

Montauk Fire District

June 9, 2020

Commissioners Regular Meeting 18:30 hours

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Joseph Dryer
Rich Schoen
Michael Mirras
James Wright
William R. Pitts

Also Present: 1st Asst. Chief Mickey Valcich, 2nd Asst. Chief Scott Snow and Secretary/Treasurer Dawn E. Lucas

Call Meeting to Order:

Chairman Dryer called the meeting to order at 18:30 hours asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary's Report:

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Dryer motioned to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2020 Workshop Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Schoen; motioned/passed/carried.

Audit of Bills: Chairman Dryer discussed paying the bills totaling \$33,657.39 (see attached journal), Commissioner Schoen motioned to approve payment of the bills, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried.

Committee Reports:

Apparatus and Equipment: Commissioner Pitts informed us of the status of our equipment;

- 9-3-18- engine light came on, possible overheat issue. Sent it back to VCI and found there was an air pocket issue in radiator causing the light to come on. The 3,000 mile service was performed. The right rear passenger tire was repaired, a bad valve stem.
- Ambulance placement- Ambulance next to 9-3-80 should be used first.
- An exhaust fan left the firehouse with no ones knowledge and brought to Power Equipment Plus. NOTHING is to leave the building without Commissioner Pitts authorization.

Buildings & Grounds:

- Commissioner Wright stated we will be receiving a bid package from Tanzi for the garage doors which will address the lentil issues and include front building.
- The roadwork project is complete, everyone seems happy with it.
- Commissioner Wright received notification of some paint and dirt issues with the building that was addressed and taken care of. The paint issue really seems to be a problem. Chairman Dryer feels the custodians can handle this and we will monitor their progress. If it becomes an

issue than we can go to outside sources. Commissioner Wright will put together a list of what needs to be done and get a quote from Eddie Eurell and ask about the control tower also.

- Commissioner Mirras brought up preliminary budget talk, asking Commissioner Wright what might be needed for potential projects in 2021.
- Commissioner Pitts asked about the possibility of getting a cost for water and a septic system in the rear garage. Commissioner Wright stated it is a great idea and we can discuss it but it is a long term plan. We need to decide exactly how we want to use the building first.
- ***House report- was looked at and no questions.***

Capital Reserve:

- No report at this time because of COVID-19. Commissioner Mirras requested an update expenditure report from Ms. Lucas so he can keep track of everything since our outside consultant is not back yet.

Communications:

- Commissioner Mirras discussed getting quotes for a new fixed mount antenna in the back since he is getting nowhere with the town. Commissioner Wright agreed.

Fire Advisory:

- No meeting

Insurance & Law:

- Commissioner Schoen discussed the LOSAP bill, it currently passed both the Senate and House and is now on the Governor's desk for approval. He has three ways to address it, veto, approve it or do nothing where it then automatically becomes law after 10 days.
- A requirement to become a future Chief is Fire Officer 1, which is no longer being offered at the county level. Commissioner Schoen made a motion to suspend the requirement at this time, seconded by Chairman Dryer; motioned/passed/carried.
- A member was seeking health insurance through the town and that was taken care of.
- An e-mail of the proposed Fire Protection Contract was sent to all as well as a hard copy. A proposed 3 yr contract of an annual 10% increase. Commissioner Schoen feels confident in that assessment since we will be in need of new MSA equipment and new vehicles. He would like to have Ms. Lucas type that up and send it to the Town and await their response. Commissioner Pitts motioned to send the letter, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried.
- FYI- Meeting House Lane Medical is now able to perform department physicals.
- Commissioner Schoen is asking about the Verbatim minutes, Ms. Lucas stated she working on figuring out the best application to use. There are certain programs available and seeing if it will fit our criteria. She asked John Craft, our IT guy for some help.
- Commissioner Schoen spoke with our counsel Joe Frank about OSHA requirements, we are in fact required to follow their mandates especially regarding the COVID-19, equipment (masks, shield, gloves, etc) and providing for the members. We are also responsible that all this equipment gets utilized. If money is being spent on proper PPE than it MUST be used.
- Masks must be worn and enforced properly. We are public figures that need to lead by example.

Personnel:

- ***Nothing to discuss***

Safety:

- ***Some issues with COVID and PPE addressed earlier. No further concerns at this times***

Training:

- Commissioner's approved training at company levels with use of their company vehicles. Chief Valcich stated Company 1 started training with the proper social distancing and masks worn.
- Drills are only being done on company levels right now NOT department level.
- Department refresher courses are extended till August. At that point we will re-visit the topic. Commissioner Wright motioned, seconded by Commissioner Mirras, motioned/passed/carried.

Old Business:

- Communications Contract- already discussed previously.
- Installation of New Radios- Commissioner Pitts discussed Integrated Wireless's proposal for installing the new radios in the trucks. Since the cost exceeds the limit for services rendered, we will need to get 2 other quotes. One option is to see if they will lower their price and another option is to see if they are on state bid. Commissioner Pitts will look into and report back at next meeting.

New Business:

- Commissioner Schoen proposes to re-open firehouse with the proper social distancing and mask requirement for department members only on July 1st. No outside entities will be allowed the use of the firehouse at this time. Commissioner Pitts motioned to accept the re-opening to department members only and to include the game room, no outside people allowed at this time, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried.
- Chairman Dryer read aloud a letter of resignation from Chief Dave Ryan. He is resigning as of 6/30/2020. Chairman Dryer motioned to accept the letter of resignation, seconded by Commissioner Pitts with reluctance; motioned/passed/carried.
- Commissioner Schoen explained the procedure for electing a new chief. The 1st Assistant Chief Mickey Valcich will fill in as acting Chief until the next organized department meeting takes place. At that meeting nominations will be held and then at the next department meeting voting will take place.
- Memorandum was discussed about following the proper chain of command. This has fallen by the way side, Commissioner Schoen proposes Ms. Lucas will no longer accept letters, recommendations, purchase requests from anyone from the department. She can accept request for medical supplies from the paid paramedic.
- Ms. Lucas discussed the Chamber of Commerce's use of the building for classes that ended up getting canceled due to COVID-19. She is requesting to send back a total of \$450.00. Commissioner Wright motioned to approve, seconded by Chairman Dryer, motioned/passed/carried.
- Commissioner Schoen was wondering about the status of the dryer. Commissioner Wright stated repair guy was here and confirmed the control board needs replacing, they are expediting one out to us and we should have by Friday, Monday the latest.
- District and Department COVID-19 Policy was addressed by Commissioner Mirras. What are we doing about this? Commissioner Schoen and Mirras thought some of the language in the policy was confusing. All Commissioner's will review it in detail, make suggestions and discuss at next meeting. Also a discussion was brought up if the Chief has the power to suspend someone for not following the procedures. All unanimously stated yes.

Chiefs Report:

- Chief Valcich discussed the call volume of ambulance calls and chief's investigations seems to be increasing now. A supposed chimney fire on Big Reed Path the other night possibly could have been a bird's nest because the flu was open. No water was used, thermal imaging camera used, nothing found. Everything fine.

- Another call today regarding a gas tank, a BBQ tank full to capacity left out on the sun which started to relieve itself. Once it levels itself off it was good to go. Checked for leak with the no bubbles test. Everything was fine.
- Company 1 had their meeting and drill with proper social distancing and masks were worn.
- Chief Valcich is requesting a list of members still in need of a physical broken down by company. Ms. Lucas to give Chief breakdown.
- He will also make sure to notify the officers of the July 1 opening of the firehouse to MEMBER ONLY.
- Chief Valcich also asked the district to think about Big Bucks, not sure what state we will be in at that time but would love some input on that. Commissioner Wright discussed this with Vinny Franzone the other day and found there is a clause that states we can hold the drawing and give out the money with no party.
- Commissioner Schoen stated he will contact Joe Frank for a legal opinion on the matter.
- Commissioner Pitts also suggested at some point there was a discussion of possibly doing away with the party and adding value to the drawing by increasing the number of winners in a certain category. That might be a suggestion to the big bucks committee.
- Chief Valcich needs an answer by August 1, 2020 for big bucks party or not.
- Chief Valcich was wondering if there is any way to have the older members feel more at ease and have them exempt from meetings. If they want to go they go, if not they can still receive the credit. Chairman Dryer will discuss with Joe Frank and will advise us with the outcome.
- Chief Valcich wanted to recognize some members that have been working on training, Scott Snow, Eddie Schnell, Peter Joyce and Joe McDonald all took the online Intro to Fire Officer 1 class.

Open to the Floor:

Commissioner Pitts motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Schoen; motioned/passed/carried.

Adjourned 19:45 hours