

Montauk Fire District
August 9, 2022
Commissioners Regular Meeting 18:30 hours

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Richard Schoen
James Wright
John Mark
Thomas Dess

Also Present: 2nd 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 Dess motioned to approve the minutes of the July 27, Workshop meeting, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried.

Purchase Requisitions:

- A purchase requisition for EMP for medical supplies totaling \$655.40, Commissioner Dess motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried.
- A purchase requisition for EMP for medical supplies totaling \$533.10, Commissioner Dess motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried.
- A purchase requisition for Boundtree for medical supplies totaling \$1,663.88, Commissioner Wright motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Dess; motioned/passed/carried..

Time Off Requests: Ms Lucas presented a time off request for Rex Martin for Monday August 15, 2022. Commissioner Dess motioned to approve request, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried. Ms Lucas also presented a request for herself for Friday August 12, 2022. Commissioner Dess motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried.

Treasurers Report: Commissioner Mark explained he was only able to get through April and May reports. He also mentioned that Dorothy did not sign April's, all others are signed. Ms. Lucas will get her to sign. Chairman Schoen noted he went through all reports including June and July and found nothing wrong, all checks matched up, balances in order. Commissioner Wright motioned to approve all four treasure's reports, seconded by Commissioner Mark; motioned/passed/carried.

Audit of Bills: Chairman's Schoen questioned a bill from Fully Involved for 9-3-1 in the amount of \$300.00. Is there recourse with the members since the mechanic found nothing wrong. Commissioner Dess explained the member had the check engine light come on while driving it and reported it like he

was suppose to. The mechanic came to check and light goes out, it's not the members fault. The key is no error codes came up when computer was plugged into it. Commissioner Dess motioned to pay the bills in the amount of \$24,288.19, seconded by Commissioner Wright, Commissioner Mark abstained; motioned/passed/carried.

Committee Reports:

Apparatus: Commissioner in charge, not present but Chairman Schoen had a report;

- 9-3-14- has been repaired and lights installed and went back in service this morning.
- Arrangements are being made to have 9-3-8 trailerd up to be repaired.
- an inverter was installed on 9-3-18 at the manufacturer's expense.

Equipment: As per Commissioner Mark, the Aeroclave unit is not working and Ms. Lucas contacted the company, they are sending a loaner out today and once we receive will send our out for repair. Commissioner Mark is looking into the fire extinguisher situation.

Buildings & Grounds:

- **Lighting project-** Commissioner Wright stated the lights are completed in the bays and Chairman Schoen spoke with Brent and they should be back next week to start the upstairs. Commissioner Wright also asked at some point we should be getting money back from PSEG, correct? Yes once project is done and inspected. Commissioner Dess asked if this is under some sort of program. Chairman Schoen stated it is and since COVID hit was suspended but now in full effect.
- Commissioner Wright has tried to reach out to John Tanzi regarding the upcoming projects. He usually vacations over the summer. Before budget is finalized for season just want to figure out the expenditure for the kitchen project.
- Commissioner Dess was concerned about the hatch near the walk in being open, it's suppose to rain tonight. It was opened to look at AC units on roof, the coil was running HOT when it should be cold. Brent was going to have them come out and look. Chairman Schoen also mentioned that Brent changed the filters in the game room, they were black.

Budget and Capital Reserves: Chairman Schoen read two capital reserve balances.

Insurance:

- Commissioner in charge, not present. Commissioner Dess explained he has been in touch with the regional office regarding the insurance for training at Camp Hero. He wanted to know why it's being rejected. He was told it's clear on the forms the insurance requirements to protect New York State. He contacted John Ecker to find out why it's not being done correctly. John stated AIG will not put an additional insured on certificate. Commissioner Dess is waiting to hear from legal since its been approved previously without the additional insured.
- Commissioner Schoen also noted we received a check for 9-3-80 damages to front bumper in the amount \$1700 and change that is including the \$500 deductible. After speaking with Commissioner McLean we are going to wait to repair in the fall.

Communications:

- Chairman Schoen spoke with Eddie Schnell and since 9-3-14 is back they are going to come on a Saturday to take down the antenna, weather permitting.

Paid Personal:

- Commissioner Wright would like to set up an August meeting with Chris, paramedic supervisor, the officers of company 4, the chief and Commissioner Mark to go over anything pending. He will reach out to all via email.
- Chairman Schoen stated the board will also be going into executive session to discuss paid personal.

Department Personal:

- No report.

Law:

- Chairman Schoen asked Commissioner Dess if there was any headway with the other districts in regards to charging insurance companies for Ambulance calls. He stated it is not getting anywhere, districts are split regarding this. Chairman Schoen did sit in on a zoom session and found out research is still being done; billing company is being formed. Certification will need to be in District name, currently in Department. It will require the approval of the Fire Department, which is part of the law. There are two organizations that currently bill for ambulance services. Nassau and Suffolk are currently in contact with each other to figure out the logistics. Not a quick decision until more details are available. You don't want to be the first to do this either. Also each board member could be held personally responsible if not done properly. When all done it will be done right. Commissioner Wright asked if it should be a ballot issue. Our attorney Joe Frank stated it's not required but could be done. There are so many variables right now, will it lower property taxes? if so by how much? It was stated in this zoom session that for every 1,000 ambulance calls districts will yield about \$300,000.00. For us it could be a quarter million dollars which is still a considerable amount of money.

Old Business:

- ***Bid Opening – Chevy Tahoe-*** no bids received. Commissioner Dess asked if there was a minimum bid, answer was NO but we reserve the right to reject any bid,. As per board notice of sale will be put in paper again for workshop meeting in September.
- ***Permanent NO Parking Signs-*** Commissioner Dess was in touch with the Town about permanent NO PARKING signs in front of the firehouse. He spoke with David Lys and it was perfect timing because they just finished the paperwork with the county for NO PARKING signs all the way to Four Oaks, he will include the Firehouse too.
- ***Paramedic Letter-*** discussed after Executive Session.
- 9-3-9- Chief Joyce made it very clear to the brush truck committee his position and explained they need to do their due diligence on other options or there will be no option at all. Fire Island has a truck that they are trying to get more information on. New trucks are being made, checking on all small brush trucks on long island. They are moving on past the rebuild of old 9-3-9. 9-3-12 was good on beach but will it be good in the woods? The ATV's/Kobota's are a separate discussion in itself. Chief stated the BRAT left a bad taste with everyone, first off line and was a lemon, but advancements have been made. It was a good meeting.
- ***Budget-*** Before we start discussing the budget Chairman Schoen discovered in line item 090 the amount of \$954,083 which is the accumulating surplus from previous years budgets. He contacted Joe Frank and asked his opinion on transferring money to our Building Reserve and/or Apparatus and Equipment Reserve accounts which would entail a Referendum

/Resolution attaining permission to use these funds for equipment and/or building needs. As per our attorney Joe Frank it is a good idea to transfer funds to the Capital accounts by simple Resolution and then transfer by the treasurer because you are limited on what you can do with surplus funds and carryover in the operating account. You can use it to reduce following years budget but it could put you in a difficult financial situation. Chairman Schoen proposes we put \$400-\$500,000 thousand into the Apparatus and Equipment Capital Reserve account and \$200,000 into the Building Capital Reserve. Commissioner Mark suggested \$500,000 into Equipment since we will be purchasing new Apparatuses in the coming year. Chairman Schoen motioned to approve by resolution the transfer of \$500,000 to the Apparatus and Equipment Reserve fund and \$200,000 to the Building Capital Reserve Fund., seconded Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried. This will give us more accountability and credibility.

To continue with budget talks, Chairman Schoen asked if there was a motion on the floor, Commissioner Dess motioned to give 3% raises to all personal, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried. Ms. Lucas would like to put on record that she does not agree and at next meeting will address. Commissioner Wright stated to put it in writing, she agreed. Started going over budget line item by line item discussing amounts. Ms. Lucas presented a proposal to upgrade the server. Chairman Schoen stated it does not fall into the line item for office equipment for the budget but is considered a Capital Improvement and would come out of the Apparatus and Equipment Capital Reserve Account. Under conferences, Chairman Schoen plans on attending the Fire District Convention in May with the board's permission. Along with great courses, they also have fire equipment . As discussed with the chief when ready for a new engine we don't sit down with a committee and customize, we utilize the standard design. Throughout the night continued discussions regarding budget, adjusting accordingly. A question arose about WIFI, does 9-3-81 have it, answer was NO. Do we know the cost of it? Ms. Lucas was not sure, but 9-3-80 has it through ONSTAR for \$15.00 per month. Budget will not get finalized until all five Commissioner's are present.

New Business:

- **Video Cameras-** Chairman Schoen thought about putting in dash cams for all the ambulances, 9-3-18 is already wired for it. He thought only motion no sound. He spoke with our attorney Joe Frank and there are pro's and cons. It will make drivers be more alert and could be a defensive piece of evidence if need be. It could also discourage drivers from driving. It wouldn't hurt to get the opinion of the EMS drivers at the next company meeting.
- **Drones-** Question arose do we think we will have to deal with drone capabilities in future? Chairman Schoen stated YES. There are other capabilities besides taking pictures. They are also capable of thermal imaging that could help with potential fires, hot zones, etc, The only issue is privacy concerns. Chairman Schoen spoke with our attorney Joe Frank and we would not keep recording, it's real time and then disappears. They could even be used to carry life saving equipment. Lots of permits are involved though, regulated by the FAA. Cost for a drone \$2,000 with camera for pictures, \$5,000 with the thermal imaging. It's the wave of the future.
- **Physicals-** Currently we have about 35 members who still need physicals. Chairman Schoen spoke with IOMR and they are holding physicals in Bridgehampton on Sunday, October 30, 2022 and East Hampton on November 5 and 6th, both starting at 8am. The chief needs to contact the other chiefs to ask permission, a letter from the district authorizing each member to get a physical and a list of all that will be attending to IOMR. This gives the members another opportunity to get their physical done. Commissioner Dess stated our physicals are due by October 31, 2022, NO as per Chairman Schoen they are due by December 31, 2022. If you do not get one by November 1, 2022 you are suspended until you do get one and if you do not get one by December 31, 2022 then you are dropped from the rolls of the fire department. The

board reserves the right to not suspend or push back the dates.

Chiefs Report:

- Chief Joyce presented a purchase requisition for turn out boots for Daniel Farnham. Chairman Schoen motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned passed/carried.
- Chief Joyce presented a purchase requisition for a laptop computer for the Captain's room, used for meetings and fit tests, totaling \$1736.91. Commissioner Wright motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mark; motioned/passed/carried.
- Terc Team is requesting a check in the amount of \$1000 and use of van for the North American Vehicle Rescue Challenge at Hagerman Fire Department which includes 2 day competition, learning, breakfast, lunch, 2 dinners, event t-shirts. Commissioner Wright motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Dess; motioned/passed/carried.
- Chief Joyce stated the water main extension for Harding road will need a hydrant at the end of the extension. Ms. Lucas will inform SCWA.
- Chief wanted to know what is going on with the foam. The barrels are here and the disposal will be taken care of. He also wanted to know about getting approved foam to replace what we had to get rid of. As per Chairman Schoen a request just needs to be submitted.
- The chiefs are frustrated with not getting informed about trucks leaving and coming back, seems there is a communication breakdown between Commissioner McLean and the chiefs. Also not the best time of year to take 9-3-14 out of service for ladder inspections and lights, no communication about this. Chairman will speak with Commissioner McLean about.
- Regarding the ATV's, since company 4 already researched this thought they would be able to help out, they stated not a problem. One member suggested asking Donna about a possible grant. She said she has no problem exploring grant money but will only do so with the explicit permission of the board of fire commissioners. Commissioner Dess will speak with Donna about.
- 9-3-8- what is going on with it. Chairman Schoen spoke with Commissioner McLean and he is making arrangements with Rapid Recovery to pick truck up.
- FYI- 6-8 acres of the pine barrens were on fire this afternoon, shut down sunrise.
- Commissioner Wright thought it was strange that SCWA does not want us to water during certain hours because of drought but we can have bonfires as long as it is contained in a metal container.
- Chief Joyce stated he has seen on various social media platforms electric vehicles/pumpers. If we are forced to chock one down the cost of the truck is not our only expenditure, the building will not be able to handle the electric load of charging the fire trucks. We might want to look into replacing trucks earlier so not stuck with first round vehicles.
- Chief was also curious, there was no 9-3-80 coverage on Saturday. He will check with Chris. Chairman Schoen was approached by a member and asked why can't we hire current members for our PAID ALS program. Answer, it's against the law, then why don't we get in touch with Fred Thiele to pass a law up in Albany so we can do that. Chairman Schoen researched further and sent our attorney Joe Frank an email stating always assumed it wasn't allowed to hire our own members for PAID ALS services but I am getting questioned why and asking to have our state legislator try and get the law changed. Joe Frank's response; It is federal law, The Fair Labor Standard Act prevents the board from hiring volunteers to perform EMS to also be paid to perform EMS. Mr. Thiele can not change that under federal law. If they volunteer to perform EMS and then you hire them to also be paid to perform EMS they would have a claim to paid overtime for their volunteer work. They could resign as a volunteer and get hired as an ALS provider.

Chairman Schoen motioned to go into Executive Session at 19:43 hours to discuss Salaries, second by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried.

Chairman Schoen motioned to return to Regular Session at 20:16 hours, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried. The board is going to hold off until next meeting on Chris's letter regarding wage increases, narcotics agent and full time hiring of an additional ALS personal, research will be done.

Commissioner Dess motioned to adjourn @ 20:59 hours, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried.

Adjourned 20:59 hours