

Montauk Fire District

February 17, 2017

Commissioners Special Meeting 18:00 hours

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Joseph Dryer, Chairman
Carmine Marino
Richard Monahan
Richard Schoen

Also Present: Chief Vincent Franzone, Firefighter Joseph Lenahan and Secretary/Treasurer Terri Czczotka

Call Meeting to Order:

Chairman Dryer called the meeting to order at 18:00 hours asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chief Franzone reiterated we are here because of this advertising campaign that came about and was documented by Commissioner Marino as to events which occurred at his employer. Chairman Dryer said Montauk Plumbing gave \$500.00 and Marshall's gave \$1,200.00 under the assumption some of it would go to Montauk Fire Department. He said Joe Lenahan was misled as were businesses.

Joe Lenahan said this all started last year when he was approached by SC Fire and Emergency Management stating we were selected as one of three on Long Island to participate in this fire prevention campaign. She said it is not for fundraising but to give the public information on fire safety. She continued that we would get a call from Fire Safety Magnets and they will talk to you about what this campaign is all about. A few days later someone else called from firesafetymagnets.com. She explained what it was all about, she will send us an application and we give them permission to reach out to businesses in the community to see if they want to be a sponsor for the program. They will only look for three businesses to advertise for this. He spoke to her on three different occasions throughout the summer, and from then on all correspondence was via email. He checked out their website, it is a legitimate website. Our logo was supplied to them by Joe. He called them the other day and asked her how much each company had to pay, and she replied anywhere between \$500.00 and \$700.00, that covers graphics and supplying each business with magnets. Their goal is to get free fire prevention materials to each fire department. Commissioner Marino reported that the woman who was cold calling was named Kelly. Joe dealt with Brandy Hurley. Commissioner Marino said they used high pressure tactics, said it was to raise money for the Fire Department and for children's programs that the Fire Department works on. He said Amagansett, East Hampton, Wainscott and Bridgehampton businesses were approached on this. When one of Commissioner Marino's coworkers asked them for more information because her coworker is a Commissioner of the Montauk Fire District, she was immediately hung up on. After receiving three or more calls per day, all calls stopped after they were told about Commissioner Marino. Calls went to the police department asking if this was a scam. The police department discovered Joe Lenahan's name as he is on the

bottom of the paperwork. Joe gave Board all the paperwork he has regarding this firm. Chairman Dryer said it's not only a scam but fraud. Commissioner Marino thinks we should speak to Joe Frank and the police about this. Commissioner Schoen thinks we need to place an ad in the Star from the Board about an apparent scam. He reminded that in October, 2015 that any fundraising has to be approved by the Board. If that was done, we would not be sitting here tonight. We need to talk to Joe Frank. Chief Franzone will make an announcement about this at Fire School.

Chief Franzone presented three requisitions for medical supplies: EMP, \$1,794.70: Commissioner Marino motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Schoen; motioned/passed/carried; Boundtree, \$1,924.94: Commissioner Marino motioned to approve, seconded by Chairman Dryer; motioned/passed/carried; EMP, \$1,992.23: Commissioner Marino motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Schoen; motioned/passed/carried.

Chief reported that the Tower was down last night. Chief went to the dump where the repeater is and they said they cannot get parts. Parts are being bought on eBay. Montauk and Noyac have 1st generation repeaters, rest have 3rd generation. We are working on parts from 3rd generation. Box can't be fixed or repaired. Larry Cantwell does not want this replacement done in his administration. If this goes down again, we are screwed. Commissioner Schoen said that we are paying for a service that we are not getting. How they supply us with service is their decision, not ours. Commissioner Marino asked if we have any legal recourse to withhold payment. We need to ask Joe Frank. Joe Lenahan said repeater from back garage that works lowband system in Control Room is sitting in substation in a box. Chairman Dryer asked what next step should be. Commissioner Marino said we need to send letter to Town and Village saying there is a problem with getting parts for the system and we are not getting the service we are paying for...what are you doing to rectify the situation.

Open to the Floor:

Commissioner Marino motioned to go into Executive Session at 18:53 for Personnel issues, seconded by Commissioner Schoen; motioned/passed/carried

Commissioner Marino motioned to return from Executive Session at 18:58, seconded by Chairman Dryer; motioned/passed/carried.

Commissioner Marino motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Monahan; motioned/passed/carried.

Adjourned 18:59 hours