

**Montauk Fire District**  
**August 24, 2022**  
**Commissioners Workshop 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 Kenneth Glogg, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:** All Commissioners requested minutes ahead of meeting so Chairman stated if meeting is on a Tuesday minutes are to be sent out on Friday and if meeting is on a Wednesday minutes will be sent on Monday. Ms. Lucas agreed and stated bills will be sent as usual. Commissioner Wright motioned to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2022 Regular Meeting with said corrections, seconded by Commissioner Mark; motioned/passed/carried.

**Building Use Request:** Rough Riders Landing Home Owners Association is requesting use of the meeting room on October 15, 2022 for their homeowners meeting. Deposit check for \$150 dollars is coming, As per Ms. Lucas no conflicts. Commissioner Mark motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Dess, motioned/passed/carried.

**Time Off Request:** Ms. Lucas presented two time off requests, one for herself for two vacation days in August and one in September, and Brent Becker requested three vacation days in September. Commissioner Dess motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried.

**Audit of Bills:**

Ms. Lucas presented the bills to be paid totaling \$28,942.34, Commissioner Dess motioned to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$28,942.34, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried.

**Workshop Topics:**

**9-3-9:** Chief Snow stated some committee members here to discuss and a demo is scheduled with Firematic on September 15. Captain John McDonald explained committee members are in the process of contacting Fire Island and other departments to see what type of Brush Truck they have and how it operates. Commissioner Dess also stated they are reaching out to the North Fork departments too. He is also in the process of receiving an updated listing of departments and their equipment from Suffolk County.

- Chairman Schoen spoke with Dennis O'Rielly about the Hummer at Breezy Point. They are looking to get rid of it. We can reach out to them. Commissioner Wright was curious when our brush truck was coming back, is there an ETA. Commissioner McLean stated John will need a full week to repair. He did put a call in on status. Commissioner Wright also stated it shows the need for another truck, with a dry season, you never know what could happen.

- Chief was curious about the grant writing for ATV's. Commissioner Dess stated he will be meeting with Donna on Monday to go over grants. He also reached out to Suffolk County and will be speaking with Joel Vetter too.

- Chairman Schoen asked the status of 9-3-18. As per Commissioner McLean it is in service and that noise is the compressor, the dump valve that goes from the compressor to the tank. Brent is in the process of getting a replacement check valve. The CO activation alarm was unfounded because the back doors were open to the ambulance, this seems to happen with the gas engines. It is in service with no air horn.

**Letter from Chris-** Chairman Schoen stated, Commissioner Mark was seeking other information on the subject of hiring a full time paramedic, he felt we were covered over the summer but since the last meeting we have had 3 days of no coverage for 9-3-80. So there seems to be an issue, Commissioner Mark responded that he has been really busy this summer and has not been able to speak with other districts. Chris Boccabella joined the meeting to discuss the following;

- filling of a full time paramedic position,
- September still has shifts open.
- A new girl will be training this Friday.
- He can not force employees to pick up shifts but he will be contacting employees that haven't picked up a shift in 3 months, they will get a written warning that they have 30 days to fix, if not they will be removed from the rolls.
- He stated having another full time employee will guarantee us another 24 hours of coverage. It will also give Chris another person to rely on and help out when he is not here. That person would be in charge of BLS checks and an assistant narcotics agent,
- Chairman asked if Walter is returning, Chris stated he might try and pick up shifts in winter, but will let him know.
- Chris mentioned these employee's have really stepped up, Ez, Ed, Jason, Ray, Charlie, Joel and himself.
- He has been trying to keep a pool of employees.
- Commissioner Mark asked what has changed from the summer to now.
- Commissioner Wright asked Chris if Ez was onboard with this, Yes just concerned about benefits and pay scale. He does not want to work up island anymore.
- Commissioner McLean understands we standardized the hourly rate to make it more attractive to work out here, was curious where we put the ad? Chris replied that we put it on the county website for EMS, REMSCO, first time with no pay rate, 2<sup>nd</sup> time with pay rate. We received two resumes, one no call back and the other one we hired.

- Chris also mentioned some districts are paying more, Southampton is going to \$35 and Amagansett looks like they may be too. Chairman Schoen stated the agreement was that no one would go above \$32.50 and Springs and ourselves could go up to \$2 more. Lets get a flier up and post in Southampton Hospital and any other place that may seem fit.
- Commissioner McLean would like to see a report for June, July and August with who worked and hours, it would speak volumes if adding a full time position is necessary. Chairman Schoen spoke, Are you questioning we don't need additional coverage and we are having difficulty getting it? Commissioner McLean is questioning we may not need an additional full timer to answer our problem of getting coverage. Chairman Schoen asked would you not agree we have committed ourselves on providing 24/7 service, paid ALS providers to this town. Commissioner McLean replied YES, then the cost is in material quiet frankly, the end result is what we have to look at. Commissioner Mark states we have a responsibility to the taxpayers to do it in a responsible way . Chairman Schoen responded and we are doing that. The problem is getting people to come out and work.
- Commissioner Wright stated this is a step in the right direction, plus we get all the benefits with it, an assistant narcotics agent, an assistant to help Chris when he is not here and someone to help cover shifts.
- Chief Snow chimed in about issues covering shifts now, during the season they come and make the money and then after summer is over they scale back, they get exhausted, burnt out.
- Commissioner Wright motioned to hire another full time employee, seconded by Commissioner Dess; motioned/passed/carried. Chairman Schoen mentioned having a special meeting to discuss who that person would be next Tuesday at 6:30pm, all Commissioners agreed. Chairman Schoen asked Chris to find out from our current employees who would be interested in a full time position and do so in writing. Chris stated will do, but was curious what has changed because in the past it was done by seniority, work ethic and merit.
- Chairman Schoen stated our obligation is to have an 80 car respond as a first responder and our responsibility is to provide a first responder to every EMS call that gets toned out. The first responder vehicle manned by ALS trained personal don't get to pick and choose the calls, they respond regardless because that is how the program is set up. Chief Joyce put it like this, the agreement to the public is that you will provide the service regardless. The 81 car is relying on a volunteer and you can not guarantee the 81 car rolls. The general public is expecting a paramedic to show up for every ambulance call. That is the agreement, that is the expectation. No one in the public would put a price tag to not have that service. This needs to be addressed and spot filled. We can not rely on a volunteer to pick up the slack when the obligation to the public is a guaranteed service provider. Chairman Schoen and Chief Snow both stated well said.

**Resolution to Transfer Funds:** As discussed in a prior meeting, it was agreed that \$500,000.00 would be transferred from the General fund to the Apparatus and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund and \$200,000.00 will be transferred to the Building Capital Reserve Fund. Our lawyer Joseph Frank wrote up a resolution to do so. Chairman Schoen motioned to approve the resolution to transfer the funds, Commissioner Wright, YES, Commissioner Mark, YES, Commissioner McLean, YES, Commissioner Dess, YES; motioned/passed/carried.

**Budget:** A discussion arose about the budget. Commissioner McLean just wanted clarification on certain line items.

Commissioner McLean noted since we are increasing the salaries we will need to make an adjustment on the salary line item for the 2023 budget, Chairman Schoen agreed and now it will go from \$506,000 to \$510,000. Also Chairman Schoen noted we can raise our budget by law 2%. Ms. Lucas noted after inputting our numbers into the state website we can technically ask the taxpayers for \$2,397,226.00 and the total budget line could be \$2,896,026.00 which is a difference of approximately \$112,000. Just remember at end of this year we could have a surplus that would go into the reserve funds.

Commissioner Wright motioned to accept budget of \$2,794,848.00, seconded by Commissioner Dess; motioned /passed/carried.

***Additional workshop topics;***

***Follow up on Apparatuses-*** Commissioner McLean gave an update on;

- 9-3-14- was obviously returned, lights installed except for the telescoping poles immediately behind the cab and the pole in the bucket. In order to install them they would have to be re-machined at an extreme expense. Also the brightness of the new lights are less than what was already there. That brings up a good point, any changes to apparatuses down the road whatsoever, we need to discuss and not take the so called expert's information. Chief stated once it was returned they tested it out and filled with water. Found the officers side gate is hard to open and close, you need to put a lot of pressure on it. Commissioner McLean has requested Fully Involved to put the same valve from drivers side on officers side. Chief thanked him. Chairman Schoen stated the safety harness that are in the bucket of 9-3-14 need to be replaced because they no longer fit anyone, he will address at company meeting and go through proper chain of command.

***Chiefs Report:*** Chief Snow stated the following;

- 9/6- Town Chief's Dinner that Montauk is hosting.
- 9/11- Memorial.
- 9/18- Big Bucks Event.
- Department Meeting.
- Department Dinner – 9/30 at Gosman's.
- Last week there was a Town Wide RIT drill with 6 departments, and Montauk had the hardest challenge, ladders and go up 2 story and retrieve a victim out of a bathroom.
- 9/15- Meeting with potential new recruits.
- Getting green foam. Charlie Grimes and Joey Lenahan helped Brent dispose of all the old foam.
- The chief vehicle's need new AED, suggestion was to buy the same ones we bought for ambulances a few years ago. Chief will discuss with Ms. Lucas later.
- Chief thanked the district for ordering new computer for department.
- Chief received permit for Camp Hero to train. It was approved with the insurance the way it is right now as per Commissioner Dess.
- 9/14- Steve Sizse will be having a training with the Scott Packs.
- Blower on shelf needs fixing- have Brent look at, maybe dump gas, might need new spark plugs. Also a K12 saw came back from Firematic, parts are hard to come by, might need new battery but its an old saw, might be time to upgrade.
- 9-3-30 vehicle needs to get Knox box adjusted and flashlight charger.
- East End Canvas was here to measure trucks for canvasses. This was deemed unnecessary during a previous chief's command. The board will address this with Brent tomorrow. Commissioner McLean will contact Ricardo to put a stop to the canvasses.

- 9-3-30 and 9-3-31 need to get the shut off bypassed. A letter was suppose to be sent to do this. Chief Snow stated it was something a previous Commissioner mentioned could be done. Ms. Lucas will write the letters and Commissioner McLean will speak to Bruce Stonemetz the service manager about.
- 9-3-32- Chief Joyce's vehicle does not have the Knox box for the key at all.
- We use Fully Involved for our repairs and in short have had some delays and sorts. Is there any other outfits or mechanics that are approved to do any work on the vehicles? Chief is talking about non fire related stuff, like check engine lights, small minor stuff. Is there any value in exploring alternatives in repairing some of the equipment. Commissioner McLean stated yes there are other outfits that claim they will provide in house service but how dissatisfied are we and if we were to pull the plug, most likely you can't go back. We know what we have and are satisfied with the work, why adjust now.

Chairman Schoen cleaned out district office and found something that the board back in 2005 voted and agreed to purchase 25 Gold Commissioner badges. He handed out one to each board member.

Chairman Schoen was asked about hose and pump testing, as per Brent we are on the list. Commissioner McLean just wanted to clarify with the chief, what testing do you want done, pump, hose, nozzle? Chief said all of them.

Light project was held up because workers came down with COVID.

Chairman Schoen asked if any board member has an objection on placing the chief's vehicle that is for sale on the lawn in front of the firehouse. No objections just a request to put the notice of sale on the window explaining the bidding process.

Chairman Schoen motioned to go into Executive session regarding salaries at 20:10, seconded by Commissioner Dess; motioned/passed/carried.

Chairman Schoen motioned to go back into Regular Session at 20:55, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried. The board has decided to give the three district employees a 2 year contract of 7%, 4% the first year, 3% the second year. Commissioner Wright motioned to accept this pay raise for all three of the employees, seconded by Commissioner Mark; motioned/passed/carried.

Commissioner Wright motioned to adjourn meeting @ 21:02 hrs, seconded by Commissioner Dess; motioned/passed/carried.

**Adjourned 21:02 hours**