

Montauk Fire District
July 27, 2022
Commissioners Workshop Meeting 18:30 hours

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Richard Schoen
James Wright
John Mark
Charles “Chip” McLean
Thom Dess

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

Call Meeting to Order:

Chairman Schoen called the meeting to order at 18:30 hours and asked everyone to stand for the pledge of allegiance and then a moment of silence.

Secretary's Report:

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Schoen motioned to approve the minutes of the June 29, 2022 Workshop Meeting with said corrections, seconded by Commissioner McLean; motioned/passed/carried.

Chairman Schoen motioned to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2022 Regular Commissioner Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned /passed/carried.

Audit of Bills:

- **Treasurers Reports; April, May, June-** Commissioner Mark asked to table until next meeting,
- Ms. Lucas presented the bills to be paid totaling \$36,488.21, Commissioner Wright motioned to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$36,488.21, seconded by Commissioner Mark; motioned/passed/carried.

Purchase Requisitions:

- A purchase requisition for EMP for medical supplies totaling \$555.88, Commissioner Dess motioned to approve, seconded by Chairman Schoen; motioned/passed/carried.

Workshop Topics:

9-3-9: Chairman Schoen asked if everyone has reviewed the request for the old 9-3-9 to be re-done. A committee member told the chief new tires and wiring were omitted from the proposal just to be aware. Commissioner Wright stated there are more modern vehicles like pick up trucks and ATV's that

could be utilized for what we need. Spending almost \$200,000 to re-do an old truck doesn't seem feasible. Commissioner Dess stated if the vehicle was working properly it could have been the truck for the recent brush fire. The chief's stated 9-3-12 seemed to do a great along with the state supplied ATV's. Chairman Schoen has been approached by numerous members about other options for a brush truck. There are Hummers that you could easily put a skid pack on the back and utilize that. Breezy Point is looking to get rid of a Hummer and all they use it for is the beach and it works great. Commissioner Dess stated we need a truck that can go in the woods and go down the beach bottom line. The cost to re-do the old 9-3-9 was presented by the Captain of Co.1 and he stated the committee thought it could be about \$200,000 or more. Also some items in the proposal could be taken out or omitted too. Question arose on how long will this take? There are trucks readily available now. Chief brought up a good point when you do rebuilds and need a part sometimes you could run into a dilemma because old part could be 1/2" and new part could be 3/4". Chairman Schoen asked Chief Snow what his thoughts were on rebuilding the old 9-3-9, his thoughts was to buy a pick up and ATV. The old 9-3-9 should be an Antique. Chief Glogg made a good point you want something that can get in and out quick and carry water cans. Commissioner Wright motioned to reject the proposal to re-do the old 9-3-9 truck, seconded by Chairman Schoen, Commissioner Mark abstained, Commissioner McLean opposed and Commissioner Dess said it should be tabled until we get further information, motion was NOT passed. Chief Joyce, Jr. stated the board should not table this, it gives light to the possibility of the truck moving forward. Chief Snow also stated that Gardiners Island has a Hummer and all it needs is a skid pack. Commissioner McLean motioned to have the committee reconvene and explore the Breezy Point Option, Gardiners Island option and any other truck option that could be suitable for fighting a fire in the woods and go down the beach, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried. Chief will let the committee know and look into an ATV and report back to the board.

Other topics of discussion:

Bug/Tick Spray- Since we are in the season, all trucks should have bug/tick spray on them. Chief Glogg stated Kyle Fagerland, Dan Farnham and Sal Termini did an amazing job at the fires.

False Alarm Reports: Chairman Schoen asked the status of these. Chief stated Pat gave Ms. Lucas two months worth the other day. Ms. Lucas also received a payment recently for 1st Qtr. reports.

Letter from Chris- Chairman Schoen stated we all should have this letter in our packets. He noted we should go into Executive Session either tonight or at the next meeting to discuss.

Budget: A discussion arose about the budget,. Chairman asked what the PILOT receipts are. Ms. Lucas explained they are Payments in Lu of Taxes. Another question arose about the opening balance, Ms. Lucas explained some of this money is for prior purchases that carryover from 2021, that get paid in 2022, PO's that have not come due yet. Chairman Schoen will discuss with our program people, PIPS tomorrow. Appropriated Fund balance was done in February, \$355,000.00 was appropriated to the Apparatus & Equipment Capital Reserve Account and \$160,000.00 was appropriated to the Building Capital Reserve Account. Commissioner Mark asked if we can delete accounts that aren't being used any longer. Ms. Lucas stated it would have to wait till 2024, but will double check with PIPS to verify that. Chairman Schoen stated we are not hashing out or putting numbers down tonight but suggested starting the next meeting earlier to go over them then. Chairman Schoen also mentioned the hood fan was installed in the kitchen on Monday and is working. Also the lighting project was suppose to start last week, but not sure what happened. Question arose why do we have a negative

number in a budget line. Ms Lucas explained when we got reimbursed for damage to 9-3-81, it was coded to 9-3-80 by our outside accountant. Ms Lucas will look into and adjust. Another question arose about our dispatch contract, what will be the 2023 amount, it's \$238,034.00 and our contract expires January 31, 2026. Also, the Fire Protection contract expires at the end of 2023 and we start renewal talks in March or April of next year. Commissioner McLean asked what the department secretary line item is, it's a designated person responsible for inputting the NIFRS reports/false alarm reports. While going over the insurance line item Commissioner Dess stated the department is still asking about the permit for Camp Hero to train. He stated the insurance certificate he got back from John Ecker was rejected. The state has strict insurance requirements in order to issue a permit. John Ecker refused to redo with the correct amounts. This needs to be straightened out so the department can utilize the building to train. Chairman Schoen asked about the LOSAP amount. Ms. Lucas is waiting to confirm amount for 2023. We have an issue that can affect next years budget, paid ambulance fees. It's a major decision, are we going to endorse and start billing insurance companies for ambulance services? As per Chairman Schoen this is not a hardship question, individuals will not get billed it will go through their insurance company. Commissioner Mark is concerned that if an insurance company only covers a certain amount, will the individual get billed the remaining amount? It is up to the district to set up and determine all the guidelines. Commissioner Dess and Commissioner McLean went to a meeting in Sag Harbor about this topic. The 9th District had questions, can you excuse your members- NO, what about residents of your town- NO, is Suffolk going to use one company for billing, or will the 9th district use one company or do we go on our own? It does work better when all the districts use the same company that specializes in billing. Right now it's split between the districts, even between East Hampton and Amagansett. We are overlooking the important point, if we vote to accept this plan no individual will be billed individually for any ambulance use. Chairman Schoen stated before we contract with an outside agency we verify with them this is how it's going to work, if they can't accommodate, we go elsewhere. By the law no individual patient will be billed. Commissioner Dess will get us an update from the county and the 9th district to see what everyone is doing. Chairman Schoen stated if we have available to us a source of funds from the insurance companies and we turn it down, we are not a proper fiduciary to the taxpayers and the funds we have available to us we choose not to take then we can not lower their tax bill. Another question arose, is this something that should be put on the ballot and let the taxpayers decide, it could also clear us of the fiduciary responsibility.

Chiefs Report:

- Chief Glogg presented a purchase requisition for Stryker for 6 LUCAS batteries totaling \$4,848.00, and suggested purchasing a battery charger for \$1,195.00, Commissioner McLean motioned to approve both, seconded by Commissioner Mark; motioned/passed/carried.
- New oxygen bottle was placed in 9-3-18, its leaking and down to 500 lbs. It is in the process of being worked on now.
- Chief Snow can't thank his 2 Asst. Chief's, the members, other agencies, MTA, Police, helicopter, etc. on the fires that transpired the other night and days. Danny Shields was a hug help with his bulldozer. We should send him a thank you at least. Chairman Schoen asked for his information and the district will send a letter to thank him. Chief is very proud of this department, the people that did show up and the ladies auxiliary, can't thank them enough.
- 9-3-8 is repaired. Commissioner Dess asked if anyone tested it out. As per Chairman Schoen, John from Fully Involved went over the entire front axle and stated nothing is wrong with it. Was told that you can't attempt to put in 4wheel drive once its stuck in sand, has to be put in 4wheel drive beforehand. Chief Joyce, Jr. stated 9-3-8 was in 4 wheel drive, aired tires down,

drove down the beach and started getting stuck, wheel hopping occurred, they got out to see what the issue was, let the tires down some more and could not get off the beach. Put truck in reverse and took it off that way, but all 4 tires were spinning. When all 4 tires spin the transfer case is engaged. There is a disconnect between the transfer case and front axle, meaning the front axle is not operating as it should. The only engagement is off the transfer case via air. When truck is in 2 Wheel Drive the furthest rear tires are the only ones that spin to move that truck. He finds it hard to believe there is nothing wrong. Did he check to see for metal shavings, do an oil change? Chief Joyce, Jr. will take vehicle out tomorrow night and see about re-creating what had happened previously. In the meantime Commissioner McLean will put a request in to examine the fluids for particles. Chairman Schoen asked when was the last time it was on the beach. All chiefs stated at least 3-5 years ago. Suggestion arose to include driving the vehicle as part of the rig check. It does get driven as per one of the chief's.

- EMS calls are increasing, company 4 is on top of them, doing a great job, no mutual aides.
- Big Bucks tickets are still being sold.
- Department dinner is September 30, 2022
- Scott packs are ready and Steve Sizse is organizing a drill.
- Chris Boccebella mentioned the 3 chief's vehicles and 9-3-80 have outdated AED's. They are working but we should consider replacing them soon. All have new batteries, they were tested and deliver the correct amount of voltage if needed. Chairman Schoen stated if they want new ones submit an equipment request and we will deal with it.
- 35 members still need their physical.
- Fire extinguishers need to get checked. The ones that were requested last meeting should be here this week, they were on back order as per Ms. Lucas. There have been ones sitting down there not attended to for weeks. Chairman Schoen asked Commissioner Mark to look into.
- Chief Joyce, Jr. asked about the key fobs, what is going on, some members are having difficulty accessing certain areas. Ms. Lucas will call them tomorrow to have them look into this problem.
- Commissioner Wright wanted to commend Chief Snow on his radio traffic during the brush fire. He thought it was extremely professional and thanked him for a job well done. Commissioner Dess stated some people and captains suggested maybe we should have gotten together and had a meeting to go over the pros and cons of what went on these 4 days, what went well, what do we need to improve. The board thanked Chief Snow for a job well done.

Commissioner Dess noticed the no parking signs are out now but some have fallen, maybe we can get Brent or Rex to fix them. Commissioner Mclean asked about getting permanent signs. Commissioner Dess stated its a county road but will inquire about it.

Commissioner McLean asked if we heard anymore about the Tango Festival, he saw on social media that it was coming to Montauk, no venue was mentioned. Chairman Schoen stated it's not coming here.

Commissioner Wright motioned to adjourn meeting @ 20:38 hrs, seconded by Commissioner Dess; motioned/passed/carried.

Adjourned 20:38 hours