

**Montauk Fire District**  
**February 9, 2021**  
**Commissioners Regular Meeting 18:30 hours**

**MINUTES**

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

**Also Present:** Chief Mitchell Valcich, 1<sup>st</sup> Asst. Chief Scott Snow, 2<sup>nd</sup> Asst. Chief Kenneth Glogg 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:** Commissioner Wright motioned to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2021 Organizational/Regular Commissioner's Meeting with said correction, seconded by Chairman Dryer; motioned/passed/carried.

**Purchase Requisitions:**

- A purchase requisition for Boundtree for medical supplies totaling \$879.68, Commissioner Wright motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mark; motioned/passed/carried.
- A purchase requisition for EMP for medical supplies totaling \$428.58, Commissioner Mark motioned to approve, seconded by Chairman Dryer; motioned/passed/carried.
- A purchase requisition for Boundtree for medical supplies totaling \$357.55, Commissioner Mark motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried.
- A purchase requisition for EMP for medical supplies totaling \$478.80, Commissioner Wright motioned to approve, seconded by Chairman Dryer motioned/passed/carried.

**Treasurers Report:** Tabled until next meeting so Commissioner Mark can review with previous Commissioner Mike Mirras.

**Audit of Bills:** Ms. Lucas presented the invoices for totaling: \$316,931.67 (see attached journals). Commissioner Wright motioned to approve the invoices totaling \$316,931.67, seconded by Commissioner Pitts; motioned/passed/carried.

**Committee Reports:**

**Apparatus and Equipment:**

- 9-3-1- problem with lift cylinders that raise the cab, leaking hoses and brackets all rusted. John with Fully Involved ordered parts from Pierce and it looks like about \$6,000 to repair with new hoses and brackets.
- 9-3-31- engine light, and power steering pump all taken care off.
- 9-3-18- new music radio was installed.
- 9-3-32- going to Buzz Chew tomorrow.
- 9-3-18- Bodywork scheduled for 2/22/21.
- Regarding the rear antenna, Commissioner Pitts stated we need soil samples as per the engineer Eddie Schnell spoke with. He will discuss more with Brent and see if the back garage soil samples will be OK.
- To finish up the new Van, need to get it lettered, install light bar, siren and radio. Chief received a quote of \$2,400 which is just for the light bar, no installation cost. Sagamore lights cost is \$5,077 which includes the light bar, siren, graphics and installation of equipment provided. Commissioner Pitts motioned to accept Sagamore lights bid, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried.
- Commissioner Pitts also discussed the District truck lettering and equipment with Sagamore lights, the cost with similar equipment and lettering as the Van comes to \$6,454. The truck is due to arrive in March and if we accept it would go directly to Sagamore lights and be delivered to us finished, but if we don't want it, no worries Rocco can still sell it in a day. Commissioner Pitts motioned to accept the amount of \$ 60,000 for said new District Crew Cab Truck, lift gate and all associated costs. Ms. Lucas will do a permissive referendum and put in paper, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried.
- Discussion about new Chief vehicles arose. Rocco has one LT model on the lot now for \$47,794, we can do same thing and make a commitment and the other one is due to arrive end of March. Commissioner Wright motioned to make the commitment, seconded by Commissioner Pitts; motioned/passed/carried. Commissioner Pitts will contact Sagamore lights to get pricing for lights, siren, graphics, new boxes and console, etc. for Chief's vehicles.
- There was a minor accident with 9-3-16- passenger side mirror was damaged when Ray was backing in ambulance. Commissioner Pitts told the Captain its the last ambulance to leave the barn if need be. Brent will fix it tomorrow, and order another one to keep in stock.

**Buildings & Grounds:**

- Commissioner Wright explained that another accident occurred with an ambulance, somehow the driver backed into the blue cabinet in the ambulance bay. No insurance report will be filed. Spoke with Dennis Sisco who made the cabinets and the cost could be about \$500.
- Garage Doors are on order, prep-work to start early March and hopefully early spring the project should be complete.
- Back building Project, signed a contract with Tanzi, this is probably going to be a 2 year discussion on what we are going to do with that space. Its only an exploration to see if we actually want to do anything. There is a lot to consider budget wise too. It's just a conversation right now.
- HOUSE REPORT- self explanatory

**Capital Reserve:**

- No report at this time

**Communications:**

- Antenna previously discussed.
- Cabinet for the radios in the tower will be done next week. Eddie Schnell just waiting on extensions for the cords.
- Commissioner Pitts asked Chief Valcich how many keys he might need. Keys to be made are for all 3 chiefs, 1 for each company and 1 for the fire district.
- Chief will set up rotation. He wants the companies to do Friday nights and Sunday nights to include who is on duty for the week.

***Fire Advisory:***

- No report at this time.

***Insurance & Law:***

- Tank Insurance expired on 2/2/21. The insurance company is requiring a tank tightness test be performed. Commissioner Wright informed the board that will be completed next week and asked if they could give us better notice for renewal.
- Open meeting rules have been extended till February 26, 2021 which means if we wanted to have a zoom meeting we could.
- The Equal Employment Opportunity Policy that was discussed in the Counsellor will be brought up and voted on at next meeting to give everyone the opportunity to read it.

***Personal:***

- No report

***Safety:***

- Use common sense with the winter weather conditions upon us.

***Training:***

- As per Chief Valcich no training for the month of February. We will see what March brings for the Wainscott training facility.
- Company 4 still needs to do some training, Chief was able to get approval by the board for small groups to continue to train.

**Old Business:**

- ***Light Bar for District Van-*** previously discussed.
- ***Antenna-*** This was previously discussed.

**New Business:**

- ***Van Bid Opening-*** received one bid from Red Truck Sales with a certified check. Their bid is \$1,501.99 and they are prepared to transport with a transporter plate if they win the bid. Commissioner Wright motioned to accept bid, seconded by Commissioner Pitts; motioned/passed/carried.
- ***Lawn Maintenance Bid Opening-*** received two bids;

***Hoyt Property Care-*** will mow lawn on a 28 week lawn mowing season, one cut per week to include the following; 1/ cut lawn at uniform height with mowing patterns changed periodically to avoid rutting in areas, 2/ grass clipping will be picked up/blown from buildings, parking areas, walkways, gardens, beds and borders. Cost for main firehouse is \$209.00 per cut, substation is \$49.99 per cut and any additional tasks would be \$45.00 per man hour. Ms. Lucas was asked if Hoyt has insurance too, her response was yes.

***Mickeys Lawnsapes-*** Cost for main building is \$295.00 per mow, sub station is \$55.00 per mow and any additional work performed is \$60.00 per hour. We also received an insurance certificate from them as well.

- Commissioner Pitts motioned to accept Hoyt Property Care's bid for lawn maintenance, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried.
- ***Service Award Program- Data Request-*** the LOSAP Award Program, Ms. Lucas presented the 2020 Certified List from the Chief and now the District needs to sign off, then we can post for the month so members can check their information. Once everything is all signed, then Ms. Lucas will forward everything on to Penflex.

**Chiefs Report:**

- Fire school for January was canceled, still shooting for the one in June and asking the board about having the second in December. Board has no problem with that.
- Chief was asking about old fan that Co.2 had replaced, are we fixing it? Pitts asked Chief to get a price on it first and then we can see what we want to do.
- Chief stated he is still working on the SCBA program, will get in touch with Scott and MSA dealers to figure out our course of action.
- Chief was inquiring about the life expectancy of turnout gear, he has a list of members that might need new gear. Chairman Dryer believed it was 10 years, unless it's extremely worn and needs replacing sooner. Commissioner Wright stated we had companies come in and have ordered several sets, we just need to figure out what is needed.
- 9-3-18 had 2 PAPR's, took 1 out and put in 9-3-80. Chief has a price for another one and would like to order. The cost is \$1,304.87, Commissioner Pitts approved, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried.
- Co.4 is requesting 4 sets of turnout gear with helmets and boots, total cost is \$8,500.36. Commissioner Wright motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Pitts.
- Co. 4 is seeking reimbursement of \$541.51 for manuals, videos and training supplies that they reimbursed Donna Hitscherich for. The board asked why it wasn't brought to the district first. The Captain stated it was something that needed to be done quickly. Chairman Dryer stated there are provisions for that. We have emergency procedures in place that could have been taken. Commissioner Wright motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Pitts; motioned/passed/carried.
- Heavy Rescue turnout gear needs replacement from wear and tear, the cost to replace 3, for Joey Lenahan, Thom Fleming and Chris Carillo is \$5, 868.30. Commissioner Pitts motioned to approve, seconded by Chairman Dryer; motioned/passed/carried.
- Co.3 is requesting 4 new flashlights for 9-3-5 totaling \$562.80. Chairman Dryer motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Pitts; motioned/passed/carried.
- 9-3-2- all the Hurst equipment is inspected and the hydraulic hoses are complete too. The Chief stated now we need to get this on a schedule to be done annually. Next inspection 1/2022.
- Lieutenant Burke mentioned to the Chief the lighting in the Ambulance Bay is not very bright. Commissioner Wright will discuss with Brent.
- Chief spoke with CO4 and he knows the district spoke with paid staff about wearing the proper PPE on all calls.
- Chief asked about Co4/training room getting access with key fobs, Commissioner Wright stated he has to follow up with Brent about this, but because of COVID response time has been slow.
- The three fog machines that were requested are in use and on each of the ambulances. Chairman Dryer just wanted to make sure the members and paid staff are decontaminating

themselves and the ambulances before getting back into the rig. As per Captain Mautschke that is being done.

- Commissioner Wright wondered if any of our people have been exposed since March, actually contracted the virus. As per Captain Mautschke, the answer is NO, no one has come down with the virus. So what we are doing seems to be working, of course we are going to be as safe as we can and continue with proper protocol. Commissioner Wright thanked company 4 for doing a great job.
- Chief discussed hose covers for 9-3-1 and 9-3-4, what are we doing about that. He was told the insurance company wanted the hoses secure so they don't go flying out when driving down the road. Chief said that 9-3-1's hose just needs to be packed better. Commissioner Pitts will look into.
- Chief would like to purchase a small tool box for miscellaneous tools for the Duty Captain of the week. Chairman Dryer stated the Chief can just tell Brent what he needs and order it.
- 9-3-14- has an ongoing issue when you extend the boom, it seem to chatter.
- Chief brought up the 9-3-81 car , Asst. Chief Glogg discussed more about it, all Chief's and company 4 members would like to see the district purchase a 9-3-81 vehicle as a second ALS provider car. It would be a back up to the 80 on duty. Chief Glogg feels with this community, its appropriate to have another vehicle that is manned by the volunteers for ALS, BLS, whatever it is. He asked Donna to put together some numbers, that replicates 9-3-80. The cost is less than what you paid for 80 a couple years ago. Commissioner Wright discussed the vehicles the district is purchasing now has already been included in the budget process previously. He suggested taking an old chief car and testing it out before we make a commitment. It was brought to Commissioner's Wright attention we had a car previously that didn't get used. According to Chief Glogg the car we did have was an old Chief's car and it was used constantly. What Commissioner Wright is saying it is not in the budget at this time, the budget is done a year in advance and for the time being lets use an old Chief's vehicle and see what happens, then if need be we can add it into next years budget process. Chairman Dryer asked Captain Mautschke his opinion on this matter. His response was it would be great for the community but feels that the members that will be using it should belong to company 4. Chairman Dryer discussed when a new vehicle is proposed like 9-3-2 the Captain came to the district stating the need along with a committee who did the research and yes the vehicle was desirable. The next step was to establish what was needed. The committee consisted of past chiefs, members, commissioner and done properly Right now it is not in the budget to buy a another responder car this year. Let's establish the need more clearly. We can use one of the Chief's vehicles and equip it with the equipment needed and see if its doing what its suppose to do. A discussion arose about volunteers not responding to a call that was COVID positive. Captain Bob Mautschke responded, what do you want me to do? Commissioner Schoen stated exactly what you are doing. We are a volunteer organization and if a member does not feel comfortable responding, they do not have to. You can not force someone to respond nor punish someone for not responding. Commissioner Schoen asked a question if a 9-3-81 was to come to fruition, with same equipment as 9-3-80, is it legal for a BLS provider to take it to a scene. As per Donna Hitscherich, yes they can. We are a BLS-12 lead agency so the only thing they couldn't use were the narcotics. The ALS providers would either have it on them or in the ALS bag that is taken off the vehicle, or locked up in the ambulances. Donna also wanted to point out that there are plenty of responders available to go on calls but Suffolk County protocol is to limit the amount of personal on scenes plus they were training to become vaccination for the COVID VACCINE.

- Chairman Dryer summed it all up regarding 9-3-81, next step should be to form a committee to include at least one commissioner, establish a need if the committee so believes, then entertain the idea of putting the vehicle into next year's budget. In the meantime upgrade one of the Chief's cars to act as 9-3-81, if committee decides that is what they want to do.
- Chief Glogg stated there is a need for this vehicle, for the 7,000 community members out there. It is a critical piece of equipment to the EMS side just like turnout gear is to the fire side. Chairman Dryer has no problem moving forward on this as do the rest of the board. It just has to be done the correct way. Chief Glogg suggested we form that committee tonight. Commissioner Mark was asked to be on the committee and Commissioner Pitts asked to be on it since he is in charge of Apparatus and Equipment.
- Chief Valcich discussed the Battery Storage Facility on Shore Rd. If something was to happen, he is not sure what to do over there. First off, National Grid owns it, PSEG is supplied by it, a company in Florida maintains it who subbed it out to a company in Massachusetts who babysits it. So we had an incident there that started on a Saturday night and Tuesday afternoon the alarms were still going off. Commissioner Schoen suggested to immediately declare it a Hazmat situation and call Suffolk County Hazmat and they would come out and deal with it. They are equipped to handle it and if not they have the authority to come down on them. Commissioner Schoen will contact our attorney and Suffolk County HAZMAT regarding this situation.
- Commissioner Schoen wanted to inform the Chief right now members could be seen for physicals as early as Monday, they have slots readily available. Chief is concentrating on COVID vaccines right now but will let the Captains know of each company who is due for one. Commissioner Schoen was curious about the vaccines, where do we stand right now. Captain Mautschke stated he received a call from Suffolk County, they have 600 vaccines available to give everyone in the Montauk Fire department this weekend in Patchogue at Long Island Community Hospital (Brookhaven). They will be informed through their e-mail. Chairman Dryer wanted to thank Captain Mautschke for all the time and effort put into getting this completed.
- Chief also contacted Eddie Schnell about fit tests, need about 50-60 done. Machine needs to be calibrated first.

**Open to the Floor:**

Dick Monahan spoke about the back garage and wanted to clarify the survey that was done. Commissioner Wright explained we are just discussing what could possibly be done with the space. The whole potential project cost for the Architect is \$24,000.00 which includes plans, permits, etc. This does not include construction costs, septic or anything else. Why wasn't it put out to bid? We have our Architect on retainer, just like our lawyer as per Commissioner Wright.

Tom Barbieri discussed information about first responders, according to NYS and Brian Sherwood from the NYSDOH, you can have BLS providers respond in a first responder as long as the medicine bag that only has ALS things is a separate bag that is carried by the ALS provider. So right now when an 80 goes in to an ambulance then that car should have an out of service sign when being driven back from a call.

It was summed up by Thom Flight an ALS provider, Montauk has the most ALS providers in the 9<sup>th</sup> District combined but most of them have to work outside the district to get adequate exposure to the number of calls. When an 80 responds to a call in the first responder that patient becomes theirs so you are losing some of the best providers because they don't get to use their skills. By providing an 81 car you are allowing your volunteer ALS providers serve this community far more efficiently. Chairman Dryer understands the concept and now the focus is to move forward with a committee. The committee will consider how to make it work with an old Chief's vehicle and equip it with what it needs and then it will be determined if there will be a need for a new one for next years budget.

Ms. Lucas presented a time off request for Brent Becker, needs 2/16-2/20/21 off. Chairman Dryer motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned./passed/carried.

Commissioner Pitts motioned to adjourn @ 20:40 hours, seconded by Chairman Dryer; motioned./passed/carried.

**Adjourned 20:40 hours**