#### **BOARD of FIRE COMMISSIONERS**

#### MOUNT HOLLY FIRE DISTRICT No. 1

## **Meeting Minutes**

# Wednesday August 6th, 2025

## 17 Pine Street

## 7:00pm

Call to Order: Chairperson Saucier called August 6th, 2025, meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Mount Holly Fire District No. 1 to order at 7:08 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 Logue, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sheppard, Commissioner Gaskill, Chairperson Saucier

Absent:

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.

The auditor made a statement that the staff did an excellent job with the audit this year. He mentioned page 28 & 29 and the budget comparison and modification between line items. They mentioned there were negative variances in the budget. They went into detail the budget packet presented to the board

and said that it was a clean opinion and there are no comments on the backend. The synopsis has been prepared for advertisement and asked the board if they had any questions. Commissioner Logue questioned the sound system budget for \$60,000 and asked for clarification if that was for this year. The auditor stated they did extend that capital to 2025 if they would prefer to use that. Commissioner Logue also asked for clarification if the money budgeted must be spent, the auditor stated no, it will sit there until spent and went into example for Commissioner Logue on what or how the board could go about using the money.

Commissioner Sheppard mentioned that the audit has so much to do with Clerk Mangan and Finance Clerk Brooks hard work and the board of 2024. Commissioner Sheppard stated the changes and the move into the building and to be in the black during all that is a great testament to the hard work of the department and Board in 2024. They went on to thank Rita, Sam, Chief Mason, Nicole and Josh Brown.

The auditor did point out an error for correction on page 17, our annual election needs to be changed from February to November. Commissioner Logue also questioned page 5 and asked if there was an additional process if the board wanted someone to investigate the budget deeper. The auditor stated that this is the general yellow book procedure, and you would only go and do that if issues or problems were seen by the auditor. Commissioner Logue also asked for the page number again that had the error so the auditor went into detail and Commissioner Logue stated that it will also need to be corrected on page 7 and page 20 states that we need to approve the budget 60 days prior to the annual election and that will need to be amended as well. Director Carty asked if that applies if it is above the cap and goes to a referendum. Does language need to stay in for that? The auditor said he would have to investigate that. The solicitor made the public aware what the discussion between Director Carty and the auditor, they stated they did not believe that the language needed to be changed in the audit. Commissioner Logue thanked the auditor for their hard work.

The solicitor mentioned the Resolutions to the public. Commissioner Logue asked Director Carty if they were provided with the synopsis in the packet for the meeting tonight. Clerk Brooks mentioned that Commissioner Logue was provided that synopsis in an email that Clerk Brooks sent. The solicitor offered Commissioner Logue a hard copy to review in the meantime.

Director Carty mentioned in the Commissioner's packet there is a certificate of Commissioners for the Fire District No.1 Township of Mount Holly affidavit for all 5 Commissioner's to sign after the Resolution is approved. The Auditor wanted to clarify that what they were signing is not an approval of the budget, this is them signing that they reviewed the audit, this is a requirement that must be uploaded to the database or the audit will not be accepted. Commissioner Sheppard asked for clarification if everyone must read it, the auditor said yes. The Auditor stated that they specifically want the board to read page 4 & 5.

The Solicitor asked the Chairperson if they could take the 2 Resolutions out of order so that the Auditor could leave.

## Resolution-2025-31- Resolution accepting Annual Audit and authorizing publication

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

| Aye:  | Commissioner     | Logue, | Commissioner | Brown, | Commissioner | Sneppara, | Chairperson | Saucier |
|-------|------------------|--------|--------------|--------|--------------|-----------|-------------|---------|
| Comr  | missioner Gaskil |        |              |        |              |           |             |         |
|       |                  |        |              |        |              |           |             |         |
| Nay:  |                  |        |              |        |              |           |             |         |
| -     |                  |        |              |        |              |           |             |         |
| Absta | ain:             |        |              |        |              |           |             |         |

# Resolution-2025-32- Resolution certifying compliance with NJSA 40A:5A-17 (Audit)

Commissioner Brown offered a motion to approve, 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 Brown, Commissioner Sheppard, Chairperson Saucier, Commissioner Gaskill

Nay:

Abstain:

The Director and Chairperson thanked the Auditor. The Auditor told the board to call him any time with questions.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** June 4th, 2025, Board of Fire Commissioners Meetings. Commissioner Logue asked for clarification on the minutes and would prefer Resolution 2025-24 to say that they asked to postpone Julys meeting, not cancel it.

Commissioner Gaskill offered a motion with changes to approve the meeting minutes of June 4th, 2025, as presented. Commissioner Brown provided a second to the motion. The Board approved the minutes of June 4th Meeting Minutes, 2025. At call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

# **Approval of Vouchers: July and August 2025**

Commissioner Logue had questions regarding bills. AES had a decreased amount and questioned why. Director Carty stated that it was cheaper to go with a 3-year contract instead of a 1 year for the IT with the key fobs for the next three years. Commissioner Logue asked if they are the original vendor we purchased the key fobs through, Director Carty confirmed they were. They also questioned Dival Safety and Supplies. Director Carty gave the Commissioner information on the apparatus and why this is important for the function of the facility. Commissioner Logue asked for the life span and details and maintenance of that purchase and Director Carty went into detail of the apparatus and how the Chief, Officers and volunteers demoed the product and were all in approval. Commissioner Sheppard asked if that was part of Director Carty's vendor engagement. Director Carty let Commissioner Sheppard know he is improving our vendor engagement relations since coming on board and will continue to do so as he stated in his report to run efficiently. Commissioner Logue also asked Director Carty about the Home Depot expense. Director Carty stated that it was for the refrigerator. The original refrigerator was

measured incorrectly and did not fit in the member lounge. Commissioner Logue asked where the original refrigerator would be going, Director Carty let them know it will go in the bay to hold water for the volunteers more closely to the trucks. Commissioner Logue questioned whether it was redundant to have that in the bay when we have commercial refrigerators on the first floor already, they also asked if these appliances are running all the time, Director Carty said he could not speak to whether the commercial refrigerator is plugged in and being used and mentioned selling the refrigerator. Commissioner Logue also questioned Pipes Construction, Director Carty mentioned these are general monthly maintenance items that need to be done, not what our GC should be taking care of. Commissioner Logue also questioned the Byer Lock bill and asked if that was for another desk lock, Director Carty stated that one is for a lost key where they had to replace the lock to get into the desk and they would love to support local vendors but will look into better pricing. Commissioner Logue questioned the Continental bill as well, Director Carty and Clerk Brooks explained that it is an approved budgeted purchase and new PPE gear for the volunteers as well as new fire equipment. Chief Mason also went into detail of why we ordered in 2024 but received the equipment in 2025 to avoid a 2% increase.

As prepared and presented. Commissioner Logue 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 Brown, Commissioner Sheppard, Commissioner Gaskill, Chairperson Saucier

Nay:

Abstain:

## **Reports from Fire Personnel:**

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

Commissioner Logue asked Director Carty if they do the annual hose testing, Director Carty let Commissioner Logue know that a vendor completes that. Commissioner Sheppard apologized for interrupting and asked if Director Carty would prefer questions during or after the report is read, he asked for Commissioner Sheppard to let him finish reading the report. Commissioner Sheppard asked if he would prefer their questions at the very end or at the end of each section, Director Carty stated that was entirely up to them. Commissioner Sheppard asked if the Director takes meeting minutes with the line officer and safety officer meetings. The Director stated no, Commissioner Sheppard asked if the Director could, and the Director stated that it is not a requirement. Commissioner Sheppard stated that they were not sure why that couldn't be done. Chairperson Saucier asked the Director to continue reading his report. Commissioner Logue requested that they like for the training sessions to be accessed by the Commissioner calendar so the board can be aware of what is happening so they can inform neighbors and such and possibly attend. Director Carty mentioned some information cannot be posted for sensitive police work but what they can post, Firefighter Catrillo will keep that up to date. Commissioner Logue asked if we are being compensated for the training rooms being used. The Director stated that it would be a board decision. Director Carty believes as township we should be working together and utilizing each other's spaces. Commissioner Logue asked the Director to reach out to the township to see if they are in possession of SSA document or a Resolution. Commissioner Sheppard said they did not see a Resolution for approval of the SSA with the township just an amendment to the original one. Commissioner Logue mentioned how the Director has been working on updating and uploading the documents to our website and asked if we have physical copes of said documents for the

Commissioners to view. Director Carty referred to counsel and Commissioner Logue asked for the solicitor to investigate what the DCA requires for the district to submit and not submit so that we can get copies of the SSA. Commissioner Sheppard asked if this was something the solicitor would do, the solicitor stated they would.

Commissioner Sheppard asked what payroll company we were using. Director Carty stated he would go into detail when they get to budget and finances. Clerk Brooks stated Prime Point.

Commissioner Logue asked Director Carty on behalf of tiller truck training if we do not have anyone on staff that can train and certify the tiller instead of using a vendor. Director Carty went into detail about what the in-depth advanced training would be and how it would benefit the staff.

Commissioner Logue asked how the Spellbound Century Ride went. Director Carty stated it was luckily not that hot and they enjoyed talking with everyone.

Commissioner Sheppard asked about all 15 applicant members. Are they all going to be active fire, fire police or fire support. Director Carty stated that they are all certified, trained and some live in town.

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

Commissioner Sheppard asked if the RV event is in support of the Junior Firefighter Program, Chief Mason said no but Director Carty did mention that RV has a career day where they are planning to attend and hopefully recruit Junior members.

Fire Official's Report: Director Carty presented the report, See attached.

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

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

Westampton Township Report: Director Carty presented the report, see attached.

Director Carty would like to thank the Chief, Line Officers, Safety Officer, Captain and Lieutenant as well and a special thank you to the safety officer for integrating new technology with the department that are needed.

# **Committee Reports:**

Building and Grounds: Director Carty presented the report, see attached.

Commissioner Sheppard asked for clarification on the flooding by the back door and whether that is the Engineer's responsibility to fix, Director Carty stated that they are not responsible for that flaw. Commissioner Logue asked if there is any way to check to see if they were aware of this flaw beforehand. Director Carty stated he was not here for that process but that the fix he is mentioning is the best and quickest option for now to avoid the immediate flooding and will help with the low impact rain flooding we are experiencing now. Commissioner Logue asked him to investigate something more permanent and what that repair would be. Director Carty stated he spoke with the Engineer, and this is what they recommend for the permanent fix, and it is what they would do. Commissioner Sheppard mentioned she has asked for the documents and plan from Ogren to see if they were aware of this in the as-builts to see who is responsible. They asked if Director Carty was able to get those plans. Director Carty mentioned that at the meeting with the GC this was how it was as built and they are not responsible for the flooding. Commissioner Sheppard mentioned she would still like to see those plans

as they work for an engineering company, Director Carty stated she has mentioned that before and they are in a filing cabinet upstairs that she is welcome to look at.

Personnel/Policies: Director Carty presented the report, see attached.

Apparatus and Equipment: Director Carty presented the report, see attached.

Planning and Services: Director Carty presented the report, see attached.

Budget/Finance and Insurance: Clerk Brooks mentioned the new payroll company which will be in effect September 2025. In the Audit, we are missing LEA monies and Chief Mason is looking into why they have not sent us those checks. Commissioner Sheppard asked for clarification, Chief Mason mentioned it is the Local Enforcing Agency and Clerk Brooks explained it is a percentage of what the state inspections perform, Director Carty went into further description for Commissioner Logue. Clerk Brooks mentioned the finance meetings and the sound system and how we were going to go through a state contract, but we will go out for a bid instead for a less expensive price. Clerk Brooks also mentioned the Resolution for stale checks; these are checks that have not been cashed for whatever reason. Commissioner Sheppard asked if we reached out to those vendors, Clerk Brooks confirmed yes. The workman's comp audit is complete as well; we will receive a \$7008.00 refund on that. She is also working on getting more documents to upload to the website including audits and resolutions, once everything is grouped, she will send Greg all the information to upload. Commissioner Logue asked if they are at least accessed from a file for the Commissioners to see, Clerk Brooks mentioned that she is in the process of doing that. Commissioner Logue asked the Director if they could have a shared drive with all documents and Director Carty said he would have Greg do that. Clerk Brooks mentioned that our finance committee meetings are important and that a of the questions being brought up in the meetings can be answered in detail better in the offices and easier and highly recommends setting up a finance meeting asap. Commissioner Logue appreciated clerk Brooks comment but feels she is being shut out from her other committees and feels more comfortable having them in front of the public. Clerk Brooks stated that the finance department is trying to be transparent and part of the responsibilities of that finance committee is attending the meeting and participating. Commissioner Sheppard stated she was told that committees have no official authorization, Clerk Brooks stated that is true and Commissioner Sheppard stated that taking time away from her family when her opinion does not matter. Clerk Brooks stated it is not her opinion; it is her input and knowledge that is appreciated at the finance meetings. Commissioner Sheppard mentioned showing emails that stated her committee has no authority. Clerk Brooks stated she believes the committee is an important part of the department and believes that if they cannot fulfill the duties that maybe someone else should take their place. Clerk Brooks mentioned that things have not changed, and this is how the committees are run. Commissioner Sheppard mentioned that because of the way things were run by Donnelly it is why we are in this position currently and mentioned how well the committees and board worked together and how her emails state that her opinion no longer matters. They cannot work like that and they are in the dark. Clerk Brooks stated that Commissioner Sheppard is saying she is in the dark but will not attend the meetings where Clerk Brooks will go into detail and inform her. Commissioner Logue mentioned having a working meeting where the whole board can attend and they believe it does not service the town well that only two board members are privy to the knowledge. Chairperson Saucier stopped the debate going between the board and Clerk Brooks. Commissioner Sheppard mentioned that her knowing more and then having no authority is no reason for her putting extra time into that

position, Clerk Brooks mentioned again that she recommends someone else taking on that committee position. Director Carty reiterated what the Board's responsibilities are and how a firehouse runs. Director Carty paused due to Commissioner Sheppard (inaudible). He resumed with saying what the expectations are of an elected official and reiterated what Rita stated. He stated that he did not tell anyone they were not important or that they did not matter just clarify what a Commissioner's role is. Commissioner Sheppard interrupted that the group did work together last year, Director Carty asked if he could finish. And Commissioner Sheppard questioned why what she was saying is so crazy and why they can't function more like they were last year. Director Carty understood they operated that way last year but that it was outside their duties. Commissioner Logue asked if the other Commissioners are attending committee meetings. Director Carty stated there has been no need for the other committee meetings and that finance is most important and there is a standing meeting for them to attend. Director Carty mentioned how the appropriate committee performed their 90-day review and Commissioner Logue stated she would love to attend a meeting but that Directors Carty verbal attacks make her uncomfortable to attend a meeting with him without another male present. Director Carty stated that is Commissioner Logue's opinion, the members present dispute her claim against him. Commissioner Logue mentioned her police report against him after that encounter. He mentioned how he made a report to the board about her behavior at that same encounter. Chairperson Saucier asked for the meeting to be moved along. Commissioner Logue said she would like to attend the finance meeting without Director Carty, Clerk Brooks and the solicitor mentioned that Director Carty should be a part of the meeting. Commissioner Logue mentioned doing it by zoom.

Director Carty mentioned an email he sent to Commissioner Sheppard from Donnelly in 2023 when she asked at the end of the year, what committees she was on again and Director Donnelly stated what committees she was assigned to 10 months prior, and they are appointed by the chair and as needed. Director Carty went into further detail about the subject and discussion continued between Director Carty and Commissioner Sheppard about unprofessionalism.

Old Business: No Reports

**New Business:** 

# Resolution-2025-27- Resolution appointing new Volunteer Firefighters.

- Andrew Cascais
- Kevin Wemple
- Dennis Martin
- James Cummings
- Eric Johnson
- Michael Coventree
- Brandon Leese
- William Hill III
- Tyler Bruno
- Jaret Petersohn
- Mark Robertons
- Kyle Adams

- Nicholas Styliades
- Tim Regan
- Barry Hunt Jr.

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

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

Nay:

Abstain:

## Resolution-2025-28- Resolution appointing part-time Fire Inspector.

Commissioner Logue asked the Resolution to be read in its entirety since she just received the Resolution at 5pm. Commissioner Sheppard agreed. Director Carty read the Resolution, Commissioner Sheppard interrupted Director Carty while reading the Resolution saying that the document said Name #1, instead of having the applicants name in that spot. Director Carty asked if he could read their names and finish without her interruptions. She said he was being lazy with writing in Name #1 and not the actual name, a person from the public screamed out, it was laziness, and the Director told them they were out of order and paused the meeting until the meeting was back in order and interruptions stop.

Commissioner Logue asked if this is creating 2 additional positions, Director Carty referred to Chief Mason and Chief Mason explained that it is one position being filled by 2 people, so there will be a total of 3 inspections officers (clarified by Commissioner Sheppard) and he has been told by finance that we have the budget for these positions and that with code changes, there is an additional work load for resales that will increase the workload for himself. This will help him clear up the administration portion of his position, he is falling behind and is hoping this will help. Commissioner Logue asked if he has clarification since their last chat about this and if he now believes in it and Chief Mason confirmed he is in agreement. Commissioner Logue asked where offices will be, and Chief Mason clarified they will be making office changes and the front office will be used by the township as part of the SSA.

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

# <u>Resolution-2025-29-</u> Resolution to enter into a Shared Service Agreement (SSA) with Mount Holly Municipal /utilities Authority (Fit-Test Machine, Use of Facilities, QPA)

Commissioner Logue asked for the Resolution to be read in full. Commissioner Brown and Chairperson Saucier did not believe that it was necessary. Commissioner Sheppard wanted the public to know that the Commissioners did not receive the 17 resolutions until 2:30pm that afternoon, that is why it is hard for them to review and understand by the time of the meeting. Commissioner Brown offered a motion to approve Resolution 2025-29; Commissioner Logue offered a motion to table Resolution 2025-29 while Commissioner Gaskill offered a second to the motion. Commissioner Sheppard offered a walk on motion to table Resolution 2025-29. Commissioner Brown stated he already offered a motion to approve it. Commissioner Logue stated there was never a second. Commissioner Gaskill stated that she offered the second to approve Resolution 2025-29. The solicitor let the Commissioners know that they should go forward with the walk on motion first to table Resolution 2025-29 before the approval.

<u>WALK ON RESOLUTION 2025-2241 Resolution to table Resolution 2025-29-</u> Commissioner Sheppard offered a motion to approve, as presented. Commissioner Logue provided a second to the motion. At call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

Aye: Commissioner Sheppard, Commissioner Logue, Commissioner Gaskill

Nay: Commissioner Brown, Chairperson Saucier

#### Abstain:

The motion is passed to table Resolution 2025-29. Commissioner Sheppard asked for clarification on the district already having a fit test machine and if this will be brand new. Director Carty stated that question should have been asked before tabling the Resolution, as this is a valuable piece of equipment that they need for all the new firefighters coming in. The equipment costs \$14,000 and the MUA offered to purchase it and store it at the firehouse along with having a QPA for all parties to use. A resident from the audience shouted from their chair and Director Carty let them know they were out of line and reminded the resident to wait until public comment to speak. Director Carty went on to detail why this piece of equipment was needed and why the existing piece of equipment is no longer serving the department. Commissioner Logue had questions regarding the SSA and our fire hydrant rental that the fire department is responsible for paying for. They stated that the MUA uses those fire hydrants to fill their trucks and asked if the MUA pays for that used water? Director Carty stated he is not informed about what the MUA pays and does not want to speak on things he is not privy of either. Commissioner Logue stated that maybe that should be considered in the SSA as well. Director Carty stated that the fire department pays for the hydrant rental and maintenance with New Jersey American Water, they do not pay for water used. He agrees that the amount NJAW charges should be a lot less, but it does not have anything to do with the SSA with the MUA. The district does not pay for the amount water the MUA uses for their trucks. Commissioner Logue asked if the MUA has voted on the SSA, Director Carty stated he has the agreement but cannot speak to when their meeting is or when they voted on it. Commissioner Logue stated that if it was urgent and pressing, they should set up another meeting before next month's meeting to get this approved. Director Carty wished the Commissioner would have asked the questions prior to tabling the Resolution. Commissioner Logue stated they would have loved to have had enough time to read the Resolution prior to 5:00pm that evening. Director Carty stated that the Resolution was on the agenda that he sent to the commissioners the week prior for them to view and ask any questions on, because this is a very important piece of equipment. Commissioner Logue stated that it was disingenuous of the Director to state that no questions were asked by them, that they were back and forth about this when they stated to the Director that their work schedule was going to very tactic, and as that is not of concern or responsibility for the Director, their responsibilities lies with the people who put them in that seat and to pass the Resolution without a full language or understanding is ridiculous. The room got loud, and interruptions started so the Chairperson decided to move the meeting along.

Resolution-2025-30- Resolution to enter into a Maintenance Contract for HVAC, Building Maintenance and General Maintenance. Commissioner Logue asked for a reading of the Resolution. Director Carty stated they would give a synopsis if the board choses. Chairperson Saucier stated they would like to keep the meeting moving. Commissioner Sheppard stated that they were told last time if they had questions they should ask before they voted on it. Commissioner Brown stated to ask the question then, there is no need to make the Director read the whole Resolution, he stated that Resolution is in right of them to read. Chairperson Saucier stated that all Resolution language is generally the same. Commissioner Sheppard stated that it's important to read the Resolution because one time, it said that they were in charge of the Director's contract, and they never got to look at it beforehand. Commissioner Sheppard asked why it is a 3-year contract, 2years seems more reasonable. They met the contractor that day and

talked and he seemed confident, and it was good to get a one on one with him. The solicitor mentioned there is a provision in the contract already to change to a 2-year contract. Commissioner Sheppard stated that's what she thought and thanked the solicitor. They also stated that although he is well rounded in the knowledge of HVAC, he is not HVAC certified and they still need to get that with warranties, etc. The Director stated that the contractor clearly stated that anything that deals with warranty issues, the appropriate people will be contacted. Commissioner Sheppard thanked the Director for that information.

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

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

Nay:

Abstain: Commissioner Logue

Resolution-2025-33-Resolution designating equipment unserviceable to be donated. Director Carty went into detail that this was discussed at a prior meeting. All equipment has been inventoried by the officers, and he was contacted by a Fire Captain in Trenton who is starting an initiative to send their equipment to Ghana. It does seem far away, but we will not be responsible for shipping, we will no longer have to store the unused equipment. This equipment is out of compliance and should not be used by departments in the U.S. The solicitor stated they would add to the Resolution the language that the receiving entity will execute a release in favor of the Mount Holly Fire District that they are taking the equipment as is and we are providing no warranties and that the receiving party is responsible for all testing and that Mount Holly Fire District is released from all liability.

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

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

Nay:

Abstain:

Resolution-2025-34- Resolution awarding professional services contract for Engineering for Green Acres Project. Director Carty stated that this is from Pennoni Engineering on a timeline, because they are holding up funding to the municipality from Green Acres until this is complete. Commissioner Logue asked if this is a grant proposal. Director Carty stated it is about the easement they were given in order to build the new firehouse and the property (parking lot across from Good Intent) they gave to Green Acres in exchange. Those parcels are to make up for the loss of Green Acres. We are responsible for the bill for all the engineering requirements. Commissioner Sheppard asked if we were holding the bill so that the money can go to Mount Holly Township but we are stuck with the bill of \$175,000 for the engineer? Commissioner Brown stated that it was the fire district request to have an easement. They thanked Commissioner Brown for clarification. Director Carty questioned the amount of \$175,000 and believes that is not an accurate number. Commissioner Sheppard stated the paperwork was confusing due to the way it was printed. Director stated the amount is for \$28,000 for the contract from Pennoni, \$6,000 is for preliminary assessment and revisions and \$22,000 for survey and monument setting. Commissioner Sheppard stated she meant the amount of \$17,500. The solicitor clarified that the amount

written for \$17,5000, is saying if it exceeds \$17,5000, it needs to go out for Resolution, as it does exceed that, this is why is it on as a Resolution. Commissioner Sheppard stated if this funding for an engineer for a grant that will benefit the municipality? The solicitor stated this is not a grant. Commissioner Sheppard stated they asked for a preview of the documents so they could review them so they could understand what was going on better, considering this is their profession. She was not provided with the documents. Director Carty stated that what is in front of them is all the documentation he was given. Commissioner Sheppard asked if when the Director met with them, were they not able to ask for all the documents? Director Carty stated that when he met with them recently, it had nothing to do with Green Acres. Commissioner Logue asked where exhibit A was in the packet, Director Caryt stated it was on the next page and went into detail where it was. Commissioner Logue asked for a minute to review and organize her paperwork. Commissioner Logue asked why it was changing from a minor to a major diversion. Commissioner Sheppard stated if she had all the documents she would be able to explain. Commissioner Logue stated she was asking the Director, but they appreciated the feedback. Director Carty stated they are not qualified to answer that as they were not a part of the previous build. Commissioner Logue asked when that was changed. The solicitor has not seen the specifics but believed from past experiences that the state made the change after an assessment. Commissioner Sheppard asked the Solicitor to reach out to the prior lawyer for the paperwork. Commissioner Logue asked the Solicitor if he could review the document and see why it was a change from minor to major. The Solicitor stated he would not determine that, the state would for Green Acres purposes. Commissioner Logue asked if they knew when the determination was made? The Solicitor does not know. Commissioner Sheppard asked Director Carty to ask Pennoni for the document. Director Carty stated he will request them. Commissioner Logue asked who TLCD was as part of the Resolution. Director Carty stated it is an abbreviation for The Lomax Consulting Group to do a consult, the Board approved that months ago. Commissioner Logue asked why we are not going with Lomax? Director Carty and Commissioner Brown stated that Pennoni recommended them, they are a sub contractor. Commissioner Logue thanked them for the clarity. Chairperson Saucier asked for motion to approve. Commissioner Sheppard asked for one more minute to review. They stated this appendix was not in the email and to be kind as she reads it.

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

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

Nay: Commissioner Logue

Abstain:

## Resolution-2025-35- Resolution purchasing Audio-Video equipment and installation.

Commissioner Logue offered a motion to table, as presented. Commissioner Brown provided a second the motion. At call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

<u>Resolution-2025-36-</u> Resolution setting salaries of Fire Prevention Bureau employees. Director Carty stated on the recommendation of council, this will need a second reading after tonight's first reading.

This is to have a starting hourly rate for the fire inspector that will compare to other districts. Director Carty went into detail for the Board, what current rates are and what the salaries would be capped at. The Solicitor stated that a second reading will apply to Resolution-2025-37 as well. Commissioner Sheppard asked for clarification why this has to be done twice? The solicitor stated it is similar to when a township does a salary ordinance, he went into detail for Commissioner Sheppard on why this is his recommendation. Commissioner Logue asked why they would not have applied that to the Director? The solicitor stated this is for new salary amounts, the Director took the position with an already existing salary and actually took a lower salary amount then what the previous Director had. They were not changing the salary range. Commissioner Logue asked for clarification if there was a preset salary range for the Director? The solicitor said there was a preset salary for the Director and was no change to that and that's why this was his advice to go this way in this particular situation. Commissioner Logue thanked council. Commissioner Sheppard asked if the solicitor recommends anyone who has a conflict of interest to abstain from these Resolutions. Director Carty stated there is only one Resolution there would be a conflict with. Commissioner Gaskill made Commissioner Sheppard awre she is aware of the conflict.

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

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

Nay:

Abstain: Commissioner Gaskill

Resolution-2025-37- Resolution setting salaries of administrative employees. Director stated this is similar to Resolution-2025-36. The Director went into detail again for the Board who this would affect and what those salary ranges would be. Commissioner Logue asked for job descriptions of the employees. With the addition of the new fire inspectors will it be at all possible for them to collect those fees and things that are currently happening by the desk clerk's position. Director Carty stated their job descriptions are dictated by the civil service and that yes, they will receive descriptions for the other 2 employees. Commissioner Logue asked if they were civil service protected employees of the fire district? Director Carty stated no, they are township employees that are civil service employees receiving a small stipend for their duties. Director Carty clarified for Commissioner Logue; these are for the existing employees it establishes a range for salaries. Director Carty stated this is on a first read.

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

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

Nay:

Abstain: Commissioner Brown

Resolution-2025-38- Resolution authorizing a lease-purchase of vehicle through NJ State Contract. Director Carty stated this is to replace an existing vehicle and to buy a new one. They went into detail for the Board. Commissioner Logue asked what year the vehicle was and if it is being used part time? Director Carty and Chief Mason stated it is 2015. Director Carty went into detail who and when the vehicles would be used and how often. This vehicle will be a fleet vehicle. One will be upfitted and the other will not be. Commissioner Logue asked if the one that is not upfitted, can they make a list of how the vehicle is to be used. Director Carty stated there will a policies and procedures for all vehicles.

Commissioner Sheppard asked for there to be a log of mileage and time. Director Carty stated, the engine does already get logged and the ladder for mileage and use on a daily basis. Commissioner Logue would encourage a log use. Director Carty stated that it can be addressed when they do the procedure and policies meeting. Commissioner Logue stated that the unbranded vehicles should be logged thoroughly but does not expect a branded truck to be logged as thoroughly. Commissioner Sheppard asked if inspectors are using their personal vehicles. Director Carty stated, they should not be using personal vehicles while performing their duties and that can be addressed in the policy and procedures as well. Commissioner Logue asked if this was for the quote of the vehicle? Director Carty stated it is a state contract quote from Ford. Commissioner Sheppard asked if the quote was for two trucks? Director Carty stated that the underwriting charge is a onetime fee that is charged once and not per vehicle. Commissioner Logue asked for clarity because the price states for \$45,880.00. Director Carty stated the quote paper is for one vehicle, we are purchasing two so the amount will be doubled the \$45,880.00, however the \$545.00 is only charged once. Commissioner Logue stated the total expenditure will be \$92,850.00 in three annual payments of \$33,045.00 per year, so basically for \$192,000 plus a dollar at the end of the lease... Director Carty stated it would be \$92,000 not \$192,000. Commissioner Logue apologized for the misspeak and clarified \$92,000 plus a few dollars for the buyout would be the quote.

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

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

Nay:

Abstain:

Resolution-2025-37- Resolution setting salaries of administrative employees. Director stated this is similar to Resolution-2025-36. The Director went into detail again for the Board who this would affect and what those salary ranges would be. Commissioner Logue asked for job descriptions of the employees. With the addition of the new fire inspectors will it be at all possible for them to collect those fees and things that are currently happening by the desk clerk position. Director Carty stated their job descriptions are dictated by the civil service and that yes, they will receive descriptions for the other 2 employees. Commissioner Logue asked if they were civil service protected employees of the fire district? Director Carty stated no, they are township employees that are civil service employees receiving a small stipend for their duties. Director Carty clarified for Commissioner Logue, these are for the existing employees it establishes a range for salaries. Director Carty stated this is on a first read.

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

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

Nay:

Abstain: Commissioner Brown

<u>Resolution-2025-39-</u> Resolution cancelling "stale" checks that have not been cashed. Director Carty let the Board know Clerk Brooks could go into detail about this. They stated Clerk Mangan has contacted the vendors multiple times to ask for signed vouchers so the checks van be sent out. Clerk Mangan stated some are for the same company. Commissioner Logue asked if there is a mechanism to do direct deposits

to the vendors. Clerk Brooks stated that there is not, when the vendors are not responding to them. Clerk Mangan stated there are a few we are contact with but the old checks will still need to be voided because they are past cashing dates. Commissioner Logue laughed at the companies not wanting to be paid and was baffled as to why. Clerk Brooks stated that when the checks are voided they will return to the bank account. Commissioner Sheppard asked the Director if they were boring him? Clerk Mangan and Clerk Brooks continued their discussion with Commissioner Logue and stated that the vendors she is contact with will get reissued checks with a current date. Director Carty asked Commissioner Sheppard if she had a question for him? Commissioner Sheppard asked Director Carty again if they were boring him, as they saw he was on his phone. Director Carty stated he was texting his child who is home with a babysitter. Commissioner Sheppard stated she was checking to make sure they weren't boring him. Director Carty stated that she interrupts the discussion, so he thought it was something of importance.

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

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

Nay:

Abstain:

Chairperson Saucier paused the meeting for Commissioner Logue at 9:09pm.

Meeting resumed at 9:11pm.

#### **Public Comment:**

- 1. Jim Logan (16 Easlick, Lumberton)- They stated they were an MUA Commissioner. They asked Director Carty where he received the SSA with the MUA that they did not vote on? Director stated he knows that Mr. Logan is new to MUA board and may not know how the process works. Director Carty spoke with the administrator with the MUA and had discussions, he welcomed the public to OPRA the emails, and went into details about what the discussion was about. Mr. Logan stated he does not believe Director Carty should be doing any business until litigation on his nomination is finished.
- 2. Michael Rothamel (33 Union Street)- they had questions regarding the part time employment of the new fire inspectors, are they under the fire prevention? They asked if Mr. Gaskill will still be there and if there were two additional. They stated the school board meetings are run very differently, they receive the agenda days prior with a full package so they have time to read them. They stated there is a difference between transparency and opaqueness. Opaqueness is giving the packets or agendas last minute so they cant understand it and get rushed through it and treated poorly. They recommended setting up a work session for the Board to help with better meetings. They recommended posting the packet and agenda online in advance as well. They stated we need more transparency to earn trust. In addition, they had a question regarding the easement, they recommend a rain garden. They stated the budget has \$450,000, is that invested for interest?
- 3. Jeff Eversmeyer (203 Broad Street)- They thought when they appointed this Director things would go a lot smoother and everyone would be happy. They brought up how absurd it is to hand people paperwork the day of and expect them to read it and answer the questions. They suggest it should all be tabled if it cannot get to the Commissioners in time. They also do not understand why they need two vehicles, maybe one, and it should only be for fire inspectors. Chief Mason stated for insurance reasons they cannot use personal vehicles. They also don't understand how we spent 8

million dollars on the new building and still have all these same problems, and we are still using the same vendors. They also asked for the final number of the building. Commissioner Sheppard stated she has been asking for the number as well. They think it's absurd that the tax payers spent all this money on the new building and are still paying to fix it. They believe the vendors should be covering that cost. They asked how many active firefighters we have? Chief Mason stated that with the 15 new ones, we now have about 30. They asked where we started at the beginning of the year, Chief Mason stated about 12. They were shocked by the number 12 and asked again if that was the right amount. Chief Mason confirmed about 12. They found that funny because they stated that we were the jewel of the county for years and it was a family and well respected. They find it very hard for the firefighters to come on board with meetings like this. They commend the new firefighters who are joining. They hope the board straightens things out and stops disrespecting each other and fixes things and they hope recruitment goes up. Commissioner Logue asked for clarification with the trucks as well and stated that one truck is being replaced, two are being bought, so there will be two vehicles used by 3 inspectors. One inspector will have a dedicated vehicle and two others will share. Chief Mason went into detail who and when the vehicles will be used, they also stated no vehicles will be used for personal use or fun and it gets abused those individuals will not use them. Mr. Eversmeyer asked how many new firefighters were Mt. Holly residents. Director Carty stated 2 from Mount Holly and 13 from other towns. Mr. Eversmeyer asked if they are already firefighters from other towns. Director Carty went into detail on the new recruitments. Mr. Eversmeyer stated he talked with the Chief of Vincentown and they talked about free SSA with them to save 50,000 a year and Director Carty should reach out to them. Director Carty stated there is no feasible way for Vincentown to service Mount Holly on a first alarm basis, which means readily available to respond to a call immediately when they are ten minutes away from us. They do assist in mutual aid calls. Mr. Eversmeyer stated they have 60 members willing to offer free services who would love to use our equipment, they would stay in our firehouse etc. Director Carty stated that individual Mr. Eversmeyer was talking to was talking about setting up a duty crew program which is what Director Carty has already done. Mr. Eversmeyer asked at no cost? Director Carty stated that the duty crew program at Vincentown does have a cost and a FEMA grant that allows their members to have stipends, similar to the duty program Mount Holly is offering. Director Carty is glad that the individual supports their program.

4. Pierre Ford (117 Broad Street)- they want to commend (pointed to certain Commissioners on the Board) for the fact that they all have to be resentful but also have to ask questions to make this town better. If they do not want questions asked to make the town better they need to leave. They mentioned their 24 years in the military and how they see childish behavior then being adults here. They commend Chief Mason. They want to know that with the budget, are the firefighters receiving an increased stipend. Chief Mason stated he is proud to say that most of his members have opted to join into the program Director Carty mentioned. The ones that didn't had conflicts in schedules, and they are looking into different stipends for them and what they contribute. They also asked about morale and how they need to take care of the members morale. They continued to mention morale a few more times. They also have a question for when minutes are being taken for safety or line meetings, they need to be done for evidence on who was in attendance. They also asked why if an organization outside of the firefighters is using the building, why are they not being

charged? They believe letting people use this building for free is not right. They thanked and everyone and wished everyone a nice night.

5. Maureen Taylor Ford (117 road Street)- They commented on how the meeting was extremely long but it is for the accountability that our citizens are being served and that comes at a price. They were away for about a month with deaths. They were in an airport in California and the woman at the counter asked her where she was from and the lady mentioned their family is from Westampton and they went on tell her how her sister keeps her up to date on the mess in Mount Holly. She chose to live here after she left Afghanistan and almost had a heart attack and died right there in the airport when she heard that. When they went to the fire commission website they saw the Director in the most uncomfortable position they saw him in as a Fire Director. He was given the opportunity to lead this department, someone has to have an accountability. They mentioned Director Carty is a Coast Guardsman and that she has been in E5 3 times in the U.S. states Navy and to understand what the means. 17 years in Afghanistan as police and has been in E5 3 times for her mouth. Accountability does matter. They have a lot of fire safety directors in their family and this will not go well if he cannot handle the fire, get out. They asked Chief Mason about the reinspection's; there are 53 reinspection's. They then went back to the Director, Oct 15th is the Career Expo at RV, they are on the equity inclusion board there and she van help him with information. Backing up on what Jeff and her husband said about the engineering flaw, they should not being paying anyone for engineering flaws and we should be hiring a lawyer to sue for that and not spend money on fixing it. Regarding the finance committee meeting, if you need a meeting, a work session should be helpful. They mentioned how long this meeting was again and how everyone has families and work tomorrow, they are appreciative but need the proper information. They mentioned the participation the firefighters had in the summer camp, but what more can the firefighter do to help that recreation? What else can you do besides wetting kids down? We talk about fire safety in October but they should be doing pre education in the summer. They commend the two new firefighters in town. We have to get it together, fore is important, fire is life and death and they were in a fire when they were 3 years old. The flooding issue was brought up again by her. They asked about 12 people per class for training is now available that has been missing for 20 years. What class is this? They asked Chief Mason if the firefighter coming on board are now being to be full firefighters coming from the volunteer field, are they going to cross over to EMT/ firefighter or are we only going to be firefighters. Chief Mason explained that will be up to those members if they have time to do the coarse. She asked if funding will be available. Chief Mason said there will be talks with the EMS side of it for funding. They mentioned a SSA with America. Chief Mason said that would be a question for the Director. They stated we needed to come together and the incident she had with the woman at the airport made her scream, if she could have screamed in the airport, she would have and this broke her heart when she saw the nonsense on the internet. She also mentioned the Director not calling them Commissioners. She stated for him to use the proper term. Director Carty stated he called them all Commissioner this evening. They mentioned tonight was unremarkable and to get it together for the sake of the town and fire is important. Chief Mason started to answer her question on the reinspection's. As fire inspectors, the fees and penalties is not something they look to do, their primary role is to promote life safety through inspection and educate. The penalties are there to enforce when

necessary. Most businesses get 30 days to fix those violations, so when he states reinspection's, that means they did 158 inspections month, if they wrote 67 with violations, they reinspected 51 of those within the allotted time the business was given. When it is reinspected they had to have fixed what was wrong. She appreciated his explanation.

- 5. Gary ? (536 Garden Street)- regarding the budget, it was mentioned \$450,000 in surplus. Has the Commissioner thought about retiring a portion of the 7.9 million dollars in bonds that were issued to build this facility? They think in 2025 the debt service is about 480,000 dollars, 142,00 which is just interest. They believe doing this will save the tax payers money. They recommended reducing the tax levy with the township. Is that a function the Commissioners can do or the town. They mentioned pre paying the bonds. Director Carty spoke to the future capitol in the budget, the 400,000 plus is earmarked for apparatus and for trucks, they went into detail how old the trucks are and how that money is being saved for a new truck to help lower payments. Gary still believes that we could have made interest on that which would have paid for the truck itself. Director Carty deferred that to the finance team. Director did answer the question about tax relief, he stated the tax base is separate from the township and cannot be co-mingled with the township for tax relief. They asked if there was a pay to potentially reduce that levy with the fire district? Director Carty deferred that to finance as well. Director Carty went into other options how two districts could regionalize or consolidate, pay for one solicitor, auditor, publication, etc., and you could save money that way. Commissioner Logue asked the Director if that would be more of a consolidation of administrative services in an effort to have more money for equipment? Director Carty mentioned there are things from the state that the Board could look into or vote on. Director Carty mentioned what other districts are doing that we could look into to help us when its ready. Commissioner Logue said they will talk about that, when its time, they understand everyone is tired and thanked them.
- 6. No Name: they stated they are filming for Louis was not able to attend. They were not going to say anything and just sit there and film but the guy in the blue shirt did not look at Maureen when she mentioned what was going on. He did not look at anyone, everyone else looked, they said he has no empathy. They did not have a bone to pick with them but they do now for not saying condolences for her loss. They told the Director to look at them and have respect for the people. They repeated their statements again about who looked at Maureen and who did not. They asked what the total surplus is in the budget. One million, two million, three million, four million, five? They said they can answer that question another, they don't really care, their primary concern was how the Director addressed everyone tonight. They mentioned how Director Carty does not respect them because he does not live in this town. Director Carty stated he looked right at Mrs. Ford when he addressed her. The man stated again that Director did not and said he has it on film. The Director stated that he is a tax payer in Mount Holly. Commissioner Sheppard mentioned something, the Director asked her if she had something to say. Commissioner Sheppard stated that she thought his LLC. was in town and not him as a resident. Director Carty stated that he said he was a tax payer in this town and to please turn the mic on when they speak.

- 7. Louis Lopex (Levis Drive)- they mentioned Director Carty did not say hi when he was walking from the hospital and he would appreciate if he treated him like a human being. Director Carty stated that when he saw him that day, he asked Mr. Lopez not to say his children's names in public meeting. Mr. Lopez interrupted Director Carty, Director Carty asked Mr. Lopez to let him finish his statement. Director Carty stated that at 2 meeting Mr. Lopez has mentioned his children by name, it is inappropriate and uncalled for. That was the first time Director Carty saw Mr. Lopez and when he saw him he asked him to not speak his children's names. Mr. Lopez asked if he could respond to Director Carty. Mr. Lopez stated that he did that over a month ago and has not mentioned them recently. He just wants a greeting or hi from the Director next time.
- 8. Tim Young (533 Garden Street)- they mentioned they are the safety officer and brought up the fit test machine, the current model is outdated, it does still work, however, there is better equipment out there. The fit machine does need to be recalibrated and that will be out for about a month. There is a broken piece on the fit machine, it does still work, but they do not believe in working with broke equipment. They currently need salt tablets and they are not on hand, it is inexpensive. They believe the Resolution to approve this fit test machine was very important for firefighter safety and lives. They strongly recommend that someone make a motion to reconsider that tabling of that Resolution. The Board has now thrown into their lab the decision to send firefighters into fires without properly fit tested masks. This also leaves them with the decision to not allow the new members who are being paid to be here to not enter buildings, so we are either wasting money or putting lives at risk. They urge them to reconsider the motion to table. As a tax payer and voter and use to be an elected official, committees never have any type of authority, they are advisory only. They mentioned the 9 committees they were on and met with monthly, they were not compensated for that and mentioned that the Board is being compensated with a stipend being paid, they don't understand how people they voted for are turning down invites from the committees, even if it is only advisory. They mentioned how they voted and paid for them to their job and agree with Finance Clerk Brooks that if they do not want to do the job they elected them to do then they should stop doing it. You are in advisory positions, however, this means you get to decide the way forward and then you present that to the Board and the Board votes on it. The reason for this not being an official capacity is because you can not make decisions behind closed doors. Thats how public bodies work and what the Open Public Meetings Act is. As someone who voted for them, they are upset by this meeting and feel let down and that they wasted their vote and they hate that feeling and they hope they put their egos aside respectfully, because they love everyone on a personal level. They mentioned how Director Carty and himself have had their past and history and strong political arguments and debates in the past and years where they didn't speak, today Director Carty and himself spend many hours together, at meetings, on phone calls and having discussions to move forward, they are working together despite the fact of decades of adversary. They have put that aside for the district respectfully hope they can out their differences aside and earn how to do the job without looking like children. Commissioner Logue thanked him for his courage, support and honesty and would like the opportunity to be honest as well. As not having the opportunity to consider any of the language in the Resolutions that were sent to her email at 2:30pm that day, they work for the state and are

prohibited from practicing any of their political activities at work, they arrive home at 5 and expected here at 7 and to be fully informed. How are they meant to accomplish that? They did not get to go into their questions for the usage by the MUA of water the district is paying for. If you are standing here telling me the machine is not currently broken, it is not necessarily ad versed for the new members, they understand their responsibilities to provide them equipment that keeps them safe. If it can go one more month so they can have a broader conversation about the cost benefits as a result with the MUA rather than entering into a limited agreement with the MUA with no leverage, that is problematic to them as they are fiscally responsible to you the tax payer. Commissioner Logue went into how they were verbally attacked by Mr. Carty prior to his employment in this building and they do not feel safe in his company as a woman in a room full of women, so if he as the safety officer is permitted to join, they would be delighted to meet in person. They would prefer zoom if this cannot be done. They are sorry if he is disappointed in this but if she was a man like he is, she may feel much better about approaching the situation, as she is not this is where she sits and she is sorry for the disappointment and will do better in the future but will not risk her safety. He returned comment as to the fit machine and waiting a month and how if that is what they would like to do, by all means, but as mentioned in the safety officers report, they did meet with the MUA and TSI and they believe financially based off those discussions this is the best deal they will find and hopes that transferred over to this Resolution. Commissioner Logue appreciated his feedback and thanked him for taking the time to get up and give him the information. Commissioner Sheppard asked how they would have known that otherwise. Commissioner Brown stated that they heard from the safety officer. Commissioner Sheppard stated that the Resolution is not only about the fit test. Director Carty stated that the MUA already uses the building and that we are gaining a QPA on staff. He believes we are gaining more than the MUA by purchasing it and us housing it. Commissioner Sheppard's issue with the MUA agreement is that technically as a firehouse we have the ability to rent out space, but we do not rent out space and over time Mount Holly will not benefit from the SSA except right now, they mentioned the Fire District buying it, that they have the capital. Commissioner Sheppard mentioned going directly to Occupational Health, Director Carty stated they do not do fit testing, Commissioner Sheppard stated they do, Director Carty stated they do respiratory and pulmonary testing, they do not do SCBA fit testing for masks for firefighters. The MUA is getting to use the building once a month for their meetings which are no longer than an hour. Mount Holly is getting a QPA, a \$17,000 machine, plus a service agreement which costs another 5-6,000 dollars. The Director believes Mount Holly is gaining more from this. Commissioner Sheppard mentioned they are getting more than that, they are getting office space. Director Carty clarified they are not getting office space. They are getting access to the office where the fit test machine is located. Commissioner Logue asked if the MUA fills their trucks daily from the hydrants? Director Carty said he does not have the knowledge to speak on that and as he mentioned earlier, the district does not pay for water when we pay NJAW, we pay for hydrant rental and maintenance, he wishes we only paid for water because the bill would be a lot less. Commissioner Logue asked if the MUA is filling them under the hydrant and maintenance of the district? Director Carty again stated he cannot speak to that, but if they are filling their trucks with water, the district is not paying for that. The NJAW has an

obligation for the rental and maintenance, for example, they were training guys on the truck, the hydrant started to fail, they called the NJAW number for them to come out and fix, they discovered the hydrant was actually a private hydrant and NJAW was not responsible for it, again we do not pay for the water the MUA uses. Commissioner Logue asked if we pay for the number of trucks that connect to the hydrants from our district or the number of hydrants? Director Carty stated we pay for the number of hydrants, a fee for service, maintenance and rental. The Director has done his due diligence to see if other districts are paying as much. Mr. Young addressed Commissioner Sheppard, the fit test was discussed with the safety officer of the MUA, it was discussed it would be stored here in the safety officer's office, so that we always have 100% access to it. They stated the MUA will not use the machine as much as us. They also stated that they are asking for them to read the Resolution to the public, whether people like it or not. Have a discussion or debate on it and decide on the Resolution instead of tabling. Commissioner Logue asked the safety officer, what is the MUA currently doing to test their employees and do they have a better machine? Mr. Young stated they currently use ours. They use it a lot less often and they have already used it for this year, and the machine was still in calibration at that time. Commissioner Logue asked when the last date of calibration was. Chief Mason said April of 2024. It is a yearly maintenance. They explained how they do their fit testing January through March; the machine has been out of calibration since April. They discovered it needed new calibration after the latest round of new members. They could not fit test them but luckily those new members had been fit tested elsewhere in another department and we are accepting their fit test, but ideally, we need our own machine. This is done yearly. Commissioner Logue asked for the language that it is a 3-year contract but can be terminated at any time? Director Carty was looking for the Resolution to clarify when Commissioner Brown mentioned he would reintroduce it and they can read the whole Resolution and then they can discuss it. Commissioner Brown made a motion to reintroduce 2025-30 as 2025-41, Solicitor clarified it is 2025-29. Reintroduction 2025-29, the solicitor stated this would be Resolution 2025-41, which was the motion to table Resolution 2025-29. Reconsider tabling Resolution 2025-29, so we are walking on a new Resolution 20025-42 to reconsider the tabling of 2025-29. Commissioner Logue seconds the motion, as presented.

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

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

Nay:

## Abstain:

The Chairperson asked for a motion for the Resolution, Commissioner Logue asked for the motion to be read. The solicitor mentioned they should make a motion to introduce and then have a second and then any discussion after can be done. Commissioner Brown made a motion, Commissioner Logue asked again if this was a motion to read it. The solicitor repeated his last statement that you must enter a motion to introduce the Resolution first and then any discussion about details would happen after. Commissioner Logue asked for clarification from Director Carty believing that the Board is unclear again about Robert's

rules, except those who are fluent in that language. Director Carty asked Commissioner Logue what their question was. Commissioner Logue mentioned Robert's Rules. The solicitor then stated there was a motion to reconsider the table, that motion was approved. There is now a motion to approve Resolution 2025-29 by Commissioner Brown, which needs a second. Commissioner Logue would like the Resolution to be read. Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-29, Commissioner Gaskill seconds the motion. Commissioner Logue again said she would like Resolution to be read. The solicitor asked for clarification that Commissioner Logue is asking for a motion to have the Resolution read entirely. Commissioner Sheppard mentioned yes because they didn't get anything. Commissioner Logue asked, "isn't that what Mr. Brown just said, he said just read the whole things and be done with it." Director Carty stated he would gladly read the whole Resolution. An argument continued between the Board members. Director Carty aske the Board to motion and second the Resolution so that he can read the Resolution. Commissioner Sheppard said it was only the SSA they had issues with because they did not get to dive into it beforehand. Commissioner Gaskill let the Board know they are holding the firefighters up from getting what they need and asked them to pass it because the firefighters really need it. Commissioner Logue asked them to pull out the mask machine and the use of the machine it is being placed in. The solicitor stated the agreement as proposed is in its entirety, the Board may have a discussion and read it or if the body feels the need to vote on it they can. Director Carty mentioned that there was a motion and a second and he will read the Resolution in its entirety. Director Carty read the Resolution in full. Commissioner Sheppard questioned the two key fobs they are giving to the MUA and wanted to make sure they will have the same requirements and key agreement as the firefighters and went over that policy. Commissioner Logue asked that the key fobs only allow them to access the main room the machine is being kept in and the conference meeting room. Director Carty stated that they can control where they have access and no one will have access to rooms they are not supposed to be in. Safety Officer Tim Young mentioned that the safety officer's room is unlocked. Chairperson Saucier asked if we had a motion yet. Commissioner Brown stated there is a motion and a second, Commissioner Gaskill agreed. Solicitor clarified, Commissioner Brown made the motion and Commissioner Gaskill seconded the motion.

Commissioner Brown offered a motion to approve, 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 Brown, Commissioner Sheppard, Commissioner Gaskill, Chairperson Saucier

Nay:

Abstain:

Chairperson Saucier closed the public portion.

Solicitor's Report Stephen Raymond Esq.- Will leave for their comments for Executive Session. Action will be taken.

Commissioner Logue asked the solicitor when tonight's Resolutions were presented to him. The solicitor was attempting to remember exact dates when Director Carty mentioned that it was all done by email and several Resolutions were done by council and when Director Carty sends the Resolutions, he tries to send them all together. Director Carty received just a few from the Solicitor this morning, the Solicitor had a family emergency on Monday which is when the deadline, Commissioner Logue interjected and asked when they were sent. Director Carty stated that he is answering her question and to please let him finish. He just received two or three of them that same day and others were sent (audit one) were sent

for review, he apologized for the delayed responses and that he worked overtime last night. Commissioner Sheppard interrupted, Director Carty asked what Commissioner Sheppard said. Commissioner Sheppard said these are excuses, she wants to know when. The Director stated these are not excuses and he is giving her details and answering the question and there is multiple back and forth emails. An argument between the Commissioners started. Commissioner Logue asked the Solicitor to answer the question and asked when the Resolutions were submitted to him for review. The Solicitor stated that he would not have exact details without going back to the emails. Commissioner Sheppard continued to argue (inaudible) with another Board member while the Solicitor was answering Commissioner Logue. Commissioner Gaskill asked Commissioner Sheppard to stop and to grow up. The solicitor stated that he prepared the audit Resolutions and finished at some point last week. The solicitor also stated that Resolutions Director Carty asked him to prepare he had back to the Director by the morning of the meeting. The remainder of the Resolutions he received at the same time the Commissioner received them. Commissioner Logue asked if there are only 4 Resolutions that they looked at tonight that the Solicitor has either reviewed or written. The Solicitor stated no, he prepared all the audit Resolutions what he believes to be 2 audit Resolutions, and he believes 3-4 more Resolutions. The other Resolutions were reviewed by him when the email went out earlier that day to the Commissioners. Commissioner Logue asked when they 3 Resolutions were requested that he submitted this morning. The solicitor stated the request was sent to him on Friday, but due to a family emergency which he will not go into he did not get to those requests. Commissioner Logue asked if the request to create these Resolutions was not sent until Friday. Director Carty stated that some were sent on Friday. She asked the 3 that he created besides the audit. The Solicitor said correct. Commissioner Logue stated her appreciation for the explanation and Director Carty stated the other Resolutions were templates. Director Carty explained that the volunteer firefighter Resolution is a template as are a few others sent with standard language based on previous Resolutions, and instead of having the Solicitor prepare the Resolutions Director Carty used the templates to save money. Commissioner Logue interrupted Director Carty and stated that she is just trying to figure things out for the sake of clarity, because she did express a desire to be ahead of the ball, so the meetings are easier. Director Carty interjected, and Commissioner Logue asked that he let her finish. She stated that Director Carty said some were delayed due to Solicitor and she wanted clarification on which ones he was required to prepare, requested and when they were requested and what was the turn around time. That question was now answered, and she thanked them for their time and hopes that in the future Resolutions are sent prior to the Solicitor, rather than the Friday before the meeting. They mentioned why after having 8 weeks with no meeting why the Resolutions were prepared at the very last minute. They do not believe it services the Board well or the district. They look forward to working together in the future and would appreciate reevaluating the way we are doing that. The Director said they can work to change that and as a previous Board member of the District as well as Commissioner Brown, this is how it's done, he's not saying it's the right way, but it is standard. Commissioner Logue would like them to build a brighter future so more people are encouraged to be involved. Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-40 to go into Executive Session.

Chairperson's Report:

**RESOLUTION 2025-40**- RESOLUTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS Litigation and Attorney Client Matters- FORMAL ACTION MAY BE TAKEN (if needed). Commissioner Brown offered a motion to approve. Commissioner Gaskill provided a second to the motion. At call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

Commissioner Logue asked the Solicitor if they were finished with their conversation as the other Commissioners left the meeting. The clerk attempted to take roll call. Commissioner Logue also asked if they were skipping the Chairperson's report. Commissioner Logue asked if Chairperson Saucier the chair or Commissioner Brown was. Commissioner Brown stated that he made the motion to go into Executive Session. Someone stated they were tired, and Commissioner Logue stated they are tired also and it could have been a shorter meeting if this had been smoother. The clerk was asked to do roll call. The clerk attempted to do roll call again and repeated Commissioner Logue's name. Commissioner Logue asked if this is appropriate that they skip things on the agenda and questioned when the Chairperson's report would be read and mentioned Commissioner Brown making a motion that was later in the agenda. The solicitor stated that Chairperson Saucier said they had no reports. Commissioner Logue agreed to go into Executive Session. The clerk attempted to roll call again.

Aye: Commissioner Sheppard, Commissioner Gaskill, Chairperson Saucier

Nay:

Abstain:

The Board returned from Executive Session at 11:01pm. Commissioner Gaskill offered a motion to return from Executive Session, as presented. Commissioner Logue provided a second to the motion.

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

Nay:

Abstain:

Matters to be presented by the Board:

Next Meetings: With no additional items being presented, Director Carty announced the next meeting of the Board as follows, if advertised: Meeting: Board of Fire Commissioners Date: Wednesday September 3rd, 2025, Time: 7:00pm Location: 17 Pine Street, Mount Holly, NJ 08060

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

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

Nay:

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Saucier at 11:01 p.m. respectfully submitted, Commissioner Sheppard