

TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
Board of Fire Commissioners
Fire District No. 2
Minutes of the Agenda and Regular Meetings
Wednesday, August 11, 2010

The Monroe Township Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2 met at the Monroe Township Fire District #2 & EMS building, 10 Halsey Reed Road, corner of Applegarth Road, Monroe Township, New Jersey for an Agenda Meeting.

Chairman Mahler called the meeting to order with a Salute to the Flag at 7:01 pm. Chairman Mahler asked for a moment of silence for all firefighters and military who have died in the performance of their duties.

UPON ROLL CALL made by Commissioner Martin Berkowitz, the following members of the Monroe Township Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2 were present: Martin Berkowitz, Glenn Borsuk, Maurice Mahler, Edward Mitnowsky and Lawrence Reisch.

ALSO PRESENT: Board Attorney Richard J. Shaklee, Esquire, and Val Cier, Recording Secretary.

There were five career firefighters present: Lt. Riley, Firefighter Grande, Lt Volkman, Chief Carbin, and Firefighter Cackowski.

There were two volunteer firefighters present: Dave Lesser and Mark Davis.

There were many members of the public present.

Chairman Mahler announced that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, having been published in the April 9, 2010 newspaper, posted on the bulletin board of the Office of the Township Clerk, and notices sent to those requesting such.

AGENDA MEETING

Chairman Mahler asked if there were any corrections to last month's minutes. Commissioner's Reisch and Borsuk had corrections to the minutes on various pages.

Chairman Mahler asked the board to review the Claims against the Board.

Commissioner Berkowitz sent letters out to the communities regarding the public vote on the new truck for tonight's meeting. Letter also sent to Mr. Scheidt of Santorini to review the punch list. Chairman Mahler stated Mr. Scheidt will be here tonight.

Commissioner Reisch stated that he and Chief Carbin had a meeting with the insurance agent and covered insuring the new building for the appropriate amount.

Chairman Mahler stated that there will not be a closed session tonight.

Chairman Mahler asked the public if they had any questions on the vote tonight.

- Manny Silverman asked if any of the 3 districts have 2 ½ story buildings since tower ladders or buckets are used in multiple dwellings or 2 story building. If District doesn't have that, you don't need tower or bucket. Chief Carbin replied that District 2 has Cross Drive apartments in Clearbrook which are 3 story; Patriots Way is 2 ½ story. Need to consider setbacks- Make a Wish foundation will be 100 foot with setback. Concordia Circle - 95 foot

tower had to stand on edge. Over by Ponds is Waterside Villas, Crowne Plaza, and Assisted living facility (several), therefore there is a need for the truck since the general population will not climb down a ladder.

- Ed Cier added to Chief Carbin's remarks-with cars parked in front of buildings adds to the need as well. He concurs with what they are purchasing, it's needed and long overdue. Chief Carbin added that they also have industrial area that it will be needed for.
- Phil Berkowitz stated District 2 has 95 foot now truck now; is 5 feet more going to make a difference. Chief Carbin stated the demographics of the town where different when bought the current truck and there is no tank; it's not just the 5 feet; with limited manpower and crew and expansion of town, crew may be waiting for extra engine to arrive. With new truck, it will have tank and bucket. Mr. Cier stated they would need another ladder and pumper and the combined truck will serve for another 25 year
- Mary Bennett asked where the new truck will be housed. Chairman Mahler stated it will be housed in new firehouse. Chief Carbin extended offer to public to stop by during the day to see the new firehouse. On Monday, News 12 called to come out for a tour and was here when they had 3 calls.

Chairman Mahler mentioned that the new building is totally solar powered; the only one in the township. The district will get credits back from the solar company; children will be able to visit and with a kiosk they will see how the solar works; good for younger people know how we are helping environment. The new truck will take a year to build. Firefighter Grande helped with the design of the trucks.

- Ed Cier commented that the pumper ladder combination together may be a concern; this district is in favorable position having a backup pumper and ladder.
- Resident from Clearbrook asked how board can justify when the district doesn't have anything over 28 feet in height. Chairman Mahler stated that had been explained earlier of all the buildings that will justify the truck. Firefighter Grande explained further.

Commissioner Reisch stated this is a 10 year lease program. If vote is yes, it goes out for bid with maximum of \$1,275,000.00. Bids may be lower. At that time, it will be setup with a 10 year program with principal and interest will be paid annually out of the budget. The approximate cost to the public, going on last years ratables, the most it will cost the taxpayer is an average of 1 cent per \$100. Nothing goes up, it's a flat amount for 10 years - principle and interest.

At the present time the rate of interest in May was 4.9. Three weeks later it dropped to 3.99, based on the number from Oshkosh Capital. It can be down another 10 basis points by the time the board signs with the leasing company. \$150,000.00 home would cost you \$15 a year for the truck. There would be no change over the 10 year period. Principal and interest paid in 10 years. The first payment isn't due until the district gets the truck, 2011 or 2012.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Lawrence Reisch, the agenda meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz
Aye Borsuk
Aye Mahler
Aye Mitnowsky
Aye Reisch

REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Mahler called the regular meeting to order with a Salute to the Flag at 7:37 pm.

Chairman Mahler asked for a moment of silence for all firefighters and military who have died in the performance of their duties.

UPON ROLL CALL made by Commissioner Martin Berkowitz, the following members of the Monroe Township Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2 were present: Martin Berkowitz, Glenn Borsuk, Maurice Mahler, Edward Mitnowsky and Lawrence Reisch.

ALSO PRESENT: Board Attorney Richard J. Shaklee, Esquire, and Val Cier, Recording Secretary.

There were many career firefighters, volunteer and members of the public present.

Chairman Mahler announced that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, having been published in the April 9, 2010 newspaper, posted on the bulletin board of the Office of the Township Clerk, and notices sent to those requesting such.

PUBLIC VOTE

Chairman Mahler requested Board Attorney Shaklee to read the ballot for the public vote. Attorney Shaklee read the ballot which is to vote on fire district #2 authorizing the purchase or lease purchase a tower ladder truck and raise \$1,275,000.00.

Public questioned why they haven't been informed of the vote. Chairman Mahler stated that the voting has been announced in the newspaper and advertised in all communities as well as other public places within the fire district. The meeting tonight was to answer any questions on the lease.

Public questioned if the board is purchasing or leasing the truck. Commissioner Reisch clarified that it will be a lease.

Commissioner Reisch asked Firefighter Grande to explain the spec process. Firefighter Grande stated they began research a replacement for the 1995 95 foot Ariel scope, with an original price of \$1.6 million, and have narrowed it down to under \$1.3 million. The current truck is almost 16 years old. It has served it's purpose and the community, but in the past three years it has cost \$25,000 per year to maintain, using district money to keep it on the road. Its time to replace it. The change in emission laws by the federal government will cost more if purchased next year, in addition to the cost of steel going up now as well which would also increase cost.

Public asked why does district 2 have to purchase this truck? Chief Carbin stated that Hightstown has 130 foot ladder, not a bucket. They bucket eases evacuating people, up to 5 people. In addition to the bucket, there is ladder capability, if people are able. Township has ladder trucks, but only district 2 has the bucket. This district has not purchased a truck in 16 years and has the oldest fleet in the township.

Chairman Mahler requested for public to cast votes.

MINUTES

Chairman Mahler asked for a motion on the Minutes.

UPON MOTION MADE by Martin Berkowitz and seconded by Lawrence Reisch, a motion was adopted to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2010 agenda and regular meetings, as amended.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz
Aye Borsuk
Aye Mahler
Aye Mitnowsky
Aye Reisch

CLAIMS AGAINST THE BOARD

Commissioner Reisch reported:

General Operating Claims Total	\$158,456.03
Capital Project Claims Total	\$ 33,328.94
Net Payroll Claims Total	\$ 63,678.27
Total Claims Against the Board July 17 2010 - August 11, 2010	\$255,463.24

UPON MOTION MADE by Lawrence Reisch and seconded by Glenn Borsuk, claims against the Monroe Township Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2 were approved in the amount of \$255,463.24.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz
Aye Borsuk
Aye Mahler
Aye Mitnowsky
Aye Reisch

TREASURER'S REPORT

Chairman Mahler asked for the treasurer's report.

Commissioner Reisch reported the following as of August 11, 2010:

Hudson City Savings Bank:

Unrestricted Funds	\$252,458.10
Restricted Funds	\$404,296.13
Capital Projects	\$464,088.17
Cash on Hand	\$170.00
Total Balance	\$1,121,012.40

CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Mahler asked for correspondence.

Commissioner Berkowitz read the letter that was sent on July 19th to all the community managers advertising the upcoming vote on the tower ladder truck.

Commissioner Berkowitz read a letter dated July 26th to Mr. Scheidt of Santorini Construction on open items that call for resolution and request of a meeting to resolve.

Chairman Mahler reported that 62 Votes were cast:

No- 21 votes

Yes - 39 votes

Disqualified - 2 votes

The district will go out to bid for a new truck based on the results.

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Mahler asked Brian Moore to provide status on building:

- Working on a temporary certificate of occupancy - Chairman Mahler spoke to Wayne Hamilton and Ernie Fiest stated it will be a done deal
- Fiest signed off, five item punch list for CO has been completed. Once CO received, solar system can be finalized
- In process of completing items on punch list and items under construction which still have one year warranty on items - Chairman Mahler stated they might put a door on shower; magnetic door; or rubber dams - check with the Chief Carbin for more information

Mr. Moore suggested getting CO first, then modifications can be made after you legally occupy the building. John stated there is nothing major left to correct. He didn't go through the entire punch list, but will be finishing tomorrow. Still need to do walkthrough and closeout process with Rich Bartels. Chief Carbin will take care of that.

Chairman Mahler asked Attorney Shaklee to read building resolutions, as a consent agenda.

Attorney Shaklee read the resolution, by title, resolution authorizing change order GC59 for the construction of Halsey Reed Road Fire House/Emergency Medical Services Facility:

- GC59 - in the amount of \$1253.00 for the supply and installation of two recessed light switches in the EMS bathrooms and remove GFI outlet at front sign and install Jbox.

UPON MOTION MADE by Martin Berkowitz and seconded by Ed Mitnowsky, to approve the consent agenda resolution GC59, as presented.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz

Aye Borsuk

Aye Mahler

Aye Mitnowsky

Aye Reisch

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU REPORT

Chairman Mahler asked Chairman Borsuk to review the Monthly Fire Prevention Report.

Commissioner Borsuk reviewed monthly training and incidents with board, in addition to:

- Hiring to fill the open position - Chairman Mahler mentioned that the replacement is for Les Barta, who is a commissioner at district 3 and Rutgers fire instructor.
- Tests are on order; Ordered 100 test; Waiting on date from Monmouth County fire academy
- Audio-visual system is being installed, some parts still on order
- Key fob system installation week of August 30th
- Request from career staff to install dish network (Direct TV)

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Martin Berkowitz for the career staff to install and maintain the dish network.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz

Aye Borsuk
Aye Mahler
Aye Mitnowsky
Aye Reisch

- Conversion of new command vehicle. This is to have the command center built into the vehicle. PL Custom bid is below bid threshold. There were 4 quotes. \$22,626.00 is the lowest bid by PL Custom. Attorney Shaklee will check to see if that amount is below threshold. Attorney Shaklee believes the threshold is \$21,000.00, unless you have a certified purchasing agent, then it's \$25,000.00.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Martin Berkowitz for the conversion of the new command vehicle awarded to PL Custom, providing it's below the threshold.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz

Aye Borsuk
Aye Mahler
Aye Mitnowsky
Aye Reisch

APPLEGARTH VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Chairman Mahler asked for the Applegarth Volunteer's report.

President Davis stated at next meeting they will have three new members. Two of the three have firefighter certification and eligible for VIP program. One volunteer is out on medical leave.

MEETING OPEN TO THE BOARD

Chairman Mahler opened the meeting to the board.

Chairman Mahler mentioned the trees and grass at the firehouse and there may be a need for an irrigation system. Can't water lawn with water from tap. Commissioner Berkowitz stated they are building the senior center, and questioned if they are

planning an irrigation system. Commissioner Borsuk will call MTUD about non-potable water.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Chairman Mahler opened the meeting to the public.

Lt. Riley spoke to union and shop steward and he is aware of what Lt. Riley wants to do for continuing his education. Commissioner Borsuk stated the board was looking for a letter from union that they are in agreement with Lt. Riley being the only one taking classes.

Commissioner Reisch clarified the stipulations of the contract: 80% reimbursement and books; B is 75%, etc; three classes a year to get reimbursed. Lt. Riley needs to know by Oct/Nov timeframe. Board is looking for a letter from the union president. Lt. Volkmann stated his crew was polled and no one wants to take classes.

Commissioner Reisch questioned what is happening with the payment of \$50,000.00 due to board. The solar system had \$25,000.00 given to board; 50 % upon completion- \$50,000.00; and upon completion another \$25,00.00. Commissioner Reisch stated the board wants to get paid. Attorney Shaklee stated \$75,000.00 is due to the board. The immediate holdup is that the terms of grant states the municipal engineer must inspect (by county) and Ernie Fiest is aware of this. The last time Attorney Shaklee made contact (3rd time) was about 2 weeks ago. Attorney Shaklee will call Ernie Fiest tomorrow.

Commissioner Reisch questioned if the board did a 2nd grant on the solar system. Commissioner Borsuk stated no other grant was pursued. Chairman Mahler stated they applied for a station construction grant. Commissioner Borsuk stated that was the grant the board wasn't able to go forward, but will confirm with Les Barta. Chairman Mahler stated there are grants for volunteer firefighters and they should look into it. Chairman Mahler stated that Commissioner Borsuk can give volunteers grant writers phone number, but there is a fee for the service. Mark Davis clarified that the benefits of the grant is not just for volunteers, its for district.

Commissioner Borsuk advised Commissioner Reisch that 2 checks came in from Lincoln Financial for 2 closed LOSAP account, for less than \$2,000.00.

Commissioner Reisch questioned if there was a correction on the capital projects account last month. Chief Carbin clarified there wasn't a mistake with the accounts, accountant used wrong color check.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Mahler announced there is no need to hold an executive session.

ADJOURN

Chairman Mahler asked for a motion to adjourn.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Martin Berkowitz, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz
Aye Borsuk
Aye Mahler
Aye Mitnowsky
Aye Reisch

MARTIN BERKOWITZ
Board Secretary
MAURICE MAHLER
Chairman

NOTE: Appendixes can be obtained upon request from the Board Secretary.

PREPARED BY: Val Cier