

BOARD of FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MOUNT HOLLY FIRE DISTRICT No. 1

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday May7th, 2025

17 Pine Street

7:00pm

Call to Order: Chairperson Saucier called the May 7th, 2025 meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Mount Holly Fire District No. 1 to order at 7:01 PM.

Statement of Adequate Notice:

Director Carty 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, 2025.
- Published in the Courier Post on January 4, 2025.
- Forwarded to the Municipal Clerk for posting on December 29, 2024.
- 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 Brown, Commissioner Sheppard, Commissioner Gaskill, Chairperson Saucier

Absent: Commissioner Logue

Staff & Professionals: Clerk Brooks, Clerk Mangan

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: April 2nd, 2025 Board of Fire Commissioners Meetings. Commissioner Gaskill offered a motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 2nd, 2025 as presented. Commissioner

Brown provided a second to the motion. The Board approved the minutes of the April 2nd, 2025. At call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

Approval of Vouchers: Director Carty walked on Resolution 2025-19 for the retaining fee of \$5000.00 for Lomax Consulting Group regarding Green Acres and the sub division of the property for the new building, he went into detail about that bill. Solicitor Raymond and Director Carty answered Commissioner Sheppard questions regarding who chose Lomax Consulting.

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 Brown, Commissioner Sheppard, Commissioner Gaskill, Chairperson Saucier

Nay:

Abstain:

Resolution 2025-19: Walk on Lomax Consulting Group retainer fee of \$5000.00.

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

Aye: Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Gaskill, Chairperson Saucier

Nay: Commissioner Sheppard

Abstain:

Reports from Fire Personnel:

Director's Report: Director Carty presented the report, see attached.

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.

Safety Officers Report: Director Carty presented the report, see attached.

Committee Reports:

Building and Grounds: See Director Carty's report. Commissioner Sheppard asked Director Carty to please follow up with more information on Green Acres.

Personnel/Policies: No Reports

Apparatus and Equipment: No Reports

Planning and Services: No Reports

Budget/Finance and Insurance: Clerk Brooks mentioned that we are starting our Audit process.

Old Business: No Reports

New Business:

RESOLUTION 2025-16- Adoption of Policy for Junior Member Program. Director Carty went over in detail what this program will include. Commissioner Sheppard asked Director Carty how this Resolution differs from the one they passed last year and asked the Board if they knew the Resolution number for that Junior Program and when they passed it, Chief Mason mentioned that he believes it was November or December of last year. Director Carty clarified that this is just the policy that is being passed.

Commissioner Brown offered a motion to approve the payment of vouchers, as presented. Commissioner Sheppard provided a second to the motion. At call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

RESOLUTION 2025-17 Adoption of Policy for Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP) "Duty Crews". Director Carty went into detail what this policy involves. Commissioner Gaskill asked that if we do not receive funding from the government, will we still have this policy. Director Carty confirmed they will still have the stipend program in place and that the money is already in the budget. Commissioner Sheppard asked Director Carty more questions regarding the grant. Clerk Brooks mentioned the verbiage of the program. Commissioner Sheppard asked for a summary email once Director Carty and Clerk Brooks have a meeting. They also suggested tabling the policy until we have the correct verbiage. Commissioner Brown offered to adapt the policy and change the words later. They amended the name to be called Duty Crew Program.

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 Brown, Commissioner Sheppard, Commissioner Gaskill, Chairperson Saucier

Nay:

Abstain:

Matters Presented by the Public: Chairperson Saucier mentioned that there is a Sign In sheet that residents may fill out so that our clerk will have their correct spelling address for the record. Solicitor Raymond mentioned that is not required to fill the form out but it is helpful for the clerk.

1. Louis Lopez (Levis Drive)- They questioned the grant about NJ American Water. Director Carty responded that they did not submit it and the Board thanked them for their concern. They also

asked why the agenda is still changed. The Director responded that the agenda is still within guidelines and that he did change things around that residents asked for at prior meetings. They also questioned the lawsuit that Mt. Holly is involved in. The solicitor mentioned they will not comment on that. Louis thanked the Board for having him.

2. Glenn Eckart (321 Church St)- They mentioned they are the Emergency Manager Coordinator for the Township. They mentioned going to training with Mrs. Ford for the CERT Team. It is an emergency volunteer response team to be a part of for the community and they would love local volunteers to join them. They are attempting to rebuild this program and would love more support. If anyone needs information please contact him.
3. Jeff Eversmeyer (302 Broad St)- They questioned the Green Acres contract and why was this not included with the original building funding. They asked about the sounds system in the new building and how the Township was paying half for it. When the firehouse gets the permanent sound system will the township be paying half of that? Commissioner Brown directed him to ask that at the Township meeting. They also asked about maintenance in the building and who was taking care of that. They mentioned that the three Commissioners voted no on that last month and asked why. Director Carty corrected Mr. Eversmeyer that it was the opposite, the maintenance passed 3-2 last month approving a contractor for the building. They apologized for the misunderstanding. They questioned the duty crew program, Director Carty reiterated what he read in his report regarding the program and the funding and the details on what the program details. They also brought up a flyer from Stafford Township. Director Carty mentioned that a nonprofit could help with a flyer for the firehouse if they wanted to.
4. Christeena Johnson (2803 Monmouth Rd)- They wanted to thank the new Director, Chief and Board, this is the first meeting in a long time that appears to be for the good of the firehouse.
5. Maureen Taylor Ford (117 Branch St)- They asked when the safety outreach for the community will be and helping with smoke alarms etc. and how is this budgeted. Commissioner Brown mentioned that is an initiative from Red Cross. Director Carty mentioned that ABC is also included in that. He also mentioned that anytime they respond to a house or incident, they are to check the house for working smoke alarms etc. They applauded them for the Junior Program but are concerned about where the money will come from. Director Carty mentioned that any person that falls within the guidelines of the program is allowed to apply, and there should be no cost for the program except for volunteer's time. Director Carty also went into detail with Mrs. Ford regarding more of the program. They also asked Chief Mason what constitutes as a regular alarm. Chief Mason went into detail on what that means. Will there be a code of ethics for the new recruits. They commended the calm meeting and hope they continue to go this way.
6. Pierre Ford (117 Branch St)- They mentioned how outstanding the CERT Team training was and all the benefits of it. They also mentioned their wife's birthday tomorrow.
7. David (166 Rancocas Rd)- They applaud the professionalism in the meeting and the questions being answered. They also would like to thank the people that went out to help and volunteer. They did ask where the other Commissioner was, the Board let them know that she was absent today. They asked if they are publishing the budget. The Director mentioned that it is already posted. They also asked if there are any events at the Firehouse for children this summer.

Solicitor's Report: Stephen Raymond. Esq.- Will leave for their comments for Executive Session

Chairman's Report: Thank you to the Firefighter's for their amazing work in the wildfires.

Matters to be presented by the Board:

RESOLUTION 2025-18- RESOLUTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL AND CONTRACTS- FORMAL ACTION MAY BE TAKEN (if needed). Commissioner Brown offered a motion to approve the payment of vouchers, as presented. Commissioner Gaskill provided a second to the motion. Solicitor Raymond does not see formal action being taken. At call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:22pm. Commissioner Brown offered a motion to approve the payment of vouchers, as presented. Commissioner Gaskill provided a second to the motion.

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

Nay:

Abstain:

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 June 4th, 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 Gaskill provided a second to the motion.

At call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

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

Nay:

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Saucier at 8:27 p.m. respectfully submitted, Commissioner Sheppard