

*Montauk Fire District
January 12, 2021*

MINUTES

Commissioners Organizational/Regular Meeting 18:30 hours

Commissioners Present: Joseph Dryer
James Wright
Richard Schoen
William R. Pitts
John Mark

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

Call Meeting to Order:

Chairman Dryer asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and appointed Commissioner Wright as temporary Chairperson. Commissioner Wright called the Organizational meeting to order at 16:30 hours.

Newly elected member of Board John Mark was sworn in by Chairman Dryer on January 4th, 2021. Commissioner Wright nominated Joseph Dryer for Chairman, seconded by Commissioner Pitts; motioned/passed/carried. Commissioner Pitts nominated James Wright as Vice Chairperson, seconded by Chairman Dryer; motioned/passed/carried. Chairman Dryer motioned to appoint Dawn E. Lucas as Secretary/Treasurer, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried. Ms. Lucas was then sworn in under Oath by Chairman Dryer. Chairman Dryer read the appointment of Sapienza and Frank, Joseph Frank as our attorney for the District, Chairman Dryer motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried. Commissioner Pitts motioned to appoint Dorothy Jacoby as our Consultant to the Secretary/Treasurer, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried. Chairman Dryer appointed The Fire Department Chief's, Chief Mitchell Valcich, 1st Ass. Chief Scott Snow and 2nd Ass. Chief Kenneth Glogg, Commissioner Pitts motioned, seconded by Commissioner Mark; motioned/passed/carried. Commissioner Pitts motioned to appoint, Brent Becker and Rex Martin as custodians, seconded by Commissioner Mark; motioned/passed/carried. Chairman Dryer designated our official newspapers as the East Hampton Star and Newsday, motioned by Commissioner Pitts, seconded by Commissioner Mark; motioned/passed/carried. Commissioner Meetings to be the second Tuesday and fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm unless otherwise noted. Commissioner Pitts motioned to approve all associations, state organizations we are members of, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried. Chairman Dryer motioned to accept People's United Bank and BNB Bank as our designated banks, seconded by Commissioner Mark; motioned/passed/carried. As per Chairman Dryer we have two Reserve accounts, Apparatus and Equipment and Building. Chairman Dryer motioned to accept the Code of Ethics Policy and Sexual Harassment Policy as is, seconded by

Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried. Chairman Dryer motioned to adopt all our present policies and procedures that were in place for prior year 2020, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried. All Committees for the upcoming year are as follows: Apparatus and Equipment, Commissioner Pitts, Buildings and Grounds, Commissioner Wright, Communications, Commissioner Pitts, Fire Advisory, Commissioner Pitts, Insurance and Law, Commissioner Schoen, Personnel, Commissioner Mark, Safety, Chairman Dryer. Training, The Chiefs.

Chairman Dryer motioned to adjourn from Organizational Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Mark; motioned/passed/carried.

Regular Commissioner Meeting started at 18:40 hours. All Commissioner's are present.

Secretary's Report:

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Wright motioned to approve the minutes of the December 23, 2020 Commissioner's Workshop Meeting, seconded by Chairman Dryer; motioned/passed/carried.

Building use request: Company 6 would like to have their dinner Saturday January 23, 2021 at 18:00pm. Chairman Dryer motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried.

Treasurers Report: Since Commissioner Mark just received, we will have to table so he can go over with previous Commissioner Mike Mirras.

Audit of Bills: Ms. Lucas presented the invoices for 2020 and 2021 totaling: \$431,565.16 (see attached journals). Chairman Dryer motioned to approve the invoices totaling \$431,565.16, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried.

Committee Reports:

Apparatus and Equipment:

- Commissioner Pitts noted a new battery was ordered for the rubber boat.
- 9-3-14- The rear camera has been fixed.
- Waiting to hear back from Suburban on 9-3-18 and getting the left front fender repaired. Should take about 4 days.
- 9-3-18- new music radio was installed.
- Waiting on Buzz Chew to get the 2 Chief's vehicles inspected. Some tire issues are being addressed.
- Smithtown Chevrolet called about the Pick up with the extended bed, had to place an order before January 1 because GM was cutting of production, not taking anymore orders. So order was placed for a 2021 Chevy Crew Cab with the long bed. Rocco from Smithtown Chevrolet stated if we don't like truck once it comes in we are not obligated to take it.
- Commissioner Pitts also received a quote for an aluminum lift gate for \$4,700.00. Commissioner Wright motioned to approve the lift gate, seconded by Chairman Dryer; motioned/passed/carried.
- The new District Van is in. Ms. Lucas asked if she could pay the bill since it was previously approved under 2020 budget. Commissioner Wright motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mark; motioned/passed/carried. Ms. Lucas also stated she has an appointment to register the vehicle in February, that was the earliest she could get. Chairman Dryer asked if there is anyway we can get an earlier appointment since we are an emergency outfit. Ms. Lucas will call DMV to get answers.

- John from Fully Involved is working on a quote to do the lettering, radio install and LED lights in the grill and taillights to flash for District Van. He also stated for the light bar to be mounted on top its about \$600-\$700 extra, he could mount on the side windshield. The Chief's would prefer the light bar on the top. Chief Valcich will get some quotes on that and report back.
- Chief Valcich wanted to get the control room equipment secured. Commissioner Pitts discussed with member Joey Lenahan and Men at Work Construction about building a lockable cabinet that has a drawer for the equipment. Men at Work will be donating this to the department, just needs a letter so they can claim it. Commissioner Pitts gave the OK to proceed.

Buildings & Grounds:

- Commissioner Wright discussed the racks for Company 4, they didn't want them at this time, Brent is going to put up hooks and see how that goes. Possibly get lockers down the line. Brent is still trying to get a key FOB for training room, might not be possible but checking.
- Garage doors are 7-8 weeks out. Prep work will probably start 5-6 weeks. Looking like new doors will be here for springtime.
- Commissioner Wright discussed the back garage potential project. He feels its worth exploring. Commissioner Pitts motioned to approve the initial drawing, ideas and plans for \$24,000. This is just the first steps probably won't even be that much. This is going to be an ongoing discussion that could take up to 2-3 years to hash out. Commissioner Wright seconded; motioned/passed/carried.
- HOUSE REPORT- only issue is the antenna, Chairman Dryer feels we should move forward on this project. He discussed with Brent how bad the foundation is, not holding up very well. Commissioner Wright will discuss further with Brent about it.

Capital Reserve:

- No report at this time

Communications:

- No report at *this time*.

Fire Advisory:

- No report at this time.

Insurance & Law:

- As per Commissioner Schoen there are no claims outstanding at this time.
- Governor Cuomo extended the online meeting communications until January 29, 2021.

Personal:

- New member of the department was read in December, voted on in January, Thea Grecni and she will be on the fire side per Chief Valcich. Chairman Dryer motioned to accept Thea Grecni as a new department member, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried.

Safety:

- no report at this time

Training:

- As per Chief Valcich training will be propane fires and tanks at the Wainscott training facility on Department Drill night.
- Fire School this month will be the Refreshers on Friday the 15th, the entire department split into 2 different meetings, one upstairs and one downstairs. There will also be another fire school in June.

Old Business:

- **Mandates-** Ms. Lucas discussed issues arising from members and paid staff not wearing masks in the building. It has been brought to her attention and she sees it on numerous occasions of not abiding by the rules, especially by the supervisor. When you enter the building masks must be worn. The rules apply to everyone and not when you feel like. It shouldn't be any different if you are paid or volunteer.
- Chief Valcich addressed the Chairman of the Board, can he tell the paid staff to wear a mask if he sees it fit to do so. As per Chairman Dryer, the Chief would be acting on the Board's behalf and feels that is OK. The rest of the board agrees.
- Caption Bob Mautschke discussed the numerous complaints he has received too. Not wearing the appropriate PPE and masks especially on COVID calls, even the supervisor is guilty of it. They are not only endangering themselves but the rest of the membership and us in this room. He has brought it to Walter, the supervisor's attention on numerous occasions. Chairman Dryer took it under advisement.
- Chief Glogg addressed the room and was curious what is the protocol if there are positive cases like there were today. Do the paid staff stay in their room, do they go home. He feels they have no one to report to on this matter and could potentially endanger lives of others.
- Ex-Commissioner Mike Mirras addressed the board and stated the District should send a letter with clear instructions on what they need and should do on calls.
- Suffolk County has tried to make it clear on what paid and volunteer staff should be wearing, the proper face covering, if a positive case, also a gown and eye protection. Not sure why its taking so long for the paid staff to realize they are vectors (can spread disease). We need to take this virus seriously and treat every call like they are COVID positive.
- Chairman Dryer addressed the room and stated if the paid staff wore the proper equipment, gowns, etc, decontaminate upon their arrival back to firehouse, possible shower then their clothes should be fine and no need for them to go home. They need to be informed and re-educated; a- they need to wear the proper gear, b- need to decontaminate (shower if needed and have new gear ready to go)
- There is a memo that came out from the NYSDOH with everything that was discussed tonight. Our infectious disease control officer should be aware of this. That has always been the Captain and someone else. It states in fact if you are exposed to COVID calls, you DO NOT have to go home as long as you were wearing appropriate PPE. It also states if you did not wear the appropriate PPE, you should quarantine for 10 days.
- Chairman Dryer stated this has to be dealt with properly and adequately.
- There is also concern for the drivers of the ambulance. They have been helping with transporting patients at time. We can not afford to loose drivers at this time. They are NOT to get out of the cab to help at all. If at hospital and need assistance, the paramedic or EMT will get hospital personal to help.
- Commissioner Wright wanted to clarify that the board takes action and this is the first they heard about it at a meeting. Now that they are aware they will take the appropriate action and resolve this matter.
- Chairman Dryer stated the next step is for the board to draft a document that makes it perfectly clear what the mandates are and what their responsibility to us is. Bottom line is the paid staff and volunteer need to take advantage of the equipment that is provided and wear it when necessary.

- Basically we all need to self police each other politely not just the paid staff. We all care about each other, and need to work together.
- ***Proposal for architectural work on back garage-*** This was previously discussed.

New Business:

- New information regarding the COVID vaccines- As per Captain Mautschke we are now in phase 1-B. He received notification from Suffolk County that if you did not receive your COVID shot as of 4pm, you will need to register yourself. So everyone needs to either call or email to get on the list for their shot. He was only able to do company 4 with the help of Donna Hitscherich. Previously the Captain thought he would be able to registrar the whole department and was ready to do so but information came out that was incorrect and everyone had to do their own registration. Chairman Dryer asked about the people who got the first shot are they going to be contacted for the second. He found out that the State will notify you on your second shot.
- Rumor has it that they might hold back the second shot because there aren't enough vaccines to go around for the first. If you miss your second shot, you have to wait 90 days and start all over again. There is so much misinformation out there form Albany, FRES and REMSCO.
- Commissioner Mark stated once we find out the correct website and its working we should help other members navigate through and maybe even consider helping the community.
- Donna Hitscherich mentioned the possibility of the district /department becoming a POD for vaccination purposes. The state is recruiting EMT's and ALS providers to be vaccinaters. Commissioner Mark thought we should take a proactive role in becoming a POD. Captain Maushtke feels the department alone might not be able to be a POD but if we stated the whole town of Montauk, than we might be able to be considered a POD. Chairman Dryer asked if he could continue researching the POD information and keep the district up to date on the matter.

Chiefs Report:

- Chief Valcich wanted to thank the district for the gloves, helmet and no max hoods.
- PPE report- we are in good order do not need any additional N95's. All PAPR's have been deployed and each squad has at least one member trained on how it works. They have been used on numerous FC response calls. The members are reporting positive feedback. Additional training has been done and all high responding responders will have their own hood. They are requesting some more alcohol wipes to clean the PAPR's.
- Chief would like to thank John Mark for becoming our newest District Commissioner.
- 9-3-14's camera situation has been resolved. There are 3 camera's on that truck, 2 out of the 3 were wired incorrectly. It was their mistake so no bill on that.
- 9-3-2- All Hurst equipment has been inspected and the high pressure hose reels was included and completed too. Chief would like to add that to our annual inspection of that truck.
- Chief asked if the 3 fog machines came in for company 4. Ms. Lucas responded, they just arrived.
- CO detectors for all ambulances and 9-3-80 have been found and distributed.
- Chief addressed the boat and battery issue that came up earlier with Commissioner Pitts, a charger is also needed for that. Contact Dennis O'Reilly he knows what exactly is needed.
- Chief asked if the Ladies Auxiliary are covered by us for COVID vaccines, the answer was yes.
- Chief is requesting some 9V batteries. Ms. Lucas will ask Brent to order.

Open to the Floor:

Commissioner Wright motioned to adjourn @ 19:40 hours, seconded by Chairman Dryer;
motioned/passed/carried.

Adjourned 19:40 hours