a vote was taken to appoint Director of Fire Service, Jason Carty. Commissioner Logue stated they thought we were taking a straw poll, and then a poll. Commissioner Logue apologized and thanked everyone for their patience. Solicitor Raymond explained there was a motion made, it was seconded, and this is the official vote now. There needs to be a vote.

Roll Call: Commissioner Gaskill, Commissioner Brown, Chairperson Saucier

Nay: Commissioner Logue, Commissioner Sheppard

Abstain:

Commissioner Logue made a motion to amend the motion on the floor. The solicitor stated the motions carries. Commissioner Logue stated to the solicitor “this is not how it was explained”. The solicitor stated “I am not following”. Commissioner Logue stated “clearly I am not following and that’s okay because the path was not laid out.” Commissioner Logue thanked the solicitor. Chairperson Saucier stated “The motion carries”.

Commissioner Logue stated “we are going to public comment now, right”. Chairperson Saucier “yes”.

Matters Presented by the Public:

Timothy Fuller (3 Dover Road Westampton) - 20 year member of the department this month. They read an excerpt from the meeting minutes of the relief Fire Co No. 1 2005. The audience asked that they speak into the microphone. There was a motion made by Ralph (Last name inaudible) to dismiss/expel Jason Carty second by Diana (last name inaudible), he has not run a fire call in 1 year. 2007 he was brought in, he was charged again for unbecoming of a member, for trash talking members of the firehouse. Terry Matthews motion to expel Jason Carty on April 7th 2007, second by Kevin Gimeno. Motion on the floor was unanimous. 18 out of 23 people voted for the expulsion. They stated they were the ones that brought the charges up on Jason Carty and the Board is causing a hostile work environment. Commissioner Logue responded with "I would redirect you back to Terry Matthews and his position on that subject today". They stated they never rescinded their charges against Jason Carty.

Louis Lopez (Levis Drive) - They wanted to give thanks to the EMT's and firefighters for helping with his mother a few weeks ago. (Inaudible) They asked Chief Mason if they believe things are going in the right direction. Chief Mason responded "If the recommendations of the 5 year plan are taken serious by the board, absolutely". They questioned the change of the agenda change for public comment and stated it should have been the original way. They also sent an email 6 days ago, they questioned if the Board had seen it. Commissioner Logue stated that they did not have a chance to check their emails. Louis directed the question towards Chief Mason. Commissioner Gaskill stated they received the email and will forward to Commissioner Saucier.

L. Sordano - They asked if Jason Carty was the records custodian now. Commissioner Brown stated that "he will be". They questioned the timing on that position taking place and the duties. Commissioner Logue redirected him to the Resolution and the details that the position have been explained to Mr. Carty and to reach out to Commissioner Gaskill or Chairperson Saucier regarding that. Chairperson Saucier stated that will be as soon as Jason Carty signs his contract.

The resident was asked to state their name and address by the solicitor. Francis Morgan (Willingboro NJ) - They stated they are new to all of this and just applied to be Fire Police. They questioned why the Board would elect an official who would debate something on Facebook and how they shouldn't debate on Facebook about a picture. Aren't we all taught about privacy? What does it tell you when they debate a private matter on Facebook? They believe everything will be on Facebook. They are from Connecticut and they have never seen anything like this. "You guys are a disgrace" They stated that if they had done that at their job, they would have been fired. Is any of the Board a part of the Fire Department or have loved ones on the department? Their fiancé is in the department and they are worried for their life. They worry about who is protecting them. They don't know much about Carty because they are not from here. "I google stuff and I know where people live, I know about people", why would you elect someone that is not safe for this department. "I come from a 35 year abusive relationship and yet you elected a narcissist". They are worried for their fiancé's life and that is why they joined Fire Police. "They will take every one of them down if something happens to him." "They have their license to carry and I will take every one of them down". They stated they have photos of 3 commissioners when there should not have been more than 3. They were escorted out of the meeting.

Eric McKinley (443 High Street)- They are submitting a written document regarding their email about chain of command and inappropriate messages that were sent to him through the Fire Department

Facebook page. They did not receive a response so they are submitting the document along with a complaint to Commissioner Gaskill who retaliated and fire them shortly after that meeting. There is a copy for every commissioner. They wanted to take a moment not only as a member of the Department but as someone who cares about the integrity of what they do. They choose to serve because this is bigger than them. It is about community and neighbors. They believe this is something that should unite them and not divide them. No personal agenda, politics or retaliation. They ask that everyone do their jobs appropriately. No games or things happening behind closed doors. Do the job with respect and not by influence. Respect the structure. At the end of the day all that matters is how well they serve the people.

Jennifer M (9 Manor Terrace)- They questioned if Robert's Rules of Order typically how this Commission runs things? Commissioner Logue responded "that has been her understanding". They notice that with the discussion of Resolution 2025-010 (appointment of Director of Fire Persons) a motion and second was in place when Commissioner Logue asked for an amendment. According to Roberts Rule the amendment should have been voted on before and if it was seconded, it goes into discussion. Then the amendment is voted on and then they would proceed to Resolution 2025-010. None of that procedure was followed and they found it as confusing as Commissioner Logue did. They also called it "cowardly" to move public comment to after closed session. They also stated that a lot of the members of the Fire District were there and it is "tragic" that they placed someone in leadership that the members do not believe in.

Michael Rothmel (33 Union Street)- they stated that they do not believe we should criticize the entire Board of Fire Commissioner, only the 3 to their right, Commissioner Gaskill, Chairperson Saucier and Commissioner Brown. They are "cowards" for going into closed session before public comment. They do not believe this vote is the end all, be all. There is a conflict of interest because Commissioner Gaskill's husband works for the Fire Department. They brought up a case, Scully vs Local Finance Board out of Pemberton and the details of the conflict of interest between someone on Council and the husband who was a part of the water department. They believe this will go to the department of county affairs because of Commissioner Gaskill's position on the board and the votes she has passed. It's "disgusting" that she did not excuse herself. They believe this is illegal and bad. They also brought up how Solicitor Raymond is also a conflict of interest because of his affiliation with Local Strategies. They also brought up the domestic abuse charges filed against Mr. Carty. Chairperson Saucier stopped the defamation of Mr. Carty. Mr. Rothmel read a quote from Mr. Carty's Facebook page and said it was a direct quote and not defamation. They also thanked Commissioner Logue and Commissioner Sheppard for their "ethical and "courageous" actions they took this evening. They look forward to things being righted.

Gina LaPlaca (Lumberton) - They stated that you would know her better as Mrs. Carty, "the battered woman that everyone has come to trash". They thanked the 3 commissioners for voting for their husbands qualifications and not based on vendettas. They also apologized as an elected official that have to be a part of a meeting where people cannot keep to the basic decorum and class, and not follow Roberts Rules and be heckled during their 3 minutes. They find it funny that everyone is concerned that their husband is a "wife beater", when multiple people attending the meeting have gotten in her face and stated that she is "not a victim of domestic abuse" and that she is in an "enabler of it" and "she deserves what happened to her", simply because she decided to attend a public meeting and support her husband. That is "disgusting". No one in that room cares about her safety except her husband and they are there to make a political point and have personal vendettas against her husband. They stated that he made a mistake and his record was expunged and that it is defamation of character. His record has been cleared and believes that Mr. Rothmel who is an attorney should know better. He has served his country and community. Laughter broke out and Mrs. Laplaca paused while the police

approached the resident with the outburst. They proceeded to list off all the attributes of Mr. Carty. He is a dedicated public servant. Mrs. LaPlaca paused again waiting to use her full 3 minutes. The solicitor stated that we do need to maintain decorum as this is a public meeting, so that the public can be heard. If there is not decorum they will be asked to leave. Mrs. LaPlaca congratulated Mr. Raymond for being appointed. They also stated that as an elected official there was nothing illegal about taking action before public comment tonight. She is very proud of her husband, he is a good man, a great father and great firefighter and no one should talk about her marriage except her. Commissioner Logue stated that if anyone tonight volatily or violently approached her and is a member of the department, she would like for her to coordinate with a member of the district to be noted and dealt with. Everyone in the building should feel safe and their comments should be heard and to please connect with a Board member to get the information to them. (Inaudible) Mrs. Laplaca pointed out a resident. That resident started screaming things at Ms. LaPlaca as she walked back from the podium. Mr. Carty also engaged in conversation with said resident. The solicitor and Chairperson Saucier announced a Call to Order. The resident continued to scream things at Mrs. LaPlaca. Chairperson Saucier stated that was the second time asking the resident to calm down, they stated a third time would result in being escorted out of the meeting. Commissioner Logue reminded everyone to remain decorum and at the end of the day "we are all neighbors" and need to be heard and give each other dignity and respect to be heard. Please listen to your friends and neighbors and what they are here about.

Jim Logan (Brainerd Street)- They reminded the Board that the last time Mr. Carty was elected, it resulted in a 500,000 settlement with Westampton that caused the tax payers money. Is that really what they want to be involved in? Chairperson Saucier stated that she cannot speak to what happened in Westampton and it has nothing to do with Mount Holly. That is a separate Township. He asked if she was aware of it. Chairperson Saucier stated that yes they is aware, as it was in the newspaper. Mr. Logan was asked to let Chairperson Saucier finish her statement. Commissioner Logue stated, would you like a back and forth, or would you like your questions responded to. Chairperson Saucier stated that has no bearing on what goes on here. Mr. Logan responded with "Well it should". Chairperson Saucier thanked MR. Logan for sharing.

Sean Kennedy (302 Garden Street) - They stated they are not a smart man but where there is smoke there is fire, they are pulling their application from the Fire Department, they do not approve of the drama the 3 commissioners are bringing and they are a shame of this town.

Gary Brotz (536 Garden Street)- They questioned about reoccurring development for the officials, as an accountant they have to keep up with their CP credits etc., they are wondering if the Board has to take classes to keep up with certain financial and personal ethics. As elected officials of the public who decide where tax payers dollars go, and trust on financial stability is important. They again ask the Board if this something they have to uphold as well to help establish public trust. Commissioner Logue thanked Mr. Brotz. Commissioner Logue also stated they personally sought out opportunities through the NJ League of Municipalities. Commissioner Logue recently attended a seminar for newly elected officials without intent for reimbursement. Commissioner Logue also attended classes at their day job that also pertain to their job on the Board and applauds his suggestions and comments.

Tom Hickey (Manor Terrace)- they mentioned that they attended the last meeting and have a background as a chef, they would love to help in getting the kitchen up and running, but they believe the Board may have bigger issues than that right now. They also mentioned that with all the tension in the room surrounding the newly appointed Director of Fire Services, that unless he is the Michael Jordan of this position, he thinks the Board should reconsider.

Amber (100 Madison Avenue) - They know there isn't much they can say to make a difference, but they want to point out that before signing the contract, the Director is already not setting a good standard. They hope this is worth it in the end to the Board.

S. Laraway (Branch Street) - They read off the list of reasons Jason Carty should not be Director of Fire Service. He falsely accused the resident of being a child Groomer through a Facebook Group called Mount Holly Politics using an alias. His accusations are morally reprehensible. He refuses to take responsibilities for his actions and that goes against his integrity. Despite the red flags they believe the Board is still supporting him. He urges them to reconsider. They presented a copy to the Board of them comment the resident believes is Mr. Carty's alias account

Tara Astor (Buttonwood Street)- They asked if the Board receives the full text explaining what the resolutions are in detail. Commissioner Logue commented that she received the Resolutions no more than 12 hours before the meeting but yes she does receive a full description. Commissioner Logue also mentioned that she received the Agenda and all other information 30 minutes before her swearing in. They also mentioned that are disappointed that there was a different agenda that was posted earlier in the week before the recent change. They hope the commissioners get more information on what they are voting on in the future. Commissioner Logue commented they are hoping that in the future with the new administrator that we will move forward with confidence and the standard that the public deserves.

Everysmeyer (203 Broad Street)- They are appreciative to the commissioners on the left for voting against Mr. Carty. They reached out to David Gazelle, past captain of the Fire Department, he is an example of what family is and what the Fire Department is about. He believes that Mr. Carty does not care for Preservation of history in Mount Holly. They mentioned a member who applied for the position and did not receive a call back and was ignored by the Board. They mentioned the members who could not receive keys to the Firehouse before the building was open. The name of the applicant was Scott Mitchell; they mentioned his attributes that would have made the Fire Department better.

Maureen Taylor Ford (Branch Street) – They also attend The League of Municipalities, they were informed by a lawyer there, people like them are considered Engaged active citizens, they mentioned there military background. They do not know Jason or Gina Carty and do not care to know them because they do not live here. They mentioned the Township Manager and how when they see him he looks away. They mentioned him having a high level of ADHD. They believe he does not have communication skills. They hear so much hate from neighbors. They asked the Board if anyone is military or doing anything on the streets. They mentioned that 5 firefighters are walking away because of the new Director. They mentioned they have a plot in a Mount Holly Cemetery. They hope Mr. Carty has a lineup of volunteer firefighter to apply. They also mentioned they better not get code enforcement. They mentioned that when the Board is slobbering at night, they are stalking the street because that is what Afghanistan did to them. It made them an insomniac. As a concerned resident they mentioned that the Board can be recalled and to consider that before making their decision. They read a misconduct of neighbor's explanation. They know they will vote regardless but they would like them to reconsider. They also mentioned the volunteers and how the Board sits behind the desk.

S. Reilly (25 Broad Street) - They asked what happened to the last attorney. Chairperson Saucier said "she resigned". Reilly overheard that the last lawyer asked the Board to review all 2 applicants. Chairperson Saucier commented "not privy to answer that". Audience reacted and Reilly asked them to "settle down". They mentioned the replacement attorney and complimented him. They mentioned they liked Jason and he may not like him now but he considers him a friend. They mentioned they are worried for Jason because he is the Michael Jordon of getting himself enemies and they hope the Board

is not setting him up for failure. They mentioned the remarks Mr. Carty made about Chief Mason about 6 months ago, and they questioned the hostile work space the Board is allowing with that. They hope nothing bad happens to Mr. Carty and if he gets in they hope it all goes well.

Anthony Diamanti (Joseph Place) - Addressed to the Board, they joined the department in 2023 and when they were they were not provided SOP's, they brought that to the Boards attention and they still have not received any documentation from the Board. They have a right for a safe work environment. They do not know Jason or his character but they believe firefighters do not feel safe working for him and it is creating a hostile work environment. The Board is making decisions that are running their volunteers out of the department.

Robert Allen- They were told they were not to speak on certain things. They told the Board that they work them. They appointed the Board and the committees. Why are certain individuals making decisions not within their committee and shutting keys off? They address that question to Chairperson Saucier, who answered "because it's the commissioner's office, and it's not necessary". Mr. Allen mentioned that if that is the case why a non-officer has access. Chairperson Saucier asked who has access and Mr. Allen replied with, you know. Commissioner Logue commented that they do not believe they need to name the individual but he can demonstrate it or the Board after the meeting, because as commissioner they would like to know why as well. If the commissioners do not stop there will be a problem. Commissioner Logue asked for clarification on his first comment about not being able to talk about certain things and if he was provided a policy stating that. Mr. Allen explained it was an instruction by his wife.

James York- their fiancé spoke earlier, they have 37 years in the department and this will probably be the last night they see him.

Nick Fisher (Newcomb Drive) - they do not envy the Commissioners job but they believe there is a consistent theme of not wanting Mr. Carty as the Director. They do not know Mr. Carty to comment but they have not heard good things and if appointment he will have an uphill battle. They believe he should get up to the podium to defend himself.

Casey Carty (119 Mill Street) - They thanked Commissioner Logue and Sheppard. They are concerned now for voting for Commissioner Gaskill and they are not surprised by Commissioner Brown and Chairperson Saucier's decision. They believe this decision of hiring Mr. Carty is a huge mistake that will have dangerous consequences. They feel horrible for the comments Mr. Carty said towards our current Chief Mason in a past meeting. They mentioned how the volunteer firefighters are not behind this. They mentioned how Mr. Carty does not care for her and she is concerned for herself and her autistic child. They believe this is a disgrace and they hope the Board is okay with that. They mentioned they appreciate Chief Mason and hope he stays and feels supported.

Tim young (Garden Street) - they mentioned they do intend to use the full 3 minutes and will be using a stop watch. (Silence) They mentioned how everyone just sat in silence for 2 minutes and 45 seconds so far and the reason for that is because they wouldn't have listened to a damn thing he had to say. Commissioner Logue "point well-made Mr. Young, thank you"

Cameron Mickey- They are there on behalf of their fellow firefighters and EMT's, they do not know Mr. Carty, but the volunteers are trying their hardest and work full time jobs. They mentioned how hard Chief Mason has worked for the department while working a full time job as well. They hope that Mr/ Carty will listen to the volunteers and the Chief and if he doesn't they will lose the volunteers. They also mentioned they do not want a paid department. They questioned the Board and if they looked at all the

applicants. They mentioned their family in Browns Mills and how politics have ruined it for his family. It causes a toxic work environment. They said "Thank you sir for the outstanding job you have done for us" to Chief Mason. They questioned the Board and asked them when the last time they visited the volunteers or sat with them. They understand the commissioners have lives and full time jobs but they would appreciate seeing them and socialize. They mentioned the motor vehicle accident on 38 and how hard they worked on that scene and how late they were there and continued to their regular job the following day and they would have appreciated the commissioner showing concern or listen to them vent. They wish Mr. Carty the best and no fail harm to anyone there. To his fellow firefighter they asked to not give up and please continue to get the engine out. Commissioner Logue responded with thanking him for his service. They mentioned that while they may have not seen her face, she has been in plenty of meetings with member and officers but does look forward to being seen more and would like to exchange numbers. Commissioner Logue also thanked him for keeping the community and her property and home safe.

Thomas Rossell- Firefighter for 43 years, they mentioned being a member with Mr. Carty's grandfather Ike Bozarth. They mentioned how the Board needs to do something about the trucks not being run during the day because they are tired of doing it themselves. Chairperson Saucier thanked him.

Jim Logue (Washington Street) - they called the Commissioner on the right "cowards" for not having integrity, ethics or morals to stick up for the public. They mentioned the move of the public comment to after the vote. They mentioned Commissioner Gaskill allegedly stating she was voting for Mr. Carty no matter what and not accept anyone else. Her ethics need to be questioned. They also alleged that Chairperson Saucier mentioned at the Spellbound Century Race that she is scared of Mr. Carty and would do anything he wants to not get on his bad sad and her ethics and morals have been compromised. They mentioned the raise in salary of the Commissioners this past year.

David Y (Rancocas Road) - they are proud of the people came and proud of the Commissioner who are speaking up on the left and questions the Commissioners on the right. He does not believe the Commissioners are listening. They questioned why the Commissioners are doing this. They are ready to cry. They asked if the Board is going to be held accountable if the Firefighters leave. The Board did not comment. They believe if the Fire Chief leaves they should be held accountable. They mentioned how they need transparency and how they will look into OPRA request. They thanked the public and mentioned they are proud of them.

Jason Carty (Middleton, Lumberton) - they thanked the board for their confidence in him; they look forward to working with all 5 of them. They thanked Firefighter Cameron Mickey for what he said earlier about taking politics out of it. They mentioned years ago how they consolidated 3 Firehouses down to one while they were a Fire Commissioner and how members threatened to quit. The ones who cared the most about the community and wanted to serve decided to stay and do so. They want to thank the 3 or 4 Firefighters that came up to them in the back and congratulated him and shook his hand and mentioned they are looking forward to the changes. He mentioned that some are afraid to talk because of the hostile environment. They also wanted to mention that the public who came to his wife earlier and got in her face and heckled her and said disgusting things to her should be ashamed. They say they are here to defend freedom, they are hypocrites. His wife ran for her life on September 11th, after the building collapsed and was knocked down by a dust cloud and spent a day in the hospital, After that she was in an abusive relationship for 9- 10 months after that. What happened at their house in 2022 is their business. He mentioned how Mr. Rothmel should know better than to slander, he should use the whole quote that, yes he was responsible for what happened, he had been drinking and messed up on his medication. (The audience laughed) Mr. Carty paused. The police came after an

argument and because she is an elected official they had to be thorough. The charges were dismissed, he never assaulted his wife, and he never put his hands on her, he is not an abuser and Mr. Rothmel as a lawyer should know better. If Mr. Rothmel continues to slander he will get himself in hot water. He mentioned Mr. Rothmel for leaving his signs out front. Shame on you for treating his wife like that. Commissioner Logue questioned Mr. Carty about a comment he posted on Facebook of an RFP that was posted for an attorney and where he saw that, because she was not privy to that knowledge. He said he will not debate about a Facebook comment, he mentioned that during his banter with Mr. Sams on Facebook that the Department uses the same process they have always used. Commissioner Logue apologized for interrupting and called to order and asked civility from everyone. Mr. Carty continued, that we use the same process for hiring attorneys throughout the years and that they can use RFP's or not put out RFP's, he is not privy to what the Board did regarding this hiring process, he hopes that answers Commissioner Logue's question. Commissioner Logue also mentioned that no one in this building should feel unsafe and if an active member is responsible they would like for them to be held accountable. Mr. Carty stated that as far as he knows, it was not an active member or Board member. Commissioner Logue mentioned they are ashamed by any member of the community that did act that way towards Mrs. Carty and we need to hold each other accountable and we need to follow policies and procedures, as for everyone else; you are invited into this building under the same standards you expect the Board to follow. They thanked Mr. Carty for his words. Mr. Carty agreed with Commissioner Logue.

Christopher James Leger (Church Street) - They would like to bring up that there is a Firefighters code of ethics by FEMA on how to act at these meetings. They read that code to the public. [Firefighter Code of Ethics \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/operational-plan/5083). They mentioned issues on Church Street and if they will ever get cameras there to apprehend individuals. They also would like a copy of SOP's; they know Chief Mason is trying to work on them. They questioned Commissioner Gaskill and Chairperson Saucier regarding this because they are on the Policy Committee and have not had operating by laws. Commissioner Logue thanked him and his colleagues help when she attendee one of her first meetings before she decided to run. He mentioned a firefighter handbook that she downloaded. They reached out to the Board before election regarding our policy handbook. This issue is close to their heart and she shares the frustration that a policy handbook has yet to be presented. If or when that happens, Christopher asked that it be uploaded to the website. Commissioner Logue directed his comment to Commissioner Gaskill and Chairperson Saucier. Chairperson Saucier thanked Mr. Leger.

Courtney Catrillo (Westampton) - They want to reiterate what their fellow firefighters have already said and wants to thank Chief Mason, for what he has done since she has been here and she stands with her guys, and he provided a protected environment for them.

Reports from Fire Personnel:

Chief Mason thanked the room. He works for them; he will not be forced out. He will stay and fight and hopes that Board sees how well he is doing his job. He is still going to work with the Board regardless of their differences. If Mr. Carty is willing to see this 5 year plan through, he is all for it and wants to make this a better place. If Mr. Carty is not and he is forced out "so be it", but he will continue to do his job and his guys will stay with him and make this place better.

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 mentioned they are still working with Ogren regarding the building checklist. She looks forward to working with Mr. Hickey in the kitchen and teaching him how to use the stove. Whoever is turning the gas off "Please Stop". They are reviewing 3 cleaning companies. Flagpole was fixed and they are ordering a new flag.

Personnel/Policies: Congratulations to Mr. Carty. Commissioner Logue has questions regarding the Chief adding two resolutions. Commissioner Sheppard mentioned they will be walked on with Tim Young with Resolution 2025-013. Commissioner Logue would like them to provide existing policies as soon as possible, they will help provide them if needed.

Apparatus and Equipment: Commissioner Logue asked if Commissioner Gaskill and Commissioner Brown should be speaking on this committee.

Chief Mason mentioned the 2nd out piece is still at the mechanic and hopefully they will have an update in a couple of days. Commissioner Logue asked if Chief Mason has had the opportunity to make the Board aware of Apparatus and Equipment Report before tonight and he mentioned that he just received that news tonight right before the meeting.

Planning and Services: No Reports. Commissioner Logue asked for an update on the air date of "Wednesday Child" Chairperson Saucier reported no update yet.

Budget/Finance and Insurance: No Reports

Old Business: Commissioner Logue corrected the minutes from last month, Clerk Mangan asked for approval of Minutes for February and Commissioner Logue said she did not receive them and she misspoke and she was diligently provided and thanks Clerk Mangan for her hard work and was sorry for the error.

New Business:

Resolution 2025-011- Resolution for Expectations of public Comment at Board of Fire

Commissioner's Meetings. Commissioner Logue made a motion to table this. Commissioner Sheppard seconds the motion and would like the solicitor to review the policy. Chairperson Saucier mentioned Commissioner Logue received it the other day. Commissioner Logue asked Solicitor Raymond if he had seen the policy and reviewed it with the Chairperson. He said that as he mentioned before the meeting, he had seen that policy and the social media policy and offered his opinion as there was no appointed solicitor and the Board can act on that opinion as they choose.

Roll Call: Commissioner Logue, Commissioner Sheppard

Nay: Commissioner Gaskill, Commissioner Brown, Chairperson Saucier

Abstain:

The motion to table **Resolution 2025-11** does not pass

Commissioner Brown makes a motion to pass **Resolution 2025-11**. Commissioner Gaskill seconds the motion.

Roll Call: Commissioner Gaskill, Commissioner Brown, Chairperson Saucier

Nay: Commissioner Logue, Commissioner Sheppard

Abstain:

Resolution 2025-012- Resolution for Social Media Policy for Mount Holly Fire District No. 1

Commissioner Logue makes a motion to table **Resolution 2025-012.** Commissioner Brown seconds the motion.

Roll Call: Commissioner Logue, Commissioner Sheppard, Commissioner Gaskill, Commissioner Brown, Chairperson Saucier

Nay:

Abstain:

Resolution 2025-013- Resolution Awarding Contract to VCI Emergency Vehicle Specialists Through Use of HGAC Procurement Process Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:34-6.2(B)(3). Commissioner Brown makes a motion to approve. Commissioner Sheppard seconds the motion.

Roll Call: Commissioner Logue, Commissioner Sheppard, Commissioner Gaskill, Commissioner Brown, Chairperson Saucier

Nay:

Abstain:

Commissioner Logue made a motion to walk on memberships. Discussion went on between the Board and Solicitor, and agreement was made to disregard that motion.

Resolution 2025-014- Appointments: Tim Young- Department Safety Officer

Jocelyn Oschell- Fire Police

Sean Kennedy

The Board agrees to accept Sean Kennedy's application and if he chooses to no longer join as he mentioned in his public comment he can do so. Commissioner Sheppard would like to encourage unity and membership and keep him on the walk on.

Commissioner Brown offers a motion to accept the appointments and walk on. Commissioner Sheppard seconds the motion.

Roll Call: Commissioner Logue, Commissioner Sheppard, Commissioner Gaskill, Commissioner Brown, Chairperson Saucier

Nay:

Abstain:

Matters to be presented by the Board: No Reports

Director's Report: No Reports

Solicitor's Report: Stephen Raymond Esq.- No Reports

Chairman's Report: No Reports

Next Meetings: With no additional items being presented, Chairperson Saucier announced the next meeting of the Board as follows, if advertised: Meeting: Board of Fire Commissioners
Date: Wednesday, April 2nd, 2025 Time: 7:00pm Location: 17 Pine Street, Mount Holly, NJ
08060

Adjournment: Lacking additional business or discussion presented for consideration, Commissioner Brown 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: Commissioner Logue, Commissioner Gaskill, Commissioner Sheppard, Commissioner Brown, Chairperson Saucier Nay: The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Saucier at 9:57 pm, respectfully submitted, Commissioner Sheppard.