

Minutes

The second of two 2020 Budget Workshop Meetings of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire District No. 2 was held on the above date at the Lenola Fire House. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Wesolowski.

Five Commissioners were present. Also, in attendance were Chief Grant, LVFC President Brian Wesolowski, F.O. Orsini, Battalion Chief DiPaolo and Administrator Knobbs.

Wesolowski identified the emergency exits, indicated the front door was opened to the public and opened the meeting by reading the following statement in accordance with the "Open Public Meetings Act":

This meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire District No. 2 of The Township of Moorestown is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975. Pursuant to the "Act", on February 22nd, 2019 the required notice was transmitted to the *Burlington County Times* and the *Moorestown Sun*.

Additionally, the required notice was posted on the bulletin board, reserved for such notices, in the lobby of the Town Hall, 111 West Second Street, Moorestown, NJ 08057, on the bulletin board of the Moorestown Municipal Library, 111 West Second Street, Moorestown, NJ 08057 and on the bulletin board of the Lenola Fire House, 229 North Lenola Road, Moorestown, NJ 08057 and filed with the Clerk of the Township of Moorestown on this date.

Lastly, written notice was posted on the official website, MoorestownFireDistrict2.com on February 22nd, 2019 and mailed to each person who has requested copies of the schedule of meetings.

An affidavit certifying that the aforesaid delivery and posting of notices was prepared and signed by the Administrator.

Wesolowski called for a salute to the flag and a moment of silence for our departed members.

President Wesolowski began by thanking the board members for their diligence in reviewing the budget. Wesolowski also thanked Administrator Knobbs for his hard work in putting all the pieces together for this budget, Chief Grant and his officers, as well as the Chief's Assistant for their part in assembling the numbers and Matt Orsini and his staff for putting together the numbers for the Bureau.

2020 Budget

President Wesolowski stated that tonight's presentation should be shorter. He noted that we don't have an A/V presentation tonight, but we would review the sections that had changed and he would open the floor to any questions/comments at each section. He then turned the meeting over to Administrator Knobbs to review the budget.

Knobbs handed out a packet of replacement pages for the members to place in their binders, replacing the previous same numbered pages. Knobbs walked through the Summary and each individual page. The main changes were:

- Cost of Operations and Maintenance-Hall Repairs & Maintenance: Increase by \$825 to reflect an additional deep cleaning of the Hall Kitchen each year.
- Oper Offset w/Rev (BFP): Salaries and Fringe benefits increased to show the changes in longevity amounts.
- Revenues-Unrestricted Fund Balance increased by \$2,000 to accommodate the above changes while keeping the tax rate increase to one-tenth of a cent.

Knobbs then discussed the Tax Rate calculation. He included two pages in the commissioner's packet. The first page shows the amount of rateables at the CNC-3 reported value of \$806,847,406. Knobbs explained that days after he received the above reported number on the CNC-3 from the Tax Assessor, he received an email from him reporting that he had made an error in calculating the mall tax assessment in the amount of \$3,190,700. After several emails it was determined that the actual bill was sent at the higher valuation and that they were expecting the mall to immediately appeal this and probably would be settled prior to year-end. If that is the case, then our rateable calculation would be as listed on the page marked "Likely". Knobbs stated that he had to go with the amount reported originally. He has positioned the budget amounts so that in either case, the amount to be raised by taxation calculation for the county will be rounded to .098%, up from .097% in 2019.

Wesolowski asked if any board members had any additional items to put in the 2020 Budget. There were no changes or additions requested by the board members.

Knobbs reviewed the budget timeline. Stated that we are on track to complete our budget and introduce same at our December meeting.

Old Business

1. Attorney Replacement- Administrator Knobbs reported that he spoke with Mr. Costello and advised him that the full board approved his appointment. He advised him that the official appointment resolution would be done in December. Knobbs also stated that he is working with McCloskey and Costello to produce a retainer/business agreement.
2. Hall Wall Project-Administrator Knobbs stated that he is working with John Franzeo on this. He is currently waiting for the materials to be delivered.
3. Wash Bay Heater-Knobbs stated that the contractor was notified that he was awarded the job. They will be ordering the heater and schedule the installation when it arrives. President Wesolowski asked who was performing this job. Knobbs advised that it was Brewers Heating and Air.

New Business

Administrator Knobbs advised that he had nothing under new business, but that there were several communications to discuss.

1. Knobbs advised that in the drop box there is a copy of an email from Greg McCloskey to the Board concerning his retirement. Knobbs also stated that he forwarded same to each individual board member.
2. Knobbs stated that there is a copy of a time-line that he put together for Solicitor McCloskey to write a letter to the appropriate sections of the Pensions Section in Trenton. Knobbs stated that he received a bill from Trenton for \$154,681,93 for a “delayed” enrollment for Matt Orsini. They reference NJ Statute 43:16A-15.1, which states that the employer is penalized and a calculation to be used to figure the amount if the enrollment is delayed by over 1 year. Knobbs stated that as you can see by the time-line, the delays were caused by Trenton, not the Board. To be continued.

President Wesolowski asked if any board members had anything else to add to tonight’s meeting. Commissioner Grant asked if the salary numbers for Boren and DiPaolo were now correct. She stated that the last meeting F.O. Orsini stated that Boren should not receive the longevity increase. Knobbs stated that they were both entitled to the longevity. Boren’s appointment date for full time was 1/1/15. The salary agreement states *“Longevity will be based on completed years of service for full-time employees as of January 1 of each year and will be paid monthly and included with the employee salary.”* Discussion ensued with Orsini arguing that DiPaolo was being cheated and Boren should not receive it until the following year because they don’t work on January 1st. Knobbs stated that January 1st is a paid holiday for all employees, so that argument is null and void. Knobbs stated again, that this is the language that is and has been contained in the Salary agreement. Wesolowski stated that the police department didn’t work that way and how do we make this right. Motion by Commissioner Humes, seconded by Commissioner Grant, to disregard the Salary Agreement wording and back pay Thomas DiPaolo for 9 months of Longevity this year. The five Commissioners in attendance agreed.

Meeting opened to the public:

There being no further questions or comments from the public, this portion of the meeting was closed.

There being no further business to come before the Board, by Proper Action, meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen W. Knobbs
Board Administration