

**Montauk Fire District**

**June 14, 2022**

**Commissioners Regular Meeting 18:30 hours**

**MINUTES**

**Commissioners Present:** Richard Schoen  
James Wright  
John Mark  
Charles "Chip" McLean  
Thomas Dess

*Also Present:* Chief Scott Snow, 1<sup>st</sup>. Asst. Chief Ken Glogg, 2<sup>nd</sup> Asst. Chief Peter Joyce Jr. and Secretary/Treasurer Dawn E. Lucas.

**Call Meeting to Order:**

Chairman Schoen called meeting to order at 18:30 hours and we all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

**Secretary's Report:**

**Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner McLean motioned to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2022 Commissioner's Workshop Meeting with said corrections, seconded by Commissioner Dess; motioned/passed/carried.

**Purchase Requisitions:**

- A purchase requisition for EMP for medical supplies totaling \$648.55, Commissioner Wright motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Dess; motioned/passed/carried.
- A purchase requisition for Boundtree for medical supplies totaling \$929.45, Commissioner Wright motioned to approve, seconded by Chairman Schoen motioned/passed/carried.
- A purchase requisition for Boundtree for medical supplies totaling \$883.15, Commissioner Dess motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Wright motioned/passed/carried.
- A purchase requisition for EMP for medical supplies totaling \$377.15, Commissioner Dess motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried.
- A purchase requisition for EMP for medical supplies totaling \$349.17, Chairman Schoen motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Wright motioned/passed/carried.

**Time off Request:** Rex Martin is requesting 3 days off, July 14 thru the 16<sup>th</sup> . Commissioner Wright motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner McLean; motioned/passed/carried. Ms. Lucas is requesting 3 days off, July 13-15<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner McLean motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried.

**Audit of Bills:** Ms. Lucas presented the invoices for payment totaling: \$48,283.02. Commissioner Wright questioned why two of John Tanzi's invoices were not presented with the bills. Ms. Lucas was told to hold them to get more information. Chairman Schoen was concerned because the garage door

project was over a year ago. Commissioner Wright explained we held back because of the lentil ordeal. The Tanzi bills, one for the overhead door project \$2,400 and one for the heating project of \$5,600 are OK to pay, motioned by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Chairman Schoen; motioned/passed/carried. Commissioner Dess asked who Brisco Protective is, Ms Lucas responded they are our fire monitoring service. Commissioner McLean also questioned a bill from Atlantic Coast for uniforms for paid ALS providers for about \$9,000 and change. He is aware that it was previously approved but according to our purchasing policy is it OK to go with a single vendor for pricing. For future purchases Chairman Schoen will find out exactly what is needed before approval of a purchase this big. Commissioner McLean also asked about a bill from Integrated Wireless for AN O2 DASH TO O2 REMOTE MOUNT, Ms. Lucas stated Brent explained to you and responded it's a remote mount for the new chief's vehicle because the newer car is designed differently and the radio wouldn't fit like the other car. Commissioner Dess motioned to accept and pay the bills, seconded by Commissioner Wright, Commissioner Mark abstained; motioned/passed/carried.

### **Committee Reports:**

***Apparatus:*** Commissioner McLean updated us on status of the following;

- New Chief vehicle was delivered today, will get together with Chief Snow to go over everything. One thing that was discovered the console area is a bit smaller than previous model so the radio didn't fit, was able to get a remote head mount to solve this issue. It was mounted underneath the seat.
- 9-3-14- issue with tank pump valve. Chairman Schoen spoke to Brent about this and Brent had John explain to him the issue. John checked issue when he was here and had it running fine.
- 9-3-16 and 9-3-17 both had dings in the windshield, Safelite came in to repair but Commissioner McLean does not like how it was repaired. Will get them to replace both windshields.
- 9-3-18- was involved in an incident, Commissioner McLean investigated and apparently there was an accident with a deer to the drivers side front end and report was filed. Upon inspection, found half the front turn signal on drivers side is missing. No injuries to report and would like to have Brent price out a new light and take it from there.
- 9-3-1- intersection lights are not functioning, Fully Involved will look into. Check engine light is not intermittent it is consistently on, will be looked at too. Chainsaw is on shelf to get repaired. Also there was an issue with the shoreline one of the wires became frayed and people thought they could be potentially shocked. But Rex was able to rewire it.
- 9-3-4- As per Chief the air compressor is continuously on, there must be an air leak somewhere. It was written in the book. Commissioner McLean will make sure it gets on Fully Involved's list of repairs.

***Equipment:*** As per Commissioner Mark, the finger reader in 9-3-80 is intermittently working. Ms. Lucas will look into that.

### ***Buildings & Grounds:***

- **Kitchen-** Commissioner Wright has been talking with Brian Mooney and Joe Lenahan about the kitchen renovation and they feel the same as John Tanzi's proposal, a complete renovation. They wanted to be here tonight but was unable to make it because of prior commitments. They are going to try for our next meeting.
- **Heating Project-** nothing right now but like discussed earlier probably a 2 year project.
- Commissioner Dess asked if Brent was able to get someone in to look at the Hood, was working intermittently and during the pancake breakfast stopped working. As per Chairman Schoen

Brent had someone take a look at it and received three proposals. All range from \$3,900, \$4,300, \$5,200. Either replace filter air fan with new, install a larger fan for better ventilation or removed old and install a larger fan and include a new fire system. Commissioner Wright would like some time to discuss with the company. He also thought it would be a good idea to get an electrician to look at to before we proceed with anything.

- **House Report-** was looked at.

### ***Budget and Capital Reserves: NO REPORT***

#### ***Insurance:***

- As per Commissioner McLean nothing new, nothing to add.

#### ***Communications:***

- Gator project continues. Motorola is still waiting on a vendor meet with PSEG.
- Question arose about EMS radios at previous meeting, Commissioner Mark stated company 4 was suppose to get a hold of the chief about this. Chief stated no one has come to him, but he has been handing out pagers. Dispatch is talking with Ellen Cook about changing everyone's call number to the correct numbers, drivers in the 90's, EMT's in the 70's.

#### ***Paid Personal:***

- Commissioner Wright stated Chris Boccebella contacted him asking him if it was OK to post the posting about hiring at Southampton Hospital and on social media for paramedics. Commissioner Wright gave him permission.
- It was discussed about possible bonuses for coverage over the summer. Chairman Schoen stated coverage seems good. Chief states Chris is doing a great job, seems like things are getting smoothed out, personalities have disappeared. He feels he is a good fit. We have a good bunch of people out here, we need to keep them happy. So whatever you have to do, do. Commissioner Wright, and Mark agreed.
- Commissioner Wright would like to schedule another meeting between the paid ALS providers, officers and volunteers. Will figure out a day and schedule.

#### ***Department Personal:***

- Commissioner Mark wanted to address the latest complaint. Commissioner Wright will forward the email from outside counsel (which the board is not affiliated with) to the Chief. The findings, no harassment was found. The Chief can explain to her.

#### ***Law:***

- Chairman Schoen has no new updates on charging for ambulance services.
- He is also going to check and see if its possible to pass on the saving at the pump we as a district pay onto department members. It's crazy how much gas prices are in town. He will find out all the legalities and report back.
- Chief Joyce stated at a town chief's meeting it was brought up that if districts are having trouble securing fuel or their fuel bills are above and beyond what they can afford the county is giving the departments/districts the option of buying fuel through the county at a discounted price and offering that cost to the districts.

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

**9-3-9:** Mike from Red Truck finally came out to look at 9-3-9. He is very interested in the truck. He is

considering making an offer to us to purchase it. He was very impressed with it. He asked if it went on the beach. Chairman Schoen confirmed with captain of company 1 and told Mike yes it did and got special tires for that purpose. Chairman Schoen will keep us posted.

***Kitchen:*** Discussed earlier in meeting.

***Lighting Project:*** Commissioner Wright asked about the rebate we are suppose to get from PSEG., any news on the amount. Chairman Schoen stated he believes that from what Brent was told, the materials get ordered, work gets completed, then PSEG comes back to complete rebate status. They should be here within the month to start the project. The materials have been delivered already.

***Ambulance:*** It was discussed at the last meeting about possibly considering re-boxing or remounting of an ambulance. Commissioner Mark stated he spoke with Hendrickson about this and they said it was very feasible. They even would help do a cost analysis for us. They said if we were to save more than \$50,00 it pays to do the re-box/remount. They know the Horton body and re-boxing/ remounting is definitely an option for us. They also stated its the same lead time on the chassis, same agreement with Ford. Also it will take 120 to 140 days for the remount and Hendrickson would provide a loner ambulance. They also did try to sell us one of their ambulances. Commissioner Mark also asked about adding climate control to the existing box. They said it can be retro-fitted. Questions started to rise about going this route, thought it could get us a chassis quicker but doesn't seem that way. Then time constraints on bids, or go with a buyers group but not sure on the constraints of that. Then if we don't commit by the 20<sup>th</sup> there is a 7% increase. Chairman Schoen does not like this blanket contract and will find out all the legalities and report back to the board. Commissioner Mark will get Hendrickson to provide us an estimate and come out to discuss in the meanwhile. Chairman Schoen motioned to place bid opening in paper for 30 days after today's date to the specifications that were provided, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried.

**New Business:**

1. **East End Financial Group-** represented by Annmarie Zilnicki, President, Ernie Vorpahl, CFP and Jeff Connolly, CFA presented the 2021 invest report for the Montauk Fire District Length of Service Award Program. They have been working with us and our plan administrator Penflex since 2016. The Investment Policy Statement for the Montauk Fire District Service Award Program states the total portfolio will have a target allocation of 50% equities to 50% fixed income. The portfolio's total return was 8.06% or \$457,389 in 2021. The LOSAP's assumed rate of return was 5.25%. The funded ratio increased to 90% as of January 1,2022, from 88% as of January 1, 2021. The funded ratio was 73% as of January 1, 2017. Jeff discussed where the plan is at and where its going in the future. As of May 31, 2022 account balance is \$5,668,415.00. The total portfolio had a year-to-date loss of 8.85%. To compare, S&P 500 index fell 12.76% and the Bloomberg U.S Aggregate Bond Index declined 8.92% during the same period. Portfolio had a total return of 8.06% or \$457,389 last year. One point since inception (September 2016) the account had an average annual return of 5.74% for a cumulative gain of \$1,443,982. So what happened? A combination of fiscal stimulus, extraordinary monetary policy, and supply chain issues stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic generated higher inflation over the past year. We all see this everyday when we go to the gas station and grocery store. In response to this the Federal Reserve is tightening monetary policy and trying to slow inflation but what they want to do is slow demand by slowing the economy down which in turn could push us into a recession. EEFG feels we are going to see a recession later this year if not early next year. It's hurting various sectors of the economy. Housing markets will hurt by rising interest rates as well as auto markets. Consumers are under a lot of pressure. We

need to realize the range of returns can be very broad but over a longer period of time the range of returns narrows and the average increases. EEFG is always going to invest based on the investment policy which is a blend of 50% equities and 50% fixed income. The current asset allocation is 52% stocks to 48% bonds. The equity holdings are 78% large cap stocks like Amazon, JP Morgan, Bank of America and the other 22% are small and mid cap stocks. International stocks are 13% of the total portfolio. The Beta or risk of the total portfolio is .51 or 51% of the volatility with the S&P 500 index. The action plan for the rest of the year is to maintain portfolio's 50%/50% asset allocation target and look for opportunities during this market volatility. Program contribution amount was deposited in January 2022. Penflex calculated program contribution for 2023 at \$354,296 and suggested you drop the assumed rate from 5.25% to 5% which could make the contribution rate around \$386,000. They seem to be looking at this with all their plans. Chairman Schoen asked what the relationship between EEFG and Penflex is. There is no relationship at all. Penflex is Montauk's plan administrator and EEFG is the investment manager and Comerica is the Benefit manager. What it boils down to is that Penflex crunches the numbers, EEFG does the actual investing and Comerica pays out to the fireman/ems volunteers. Commissioner Wright asked about possibly changing the investment policy and the assumed interest rate, but what would you recommend with this possible recession coming up. Jeff stated based on the assumed interest rate of 5.25% we would recommend staying at 50% equity and 50% a fixed income allocation. We might want to consider it more if we make changes to the plan. EEFG also participates in an annual fire district program scholarship. This year Emma Stein was the overall winner with A \$1,000.00 Scholarship. EEFG does not vote, it's a separate advisory board who determines the winner. Investment Policy was then updated to reflect current Commissioners, all signed and the signers on the account also.

- **LOSAP-** Chairman Schoen updated everyone on amount members can earn once at entitlement age for LOSAP. Members are entitled up to a monthly payment of \$1,200.00. The current situation is every member is entitled to \$30 per month per qualified year. So if a member joined today at 25 and at retirement age of 65, (which is 40 qualified years ) then they are entitled to the \$1,200.00 per month, this will guarantee them 10 years which is \$144,000. Chairman Schoen then reached out to Penflex and asked about possibly lowering the entitlement age to 60. He received an email back stating this cost analysis usually cost \$500 but we will provide it to you for free. Lowering the entitlement age to 60 would put 20% of your volunteers into entitlement status which means they would begin receiving payments immediately, lowering to 55 would put 45% of your active members into entitle status. They totally rejected the 55 because it would be financially irresponsible. So if we were to lower the entitlement age to 60 it would increase our estimated contribution for 2023 from \$354,296 to \$710,000. So its \$30 per month for each qualified year up to a maximum of \$1,200.00. A year and half or so ago the State of New York passed a law allowing districts to increase from \$1,200 maximum a month to \$1,500 maximum per month. A question arose what if members stay past 40 years can they swap out a \$10 or \$20 per month qualifying year for \$30 per month. Chairman Schoen will find out and get back to the board.
- **Budget:** Chairman Schoen would like the board to start considering next years budget. We should start discussing at our next workshop meeting which will be the 29<sup>th</sup> of June. Commissioner Mark stated he will not be available. Chairman Schoen explained to the Chief it's his option to come up with potential purchases for the district so funds could be available.
- **Brush Truck Committee-** submitted their recommendation which has detailed information, estimates, etc. The committee is proposing to rebuild the old 9-3-9, the 1966 WM300 Fire Brush Truck. Chairman Schoen asked the Chief what is our need for this. The idea is to have a small heavy duty truck to go down wood roads, strong enough to endure the woods. Chairman

Schoen asked the question if we did not have old 9-3-9 would we be looking for a 1966 WM300 Fire Brush Truck that meets our specifications? Commissioner Mark would refer this over to people with more qualifications. Chairman Schoen stated we did that and spent \$60,000 on a truck that was suppose to be used to find out it's worthless to us. Captain John McDonald spoke and gave an overview of the need for a small brush truck. Old 9-3-9 worked great, just got to old so we took out of service. BRAT didn't work to what we needed, 9-3-9 we thought could work but really was too big for what it was intended to do. So company 1 got together and formed a committee for a new brush truck. The need is a small truck for power lines, small trails, etc. The committee did research on new trucks, used trucks but none will do what the old 9-3-9 did. The concept is to use the chassis and the body of old 9-3-9 and replace everything else. Every component that is worn out will be replaced. The district would have to buy it back from the department first. Also this truck would have a mechanical engine, so no DEF issues. The cost is about \$200,000 to put back in service, which would also include a skid pack. This is on the high side just so you are aware . Commissioner McLean urged the rest of the board to read through all the information, a lot of time and effort went into this. The board to address/discuss at our meeting in July.

### **Chiefs Report:**

- Chief Snow thanked the district for the new Chief vehicle.
- Scott Packs are out back and John Drewes is coming out next Tuesday for training.
- Refreshers this Friday.
- Dick Monahan is requesting reimbursement of \$39 for a CME class that he took through REMSCO. He did not follow proper protocol. Chairman Schoen has a problem with this, the class was signed up for on 3/29/22 and didn't commence until April 30th. Mr. Monahan knows we need pre-approval, this goes against our policies for taking classes. The fee gets approved and then you go take your course. Chairman Schoen motion to pay, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried. A suggestion was to add a copy of the guidelines with the check. Chief Glogg also suggested the district explain at the refreshers. Chairman Schoen stated there is a chain of command that goes up and down the ladder, the board does not speak with a member, it should come from the chief.
- Monday June 27<sup>th</sup> is the department drill/picnic.
- July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks are on and there will be the usual standby crew available.
- EMS calls are increasing as well as Chief Investigations. There seems to be more pole fires lately because of dropping of neutrals.
- IMOR outfit ( physicals) just picked up Bridgehampton as a client, they would love to get Amagansett too.
- Chief brought up trench coats, are they part of our uniform and who pays for them, department or district? The officers thought instead of buying the whole department coats buy 30 assorted sizes. Chairman Schoen stated the board buys class A uniforms. The officers thought the trench coats would be part of the class A uniforms. The cost was \$159 per coat with patches for each side up to an XL. Commissioner Wright motioned to approve the purchase of 30 trench coats, seconded by Commissioner Mark; motioned/passed/carried.
- Chief Joyce is requesting two new batteries from Grainger totaling \$418.78 for the thermal imaging cameras. Chairman Schoen motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried..new
- Chief is requesting Globe boots size 12 for Kyle Fagerland, approximate price of \$462. Commissioner Dess approved, seconded by Commissioner Mark; motioned/passed/carried.
- Ellen Cooke took a class about smoke inhalation for firefighters and the importance of having cynokits. We only have one and Springs offered to lend out theirs if there is a need but they are

21 miles away. She is requesting we buy at least one more for \$840 with a coupon or a 4 pack for \$3277. Commissioner Wright motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner McLean; motioned/passed/carried.

Commissioner Dess motioned to adjourn @ 21:30 hours, seconded by Commissioner McLean; motioned/passed/carried

**Adjourned 21:30 hours**