

**Montauk Fire District  
December 10, 2019  
Commissioners Regular Meeting 19:00 hours**

**MINUTES**

**Commissioners Present:** Joseph Dryer, Chairman  
Richard Schoen  
Michael Mirras  
Dick Monahan

**Also Present:** Chief Ryan, 1<sup>st</sup> Asst. Chief Mickey Valcich, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ass. Chief Scott Snow and Secretary/Treasurer Dawn Lucas.

**Call Meeting to Order:**

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

**Secretary's Report:**

**Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Schoen motioned to approve the minutes of the November 26, 2019 Commissioner's Workshop Meeting with some minor corrections, seconded by Commissioner Monahan; motioned/passed/carried.

**Purchase Requisitions:**

- A purchase requisition from EMP for medical supplies totaling \$813.34, Commissioner Schoen motioned to approve, seconded by Chairman Dryer; motioned/passed/carried.
- A purchase requisition from EMP for medical supplies totaling \$781.78, Commissioner Schoen motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Monahan; motioned/passed/carried.
- **Time off Request:** Ms. Lucas requested to use 2 vacation days for December 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, Commissioner Schoen motioned to approve, seconded by Chairman Dryer; motioned/passed/carried.

**Audit of Bills:**

• **Treasurers Report:** Commissioner Mirras after reviewing the treasure's report is estimating a fund balance of \$170-180k. He has reviewed the statements, checked the checks, everything is written to whom it is supposed to be, Commissioner Schoen motioned to accept treasurer's report, seconded by Commissioner Monahan; motioned/passed/carried.

**Audit of Bills:** Ms. Lucas presented invoices to be paid, totaling \$71,887.90. Commissioner Monahan motioned to approve bills; seconded by Commissioner Schoen; motioned/passed/carried.

**Committee Reports:**

**Apparatus and Equipment:**

- 9-3-16- will be out of service till Friday for body work from lawnmower accident.
- 9-3-14- problem with extension ladder, may be operator error.
- Chairman Dryer thanked Commissioner Monahan for his years of service. He will be missed.

***Buildings & Grounds:***

- Commissioner Wright on vacation.
- ***House report-*** All looks good. Chairman Dryer brought up the door situation, maybe see about making them all the same. Commissioner Schoen suggested having Commissioner Wright look into it further.

***Capital Reserve:***

- Commissioner Schoen read capital reserve balance, waiting on building reserve amount.

***Communications:***

- Status on radios; Chief spoke with Eddie Schnell and almost complete, he will advise when ready to be picked up. New radio for the new ambulance is ready to go.
- No answer from the planning department on the antenna behind the firehouse.

***Fire Advisory:***

- No report

***Insurance & Law:***

- Commissioner Schoen stated we received check of \$2,100 for the valve on 9-3-14.
- He received an estimate to repair 9-3-7 and claim will go in on Friday.
- In regards to Law- it was discussed at our previous meeting about possibly donating the old 9-3-18. Commissioner Schoen discussed with our attorney Joe Frank, he stated; a fire district can deem a vehicle no longer of use for district purposes and declare it surplus and of no value to the district and then discard it by donating it to a non for profit or other governmental entity. Right now we have ads in the paper for the sale of the ambulance, and a guarantee of \$4,500 from VCI, lets wait till we receive any other bids and make a decision based on that.
- Discussion arose at last meeting about authorization of expenditures. Commissioner Schoen spoke with Joe Frank about and stated that travel meal reimbursement would fall under travel expense and basically keep doing what we have been doing in the past.
- We discussed coming up with a social media policy at the last meeting. Commissioner Schoen distributed and at next meeting we will discuss and vote upon.
- There are still 2 members in need of physicals, they have till the end of the year. If they do not satisfy their requirement then they will be dropped from the rolls. A registered termination letter will be generated in the event these members do not get a physical and sent out on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Commissioner Mirras brought up the Counsellor and LOSAP, we are a defined benefit program not a defined contribution program. There was no change in the defined benefit program only the defined contribution program. Commissioner Schoen also wanted to state we are in total compliance with the LOSAP points system program.

***Personnel:***

- As per the chief, Scott Pitches put his letter of resignation in. It was stated at last meeting.

***Safety:***

- Mats need to go under all apparatuses at all times.
- Ice melt was ordered and came in for all trucks.
- Reminder from Chief to drive safely to and from scenes. Take your time and being safe is more important than being first on the truck.

### ***Training:***

- Indy training- haven't had anyone go in quite sometime. There have been some members that expressed interest, the dates are April 20<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. Would like to send members this year.
- Bayford Energy Services will be here January 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> to give a short presentation and discuss safety precautions at the Battery storage facilities.
- We may have a building to do some training on come January.
- Training Drills come the new year will be opened up to all East end departments, especially when instructors come out from the fire academy to make it more effective.

### ***Old Business:***

- Refuse Removal- Mickey's Carting Corp.- will provide two 1.5 cubic yard container for trash and recycle fibers, collection will be made TWO TIMES PER WEEK, \$260 per month. On-call service will be billed as needed, \$30 per pick up. Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Monahan; motioned passed/carried.
- Snow Plow Bids: Received total of two bids and they are as follows;
- Hoyt Property Care – Option A-Seasonal Contract- unlimited Snow Plowing and Salting Services for Main Fire house and Sub-station \$9,795.50 due upon contract signing. **Option B**- plowing charged per hour starting at 2” and continuing for snow events and when needed prior/during/and after for salting applications. Salting of roads, parking areas and sidewalks, \$209 per occurrence/application. Plowing of roadways and parking areas; \$235.00 per hour. Shoveling of walkways and ramps; \$59 per man hour and Off-Site removal services/additional equipment, \$165.25 per hour.
- Veteran Snow Removal - snowplowing and sanding of parking areas and driveways of the main firehouse and sub-station, commencing at 2” of per hour- **Seasonal bid**- \$9,875.00- same service for the entirety of the contract, includes unlimited snowfall with no hourly cap. **Hourly bid- \$365 per hour**- which is all inclusive. Commissioner Mirras motioned to accept Veteran Snow Removal's seasonal bid of \$9,875.00, seconded by Commissioner Monahan; motioned/passed/carried.
- New Stretcher cost- Ms. Lucas informed everyone that the stretcher cost was NOT MISQUOTED. We are just waiting on the second invoice to pay the remaining balance.

### ***New Business:***

- Ed Hollahan from Penflex- see information in Open to floor
- Ernie Vorpahl and Jeff Connolly from East End Financial- see information in Open to the Floor
- There has been a lot of discussion on building use, cramped spaces, etc. Commissioner Mirras has been talking with the Chief on ideas. He has found that the wall between the Captain's room and Treasurer's office is not a load bearing wall so that might be an option to make it one big room so the department treasurer, secretary and big bucks committee can have their own areas to do their work. Commissioner Mirras is still researching ideas but wanted to bring it to the boards attention and will make Commissioner Wright aware too.
- Meeting scheduled for December 25<sup>th</sup> is canceled.

### ***Chiefs Report:***

- Chief Ryan has a purchase requisition from Amazon for flashlights totaling \$942.30, Commissioner Schoen motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried.
- Brian Stuckart's turnout gear pants should be here before Christmas.
- The Montauk Fire Department would like to wish the Commissioner's of the Montauk Fire District a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
- Commissioner Schoen still needs name from lawnmower accident. Chief Valcich stated that there was a police report because Police officer Jessie Stavola was here taking it.

- Chief Valcich discussed MSA packs, 4 more were sent out and should be back next week. All packs will be good for 2019 now.

**Open to the Floor:**

*Penflex*

-Ed Hollahan has been our actuary for years and discussed our defined benefit plan for our members. He stated how our plan is about 80% funded moving toward 100%. Ed would like us to be 100% or better funded. He also explained that Penflex will be merging with McNeil & Company known as ESIP. They have been around for about 30 years doing Emergency Service Insurance Programs for Volunteer Fire Departments. Since 1992 they have been doing LOSAP programs so merging felt like the right fit with Penflex.

*East End Financial Service*

-Ernie Vorpahl and Jeff Connolly from East End Financial Services discussed and reviewed the LOSAP account. Year to date return of 15.24% or the plan has made \$633,318. The average annual return since EEFG took over in September of 2016 has been 6.67% which compares to the plans 5.5% assumed interest rate. Last couple of years have been good returns but over a long period of time the blend of 50 % stocks to 50% bonds will be able to earn over 5.5%. Looking at the observations, we are 47% in stocks, 53% in bonds. Equities side we are about 73% large stocks, about 27% mid and small stocks. International stocks make up about 12.57% of the total portfolio.

Goal is to cover the emerging liabilities, have cash coming into portfolio each year to cover benefit payments.

We are cautiously optimistic with stocks for next year, we still have sales and earnings growing and the economy will still grow. We are going to get a little more defensive, move up quality on the bond side and sell some of the growth stocks and shift a little towards value.

Being diversified and balanced over time we should be able to hit that assumed interest rate.

2019 5<sup>th</sup> Annual EEFG Fire District Scholarship Program winner was Luke Tyrell.

This years application information will be given to Treasurer Dick White of the Montauk Fire Department. February 2<sup>nd</sup> is the date it all needs to be submitted by.

Peter Joyce discussed the bay doors downstairs, stated we shouldn't put it off too long because one door is rotting through.

On a side note Peter and Chief Snow took the Tier 3 training class in Riverhead for the NYS Division of Homeland Security, its a mandated class for all public officials, first responders, leadership roles, etc. Great class given by women. Peter found out the County Plan has been done since early 2017. He has information from the meeting that he gave to Silvia Overby at the Town and explained that the Supervisors are mandated to take this class, he will also give Commissioner Mirras a copy. Commissioner Mirras has met with Bruce bates on several occasions regarding a plan, were hoping for at least some names and numbers of who we need to contact in the event of a major storm. Bruce Bates reaction was we have no automatic plan to send you anything, we will send to you as needed. Commissioner Mirras met with John Claflin the precinct commander here in Montauk. He was told he would get a copy of the police action plan and John Claflin himself would come out here as precinct commander with cops and a HUMV. Peter stated in order to get reimbursed by the federal

government we need to follow proper procedures. We will always have to have our own plan in place no matter what. Commissioner Schoen will contact the lawyer to see if he has dealt with any of this in the past or present and some actions that we might be able to take.

Commissioner Schoen motioned to adjourn meeting @ 20:30hrs, seconded by Dick Monahan; motioned/passed/carried.

**Adjourned 20:30 hours**