

TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
Board of Fire Commissioners
Fire District No. 2
Minutes of the Reorganization and Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 11, 2009

The Monroe Township Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2 met at the Applegarth Volunteer Engine Company No. 1 Firehouse, Applegarth Road, Monroe Township, New Jersey for an Agenda, Reorganization and Regular Meeting.

Chairman Borsuk called the agenda meeting to order with a Salute to the Flag at 7:00 pm.

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, Ed Mitnowsky and Lawrence Reisch.

ALSO PRESENT: Board Attorney Richard J. Shaklee, Esquire.

There was one paid firefighter present: Chief Carbin.

There was one volunteer firefighters present: Dave Lesser.

There were three members of the public present: Charlie DiPierro, Bob Lebrun, and Mike Costello of Fire District #3.

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

AGENDA MEETING

Chairman Borsuk asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. Chairman Borsuk, Commissioner Reisch and Commissioner Mahler had corrections to the minutes.

Chairman Borsuk asked the board to review claims against the board. Commissioner Mahler asked about the claim for Fire Prevention handbooks. Chief Carbin stated they are the new books, and cannot download from website.

Chairman Borsuk asked if there was any general correspondence. Commissioner Berkowitz read a letter from Stonebridge Community Association dated February 20th thanking Station 57 for their recent 911 response.

Chairman Borsuk asked if the board had any other items to discuss tonight. There will be an executive session tonight.

Commissioner Berkowitz stated the board can get the latest voting list from the Middlesex County Board of Election for \$25, rather than relying on the township, but there will still be problems with the District lines.

Commissioner Reisch would like to discuss consolidation. Attorney Shaklee stated he has a letter from the Board Accountant for six resolutions. Commissioner Mahler stated there may be a guest attending, Brian Valentino of Patriot Corporation, a consulting firm. Attorney Shaklee stated the firm does studies on government functions, management and consolidation.

Chairman Borsuk asked for a motion to adjourn.

UPON MOTION MADE by Maurice Mahler and seconded by Edward Mitnowsky, the agenda meeting was adjourned.

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

REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Borsuk called the regular meeting to order with a Salute to the Flag at 7:30 pm. Chairman Borsuk 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, Ed Mitnowsky and Lawrence Reisch.

ALSO PRESENT: Board Attorney Richard J. Shaklee, Esquire.

There was one paid firefighter present: Chief Carbin.

There were three volunteer firefighters present: Dave Lesser, Danny Medina and Dennis Cronin.

There were four members of the public present: Charlie DiPierro, Bob Lebrun, and Mike Costello of Fire District #3, and Brian Valentino.

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

REORGANIZATION MEETING

Chairman Borsuk asked Board Attorney Shaklee to swear in the re-elected commissioner. Board Attorney Shaklee swore in the re-elected Commissioner Maurice Mahler.

Commissioner Mahler congratulated District 3 Commissioners - Commissioner Costello and Commissioner Lebrun.

Chairman Borsuk announced that nominations were in order for the position of Chairman.

UPON MOTION MADE by Maurice Mahler and seconded by Ed Mitnowsky, Maurice Mahler was nominated as Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No.2.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz

Aye Borsuk

Aye Mahler

Aye Mitnowsky

Aye Reisch

Chairman Borsuk asked if there were any other nominations for the position of Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2.

Since there were no other nominations, Chairman Borsuk asked for a Motion to close the nominations.

UPON MOTION MADE by Martin Berkowitz and seconded by Maurice Mahler, a Motion was adopted to close the nomination for the position of Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2.

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

Commissioner Borsuk congratulated Chairman Mahler and handed the meeting over to Chairman Mahler.

Chairman Mahler asked for a motion on the Resolution appointing Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2.

UPON MOTION MADE by Martin Berkowitz and seconded by Lawrence Reisch, a Resolution was adopted appointing Maurice Mahler as Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire District No. 2 for a term expiring at the 2010 reorganization meeting.

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

Attached as Appendix A.

Chairman Mahler announced the results of the election. **Attached as Appendix B.**

A voter had come in to Applegarth Fire house and the one vote wasn't recorded or put in the ballot box, for Commissioner Mahler and Yes to the budget. Chairman Mahler recognized and thanked Commissioner Berkowitz for all he does in the election process.

Chairman Mahler announced that nominations were in order for the position of Vice Chairman.

UPON MOTION MADE by Maurice Mahler and seconded by Lawrence Reisch, Glenn Borsuk was nominated as Vice Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No.2.

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

Chairman Mahler asked if there were any other nominations for the position of Vice Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District 2.

Since there were no other nominations, Chairman Mahler asked for a Motion to close the nominations.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Martin Berkowitz, a Motion was adopted to close the nominations for the position of Vice Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2.

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

Chairman Mahler asked for a motion on the Resolution appointing Vice Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2.

UPON MOTION MADE by Martin Berkowitz and seconded by Edward Mitnowsky, a Resolution was adopted appointing Glenn Borsuk as Vice Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire District No. 2 for a term expiring at the 2010 reorganization meeting.

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

Attached as Appendix C.

Chairman Mahler announced that nominations were in order for the position of Board Secretary.

UPON MOTION MADE by Lawrence Reisch seconded by Glenn Borsuk, Martin Berkowitz was nominated as Secretary of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District #2.

Chairman Mahler asked if there were any other nominations for the position of Secretary of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2.

Since there were no other nominations, Chairman Mahler asked for a Motion to close the nominations.

UPON MOTION MADE by Lawrence Reisch and seconded by Glenn Borsuk, a Motion was adopted to close the nominations for the position of Secretary of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2.

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

Chairman Mahler asked for a motion on the Resolution appointing Secretary of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2.

UPON MOTION MADE by Martin Berkowitz and seconded by Maurice Mahler, a Resolution was adopted appointing Martin Berkowitz as Secretary of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire District No. 2 for a term expiring at the 2010 reorganization meeting.

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

Attached as Appendix D.

Chairman Mahler announced that nominations were in order for the position of Board Treasurer.

UPON MOTION MADE by Martin Berkowitz and seconded by Glenn Borsuk, Lawrence Reisch was nominated as Treasurer of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No.2.

Chairman Mahler asked if there were any other nominations for the position of Treasurer of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2.

Since there were no other nominations, Chairman Mahler asked for a Motion to close the nominations.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Martin Berkowitz, a motion was adopted to close the nomination for the position of Treasurer of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2.

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

Chairman Mahler asked for a motion on the Resolution appointing Treasurer of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2.

UPON MOTION MADE by Martin Berkowitz and seconded by Glenn Borsuk, a Resolution was adopted appointing Lawrence Reisch as Treasurer of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire District No. 2 for a term expiring at the 2010 reorganization meeting.

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

Attached as Appendix E.

Chairman Mahler announced that nominations were in order for the position of Assistant Secretary/Treasurer.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Lawrence Reisch, Ed Mitnowsky was nominated as Assistant Secretary/Treasurer of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2.

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

Chairman Mahler asked if there were any other nominations for the position of Assistant Secretary/Treasurer of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2.

Since there were no other nominations, Chairman Mahler asked for a Motion to close the nominations.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Maurice Mahler, a Motion was adopted to close the nominations for the position of Assistant Secretary/Treasurer of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2.

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

Chairman Mahler asked for a motion on the Resolution appointing Assistant Secretary/Treasurer of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2.

UPON MOTION MADE by Maurice Mahler and seconded by Martin Berkowitz, a Resolution was adopted appointing Ed Mitnowsky as Assistant Secretary/Treasurer of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2 for a term expiring at the 2010 reorganization meeting.

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

Attached as Appendix F.

Chairman Mahler announced that nominations were in order for the position of Board Attorney.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Martin Berkowitz, Richard J. Shaklee, Esquire, of the firm McLaughlin, Gelson, D'Apolito & Stauffer LLC, was nominated as Board Attorney of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2.

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

Chairman Mahler asked if there were any other nominations for the position of Attorney of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2.

Since there were no other nominations, Chairman Mahler asked for a Motion to close the nominations.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Maurice Mahler, a Motion was adopted to close the nominations for the position of Board Attorney of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2.

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

Chairman Mahler asked for a motion on the Resolution appointing the Board Attorney of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2.

UPON MOTION MADE by Martin Berkowitz and seconded by Glenn Borsuk, a Resolution was adopted appointing Richard J. Shaklee, Esquire, of the firm McLaughlin, Gelson, D'Apolito & Stauffer LLC, as Attorney of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire District No. 2 for a term expiring at the 2010 reorganization meeting.

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

Attached as Appendix G.

Chairman Mahler announced that nominations were in order for the position of Recording Secretary.

UPON MOTION MADE by Martin Berkowitz and seconded by Glenn Borsuk, Valerie Cier was nominated as Recording Secretary of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No.2.

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

Chairman Mahler asked if there were any other nominations for the position of Recording Secretary of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2.

Since there were no other nominations, Chairman Mahler asked for a Motion to close the nominations.

UPON MOTION MADE by Martin Berkowitz and seconded by Glenn Borsuk, a motion was adopted to close the nomination for the position of Recording Secretary of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2.

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

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Lawrence Reisch, a Resolution was adopted appointing Valerie Cier as Recording Secretary of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire District No. 2 for a term expiring at the 2010 reorganization meeting.

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

Attached as Appendix H.

Chairman Mahler announced that nominations were in order for the position of Board Accountant/Auditor.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Maurice Mahler, Furey and Company, P.C., was nominated as Board Accountant/Auditor of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No.2.

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

Chairman Mahler asked if there were any other nominations for the position of Board Accountant/Auditor of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District 2.

Since there were no other nominations, Chairman Mahler asked for a Motion to close the nominations.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Lawrence Reisch, a Motion was adopted to close the nominations for the position of Board Accountant/Auditor of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2.

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

Chairman Mahler asked for a motion on the Resolution appointing Board Accountant/Auditor of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Lawrence Reisch, a Resolution was adopted appointing Furey and Company, P.C. as Board Accountant/Auditor for the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2 for a term expiring at the 2010 reorganization meeting.

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

Attached as Appendix I.

Chairman Mahler informed the Board of the need to establish official Board newspapers. **UPON MOTION MADE** by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Lawrence Reisch, a Resolution was adopted establishing the Cranbury Press, and the Home News and Tribune as the official newspapers of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District 2, expiring at the 2010 reorganization meeting.

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

Attached as Appendix J.

Chairman Mahler informed the Board of the need for designating official depositories of monies and funds of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Lawrence Reisch, a Resolution was adopted designating Hudson City Savings Bank, in Monroe Township, and any other institution deemed necessary by the Treasurer, as the official depositories of monies and funds of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2, expiring at the 2010 reorganization meeting.

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

Attached as Appendix K.

Chairman Mahler informed the Board of the need for establishing compensation for members of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District 2.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Lawrence Reisch, a Resolution was adopted establishing compensation for members of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2, expiring at the 2010 reorganization meeting.

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

Attached as Appendix L.

Chairman Mahler informed the Board of the need to adopt a Resolution authorizing the Board Treasurer to establish, close and maintain bank accounts.

UPON MOTION MADE by Lawrence Reisch and seconded by Glenn Borsuk, a Resolution was adopted authorizing the Board Treasurer to establish, close and maintain bank accounts for the Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2, expiring at the 2010 reorganization meeting.

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

Attached as Appendix M.

Chairman Mahler informed the Board a Resolution was needed designating the polling locations of the 2010 Annual Election.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Lawrence Reisch, a Resolution was adopted designating the polling locations for the 2010 Annual Election.

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

Attached as Appendix N.

Chairman Mahler informed the Board of the need for a Resolution recognizing Applegarth Volunteer Engine Company No. 1, Inc. as supplement to the paid fire fighters for Fire District No. 2.

UPON MOTION MADE by Maurice Mahler and seconded by Lawrence Reisch, a Resolution was adopted recognizing Applegarth Volunteer Engine Company No. 1, Inc. as supplement to paid fire fighters for Fire District No. 2, expiring at the 2010 reorganization meeting.

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

Attached as Appendix O.

Chairman Mahler informed the Board of a need to adopt a Resolution establishing date, time and place of monthly meetings for Fire District No. 2.

It was noted that there is a conflict on April 8, 2009 due to a religious holiday. The board agreed to move the meeting date to April 15, 2009.

UPON MOTION MADE by Martin Berkowitz and seconded by Maurice Mahler, a Resolution was adopted establishing date, time and place of monthly meetings for Fire District No. 2.

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

Attached as Appendix P.

Chairman Mahler informed the Board of the need for a Resolution designating signatures on bond for Fire District No. 2.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Martin Berkowitz, a Resolution was adopted designating signatures on the bond for Fire District No. 2, expiring at the 2010 reorganization meeting.

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

Attached as Appendix Q.

Chairman Mahler informed the Board of the need for a Resolution establishing compensation for the Board Attorney.

Board Attorney Shaklee requested that the resolution be modified to remove the subparagraphs under number one of the resolution. The board is in agreement with the revision to the resolution.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Lawrence Reisch, a Resolution was adopted for the compensation of Board Attorney Richard Shaklee, of McLaughlin, Gelson, D'Apolito & Stauffer LLC, for the term expiring 2010.

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

Attached as Appendix R.

Chairman Mahler informed the Board of the need for a Resolution establishing compensation for the Board Accountant/Auditor.

Commissioner Reisch stated the tax breakdown is not required in resolution.

UPON MOTION MADE by Martin Berkowitz and seconded by Lawrence Reisch, a Resolution was adopted for the compensation of Board Accountant/Auditor, Furey and Company, P.C., for the term expiring 2010.

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

Attached as Appendix S.

Chairman Mahler informed the Board of the need to adopt a Resolution authorizing Board Treasurer and/or Assistant Board Treasurer to make timely payments.

UPON MOTION MADE by Martin Berkowitz and seconded by Maurice Mahler, a Resolution was adopted authorizing the Board Treasurer and/or Assistant Board Treasurer to make timely payments.

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

Attached as Appendix T.

Chairman Mahler asked for a motion on adopting a Resolution fixing the charges for mailing agendas and meeting notices, and establishing fees for Electronic copies.

UPON MOTION MADE by Martin Berkowitz and seconded by Maurice Mahler, a Resolution was adopted fixing the charges for mailing agendas and meeting notices, and establishing fees for copies.

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

Attached as Appendix U.

Chairman Mahler informed the Board of the need to adopt a Resolution requesting district taxes.

UPON MOTION MADE by Martin Berkowitz and seconded by Maurice Mahler, a Resolution was adopted requesting district taxes for Fire District No. 2.

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

Attached as Appendix V.

Commissioner Reisch asked the recording secretary to send a letter to the Township to request the additional tax payment of \$43,375.00 for 1Q09.

Chairman Mahler informed the Board of the need to adopt a Resolution certifying the amount of money voted on at the 2009 election be sent to Township Clerk and the Tax Assessor of the Township of Monroe.

UPON MOTION MADE by Martin Berkowitz and seconded by Maurice Mahler, a Resolution was adopted certifying the amount of money voted on at the 2009 election be sent Township Clerk and the Tax Assessor of the Township of Monroe.

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

Attached as Appendix W.

Chairman Mahler announced the need to appoint a Liaison to the paid department and appointed Commissioner Berkowitz.

UPON MOTION MADE by Martin Berkowitz and seconded by Lawrence Reisch, a Resolution was adopted appointing a liaison to the paid department and what the liaison is empowered to do.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz

Aye Borsuk

Aye Mahler

Aye Mitnowsky

Aye Reisch

Attached as Appendix X.

Chairman Mahler announced the reorganization portion of the meeting has been completed and the regular meeting would continue.

MINUTES

A Motion was considered on the Minutes.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Lawrence Reisch, a motion was adopted to approve the minutes, as amended, of the February 11, 2009 agenda and regular meeting.

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

CLAIMS AGAINST THE BOARD

Chairman Mahler asked for the motion on the claims against the board.

UPON MOTION MADE by Lawrence Reisch and seconded by Ed Mitnowsky, claims against the Monroe Township Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2 were approved in the amount of \$176,281.86.

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

TREASURY REPORT

Chairman Mahler asked for the treasury report.

Commissioner Reisch stated the following:

Sovereign Bank:

Unrestricted Funds	\$213,456.21
Capital Projects	\$1,969,726.87

Hudson City Savings Bank:

Unrestricted Funds	\$652,100.55
Restricted	\$450,005.00
Capital Projects	\$2,003,179.59
Cash on Hand	\$170.00
Total Balance	\$5,288,638.22

CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Mahler asked if there was any additional correspondence to be read.

Attorney Shaklee stated that Epic wanted an addendum to go out to the contractors for the new firehouse, but they were not incorporated, therefore a new addendum has to go out. Persons picking up bid package have had questions and they have to be answered in the form of an addendum. A new addendum has to go out and there is not enough time to send out a new addendum and have March 17th bid opening.

April 21st was suggested as a new bid date. The board will change the date, and will need to advertise cancellation of bid opening of March 17th. Attorney Shaklee's office will inform the recording secretary of new date for advertisement.

Commissioner Borsuk received a call from someone that wanted to bid on the job. Chairman Mahler stated the board cannot speak to anyone regarding bids.

Commissioner Reisch received a document from Len Levine, Chairman of District 3, after a town hall meeting, stating that district 3 is covering district 1 and 2, and they do twice the amount of work. Commissioner Reisch would like to here a response from Chief Carbin. Chief Carbin stated the town is setup in 3 districts and run box alarms. Smoke or better is a township box alarm-1 apparatus from 57, 2 apparatus from 23, 1 apparatus from 51 (during day)- volunteers follow from 57 and 51; that's how box alarms are setup. They aren't doing twice work, they are just sending out 2 pieces of equipment. Commissioner Reisch stated Wayne Hamilton will have a meeting with only the board chairman's from each district. Commissioner Borsuk stated interpretation is based on how you read the statistics. Chairman Mahler stated at the meeting of the township, they made it look like district 3 was the only viable fire department in the district.

Commissioner Borsuk stated the first set of numbers happen to show more calls in our district. Chairman Mahler stated that someone more than chairman should attend the township meeting. Commissioner Reisch feels the treasurer should also attend. Chairman Mahler will email Wayne Hamilton and Mayor to have the treasurer and Chief attend only if notified of a meeting date.

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU REPORT

Captain Carbin reviewed the Fire Prevention Bureau and Paid Department, distributed to the Board for review.

Chief Carbin mentioned:

- Confined space training beginning this month.
- Initiating inspections this month.

- Software company to come up with updates for ESP.
- Thermostats shorting out -up to 13 now. Fire prevention will send letter.
- Commissioner Berkowitz stated he heard from a resident, Ellen Shroeder, who said department did a great job but couldn't understand why so many trucks. Chief stated the did stop 51 coming in, only come in for high hazard area.
- Incident 101 was building fire - called out as a smoke condition. Reason why all the units roll. Fire prevention will follow up on that call.
- Concordia getting new keys. Chairman Mahler-make sure new key in Knox box.
- Monthly run 54-same as last month-more structure fires.
- Dan Medina highest call percentage for volunteers.
- 57-3 at Baker in Pottstown, PA for UL repair (6-9 weeks) District 1 and 3 now run ladders to calls.
- Insurance fund meeting today at Mt. Laurel firehouse - 22 or 23 folks in attendance. Will have copies for Board Attorney and Commissioners to review. The group adopted it as a whole (tour of claim notice), and it should be adopted as a district as well. First quarter bill went out 2 weeks ago, but haven't seen the bill yet. It took about a month for them to initiate a claim about Firefighter Nuber. Chief Carbin rectified problem. District is insured since Jan 1, even though we haven't seen bill.
- Radio quotes are in for new truck and on order.
- Attended open house today at St Peters Adult Day Care.
- 2 requests for training.

APPLEGARTH VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY REPORT

President Medina asked if quotes can be received for the apron in front of the firehouse since funds are encumbered, and for the painting of the tanks.

Department had quotes, but contractor didn't have paperwork. President Medina will come up with something amicable with board. Commissioner Borsuk stated that the board probably owned the diesel and gasoline tanks and the volunteers owned the fuel oil tank.

Commissioner Reisch asked President Medina to bring in the bank account statements from the volunteers, and need the annual audit. Would like to get statements from this point forward.

Commissioner Borsuk will be the liaison for painting tanks and fixing the apron. Dennis Cronin has quotes for the tank. Dennis needs to know what required forms are needed. Attorney Shaklee stated that a public entity need certain forms for over \$3000, and if over \$2000 for public works. The board requires the documentation, but the volunteers wouldn't need the paperwork. Chief Carbin has the letter and Commissioner Borsuk can supply the letter of requirements.

Commissioner Reisch questioned the specs of the apron. Commissioner Borsuk stated that whatever is being done at new building is going to be the same specs for existing building.

President Medina asked if the board can send a letter to Mr. Wassermann and Eagle Day Camp who donated burgers and ice cream. Commissioner Berkowitz can draft the letter.

President Medina brought up a concern from the March 4th release article in Home News Tribune. He has been approached by many people questioning if the building is really falling apart and that old. Before this board ever came into existence, the volunteers have become more proactive to see that the building has not fallen into disrepair-improvements with window, water, heating, and lights. There were many erroneous statements throughout the article. President Medina suggested that a retraction and correction should be made. Chairman Mahler stated the staff writer misquoted the article. The article was supposed to be about \$217,000.00 rebate for the solar panels. The reporter picked up comments Chairman Mahler made. Commissioner Reisch spoke to the same reporter and she is a complete idiot. Chairman Mahler called her boss to advise him that she is incompetent. This was not a news release. The reporter called about the clean energy act and she didn't put a word in the paper about the solar panels.

Commissioner Berkowitz made copies of the article and sent to all board members. The newspaper distorts the information, and he won't talk to them or trust them. President Medina stated previous articles have gone out without fanfare, but this article received a lot of attention. Commissioner Mitnowsky received a letter from Commissioner Berkowitz about the volunteers and read an excerpt of the letter stating thanks to the volunteers for their support and collaboration.

President Medina has a concern if article is being released, it should be reviewed amongst the board. Commissioner Reisch stated any article should not go into paper without names and a release by the board.

Chairman Mahler stated the article was an erroneous report and should never have been published.

OPEN TO THE BOARD

Chairman Mahler introduced Brian Valentino, MPA, president & Principal consultant of Patriot Consulting Group.

Mr. Valentino stated his firm specializes in municipal government operations. Working in public safety and consolidation. They are doing 14 of 15 consolidations in the state, but

there is no active fire district consolidations. Mr. Valentino's understanding is there may be a consolidation of districts or township consolidation.

8:57pm Gary Fernicola arrived.

Mr. Valentino states they understand what goes into a consolidation, pros/cons, political aspects, etc. and can be an advisor in the process. Largest part of their firm is public safety. They would be representative for the board, if interested.

Commissioner Reisch stated the administration in Monroe wants to merge districts 2 & 3 together, possibly leave district 1 alone. There is a tax disparity of 7 cents (district 2 is lower). Can we stop the mayor from merging district 2 & 3 together and leave district 1 alone, based on Mr. Valentino's experience?

Mr. Valentino is not familiar of consolidating a portion of the districts and not all. This is not just about the mayor, its about the governing body of the township. 5% of registered voters sign a petition, the governing body can schedule a hearing to dissolve districts.

Commissioner Borsuk asked if the 5% of voters is for each district. Attorney Shaklee stated the statute is silent, its an open question and believes you can make the argument that it should be 5% of each district.

Chairman Mahler asked Mr. Valentino what he can bring to the table to stall or stop the merger. Mr. Valentino stated public opinion and public education are the motivators to drive the issue:

- Court - district 2 vs. township, need public input
- Court of public opinion - need public education

The suggestion is to keep it in the court of public opinion- educate the residents. Public opinion drives the outcome.

Mr. Valentino stated in police department consolations that doesn't happen because there is a police district and deal with the governing body there.

Commissioner Reisch stated that 2 years ago the township tried consolidation, and found it wouldn't solve any problems or save any money. District 1 is being left alone, they have lowest tax rate. Merging district 2 & 3 together is going to put more tax on district 2. District 2 is getting an advantage on ratables. District 3, for the past 7 years, has been running anywhere from \$2 million more in ratables to \$110-\$112 million in ratables, so district 2 is better if we are left alone. District 2 has never complained about the tax disparity of district 1 (4 cent difference). We know the mayor wants to consolidate and wants the new ratables coming in. The township is going to hire a professional consultant to verify their opinion that has already been made.

Chairman Mahler asked Mr. Valentino about a fee schedule and what he can bring to the table. Mr. Valentino stated the Attorney plays role in courtroom, but limited to what he can do in the public. Patriot Consulting can advise on what to advertise, how to advertise, the type of information to get out, what is going to have greatest affect on the elected officials and public. The strongest arguments are that I like my fire department, I like my firefighters, I feel safe when they are around, I don't want to lose that.

Chairman Mahler stated the most residents don't know where firehouse is or what district they are in.

Mr. Valentino stated the board is at the point to devise and implement a strategy. They won't be involved in the implementation, but will provide the advise.

Bob Lebrun left 9:15pm

Commissioner Berkowitz stated the township has already started to shape public opinion based on the articles in the paper.

Mr. Valentino stated until you know what you want, he cant give price on his services. He can give a base amount per month. 10 hours/ month - \$120/hour for the year. The board would be billed for the amount of time used. When the board decides what they want, they can firm up the fee and can even provide a not to exceed amount.

Chairman Mahler asked if the firm has writers. Mr. Valentino sated they have an entire staff of writers. Commissioner Borsuk asked what other organizations has his firm worked with. Mr. Valentino stated East Windsor, Roosevelt, Millstone, and Manalapan.

The firm has a contract with a news service and is picked up by various media, but that is no included in monthly fee. They can make news for the board.

Attorney Shaklee read 2008 Year End resolutions & 2009 Fund Appropriation Resolutions to be approved on one motion. Resolutions:

- Encumber \$85,000 of surplus from 2008 budget to cover 2008 expenditure that will be paid in 2009.
- \$50,000 of the Building and Equipment Acquisition fund be appropriated to the 2009 budget to reduce monies need to be raised by taxation for capital projects.
- \$88,274.76 of interest earned on bond monies be utilized in 2009 budget to offset 2009 debt appropriations.
- Additional \$1752.24 of surplus be utilized in 2009 budget
- Any remaining surplus at the end of the 2008 budget year remain as

unappropriated and unrestricted to maintain constant positive balance in checking account.

- Upon end of 2008 budget year there is an allowance to re-appropriate monies from line items in the budget that have surpluses to line items in the budget that have deficits.

UPON MOTION MADE by Lawrence Reisch and seconded by Glenn Borsuk, 2008 Year End resolutions & 2009 Fund Appropriation Resolutions for the Monroe Township Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2 were approved.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz

Aye Borsuk

Aye Mahler

Aye Mitnowsky

Aye Reisch

Chief Carbin had 2 requests for training from:

1) Chief to attend IAFC in Dallas, TX from 8/25-29 for \$2495.00

2) Deputy Chief Lesser would like to go to Baltimore, MD for a total amount up to \$1200.00

Firefighter Wenz couldn't go to his class last month that had been approved.

Commissioner Reisch question why does the board pay for volunteers to attend training.

Commissioner Borsuk stated that the board covers items pertaining to training.

Chief Carbin stated both fall within the training budget.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Ed Mitnowsky, to approve the two training request for Chief Carbin and Deputy Chief Lesser, in the amount of \$2495.00 and \$1200.00, respectively.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz

Aye Borsuk

Aye Mahler

Aye Mitnowsky

Aye Reisch

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Chairman Mahler opened the meeting to the public.

Chairman DiPierro, Chairman of Dist 1, was at township meeting on Monday. MUA tried to put out bids to make improvement and were told no. When district 2 said district 1 is on their own, he doesn't think that will last. The Mayor is looking at charging the town a tax for the entire township. They have watched district 3 go from volunteers to what we

have today. District 1 tax rate will go down and dist 3 is going up, if ratables don't increase. If there are tax appeals (Cosco cost them 1 penny), this will impact tax rate- Real estate market went down, warehouses empty, and tax appeals.

Chairman DiPierro opinion is that the township is putting up a wall between the volunteer and career firefighters. They tried to do it 2 years ago. District 1 volunteers are very strong, and very upset about the article. If they do take over fire companies, they will take all and tell volunteers you can have your own company and you give us all your requests and purchases and they will review. Tax rate will be balanced across whole town, and make it an even playing field.

Chairman Mahler stated that Wayne Hamilton made a pie in 3 sections and took the line out that separated between districts 2 and 3.

Chairman DiPierro said at township meeting, he didn't say he would leave district 1 alone, but he would leave the volunteers alone. He's taking the 3 districts and getting rid of all the boards, Attorney's, Secretary's, etc. and township will run. District 1 does not feel they are going to be left alone. They are not taking this lightly and will be in a defensive mode. They are not saving money in a consolidation.

Commissioner Reisch

District 3 budget; first 2 line items in appropriations.

\$890,000 from fund balances to lower the tax rate, is a little over 6 cents on their tax rate. If they didn't in the fund balance money their tax rate would have 6 cents more (not 28.2, but 34.2)

Year before they put in \$550,000.00 in fund balances. Commissioner Reisch asked Commissioner Levine where they are getting the money. They put away money every year. Take off the backs of the tax payer. Their interest income in appropriation is \$75,000. You have to have \$3million dollars floating around to get that \$75,000 in interest.

Commissioner Reisch just pulled funds out of Sovereign of \$2 million dollars and got a total of \$800 in interest for the month. Last year the board had \$88,000 in interest (4.5% last year).

Chairman DiPierro stated what happened at MUA was quick. By the end of year it will be in the works. They are trying to equally balance tax rates.

Commissioner Reisch asked if this could be resolved with an equal tax rate. If we stay as autonomous bodies, district 3 runs a loose budget, what can be done.

Chairman DiPierro said District 3 spends 75-80% of budget salary, pension, etc. The only

way they can shave off \$500,000 to \$600,000.00 is to lay people off and cut down manpower.

Commissioner Reisch stated Wayne Hamilton said the paid firefighters in Monroe is 53, and is overstaffed in comparison to the police department.

Commissioner Berkowitz prediction is if the township follows through, they will take all paid firefighters and distribute them throughout the district. Chairman DiPierro said volunteers of District 1 will give up if that happens. The volunteers of District 1 will be at the next council meeting on 3/30. Chairman DiPierro needs to support the volunteers.

Mike Costello stated they passed 2 ordinances with the MUA and it was dissolved, don't they need a referendum. Attorney Shaklee stated there is no referendum to dissolve a fire district. When an authority is dissolved, they have to get approval from local finance board. Whatever debt and other obligations that the dissolved entity has, they have to approve that those obligations will be met by somebody. They should have done that with the MUA.

Chairman DiPierro said the MUA taken over and they didn't fight it. In addition, it's illegal to charge hydrant fees on High school and Oak Tree school. Why should taxpayer being pay twice.

Commissioner Reisch asked when district 1 has the reorganization meeting next week, could you bring the subject up regarding stopping the consolidation. Chairman DiPierro's opinion is that the volunteers are not in favor of consolidation. Chairman DiPierro's recommendation to board is to have Chief and 1 other commissioner attend township meeting. This needs the support of everyone. Last time there were 20-25 people at consolidation meeting. This time they only want 3 from the districts. Board should go to the council meetings and listen to the public. Commissioner Reisch asked Chairman DiPierro to poll his board on where they stand.

Chairman DiPierro asked district 3 chief if he's an administrator or operational chief and he gets \$85,000 a year, and drives the township vehicle to Jersey City. It was stated in a public meeting.

Mr. Costello stated that everyone here is interested in this topic. Look at election and the # of voters (approximately 300 voters in district 1 and 2 each). Residents need to be educated. Many don't know about the fire districts or care.

Chairman DiPierro stated that the chiefs talk and need to continue to collaborate.

President Medina commended the board on how they handle their board meetings. He

has attended district 3's meeting and it's not as structured, it's brief and to the point.

Dennis Cronin mentioned the article in the March 11th Home News, and Corzine relying on middle class shoulder the burden. Corzine applauded municipalities. Chairman Mahler mentioned that he had called Greenstein on the floor of the assembly about consolidation and she voted against it. Not sure where she stands today.

Commissioner Reisch stated when you mention consolidation to the average person, it means saving money to the average person. The boards are doing the job with 15 commissioner for at total salary of \$75,000. Now, they want 1 person to do the job of 15 commissioner for \$100,000 to do the job. This figure head will need to bring in more people to help do the job. Consolidation will not work here. Need to educate the public.

Chairman Mahler stated the gated communities don't know the districts. Commissioner Borsuk stated they are surprised when they are volunteers. Chairman Mahler stated the private homes are difficult to reach out to educate.

Next council meeting is 3/30-agenda meeting; 4/6-regular meeting.

Dennis Cronin stated the town didn't observe what was done in the that district 3 when they lost all the volunteers. Commissioner Berkowitz stated when he became a commissioner, Mr. Nalitt gave the opportunity for Commissioner Berkowitz to speak to community in Concordia, but wouldn't get involved in the fire district business. Township didn't want anything to do with the districts. Now they want to take over, they realize there is a lot of tax money they can benefit from.

Chairman Mahler stated the new Chief of district 3 will probably be the township chief. New district 3 commissioner Kaplan is a Jersey City retired firefighter.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Mahler announced the need for a closed session for negotiations to hold an executive session.

ADJOURN

Chairman Mahler asked for a motion to adjourn.

UPON MOTION MADE by Maurice Mahler and seconded by Martin Berkowitz, the meeting was adjourned.

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

MARTIN BERKOWITZ
Board Secretary

MAURICE MAHLER
Chairman

APPROVED:

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

PREPARED BY: Valerie J. Cier