

**Montauk Fire District
January 13, 2023
Commissioners Regular Meeting 18:44 hours**

MINUTES

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

Also Present: Chief Kenneth Glogg, 2nd Asst. Chief John McDonald and Secretary/Treasurer Dawn E. Lucas.

Call Meeting to Order:

Chairman Schoen called the regular Commissioner Meeting to order at 18:44 hours and we all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Secretary's Report:

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Wright motioned to approve the minutes of the December 28, 2022 Commissioner's Workshop Meeting with said corrections, seconded by Chairman Schoen motioned/passed/carried.

Purchase Requisitions:

- A purchase requisition for EMP for medical supplies totaling \$1,585.47, Commissioner Wright motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mark; motioned/passed/carried.
- A purchase requisition for Boundtree for medical supplies totaling \$586.46, Commissioner Wright motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner McLean; motioned/passed/carried
- A purchase requisition for Amazon for medical supplies totaling \$119.04. Commissioner Wright motioned to approve; seconded by Commissioner Dess; motioned/passed/carried.
- A purchase requisition for Amazon for training supplies (ECG, EKG electrodes) totaling \$119.89. Commissioner McLean motioned to approve; seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried.

Building use request: Montauk PTA is requesting use of the meeting room for their Pasta Dinner. Ms. Lucas stated the Department already approved use of the kitchen at their department meeting on January 2, 2023. The event date is January 28, 2023. They will need to come in the night before to prep. Commissioner McLean motioned to approved, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried.

Audit of Bills: Ms. Lucas presented the invoices for payment totaling: \$373,742.14 Commissioner Mark had a question about sales tax on a credit card charge. Ms. Lucas will look into getting credit. Chairman Schoen would like to discuss a bill that was presented to him for wreaths, lights, trees and bows for \$1,668 and he thought the board agreed on the the purchase of 4 wreaths not to exceed \$1,000. What do we want to do about this? Let's look back and see what the agreed limit was. Commissioner Wright motioned to approve the invoices totaling \$373,742.14 seconded by Commissioner Dess; motioned/passed/carried. Commissioner McLean stated at our November 22, 2022 meeting the approval of 4 wreaths for the building by Commissioner Wright and himself was made and it was not to exceed \$1,000.00. Chairman Schoen then noted the district will pay \$1,000.00 of the \$1,668 bill discussed earlier.

Chairman Schoen wanted to mention before we go forward, during a meeting we some times have heated discussions and talk over one another which makes it hard to follow on the recorder. So he proposes when a Commissioner or Chairman has the floor no one interrupt until that person is done and vice versa. This will make life easier for the person who has to go over and over and over to find out what a person said. It is just a matter of courtesy.

Committee Reports:

Apparatus: Commissioner McLean gave report;

- The district pick up and van had their PM service completed and no negative report.
- 9-3-7- A complaint was made, not building air pressure when in gear. The mechanic checked and was able to build pressure in and out of gear.
- 9-3-5- bumper marker light out was repaired. A complaint about low air pressure, the mechanic found a small leak in the drain and was able to replace the valve, condition corrected.
- 9-3-1- Front intersection lights were installed.
- 9-3-80- Had an issue with shifting erratically, brought to Buzz Chew and they changed the transmission fluid, ran computer diagnostics and updated. But unfortunately we continued to have an electrical issue. One battery had to be replaced but it was still popping a breaker, found it was due to the extra emergency equipment, replaced breaker but still having issue. While this was happening, 9-3-81 was in service for the paid ALS providers. John from Fully Involved checked and found that the two batteries are not charging off the Shoreline, vehicle needs an extra charger for the main battery. While using 9-3-81 found the temperature control cabinet is not working correctly and it seems it is not suitable. Commissioner McLean would like to replace it with the same as 9-3-80 at a cost of \$1,750.00 which will heat and cool. Also that box should be insulated. Chief Glogg stated we should go back to the original spec's because it was suppose to have heat and cool, exactly the same as the 80 car. Chairman Schoen stated we will go back to the original specs and find out what was stated. Commissioner Mark is concerned that the 9-3-81 vehicle could have the same issue as 9-3-80. Commissioner McLean stated it is not at this time.
- 9-3-17 is at Fully Involved for a shimmy in the front end and due back by Tuesday the latest.
- Commissioner McLean is working on finishing the numbering (roofs) for the chief's cars.
- 9-3-14- Commissioner McLean noted the jacks have a sensor issue with the wiring for the drivers side front. John our mechanic from Fully Involved has the new sensors but will need to re-wire, he will take to his shop in the near future to repair and also change out the hoses as well. Chairman Schoen asked if the other jacks could be looked at as well. Commissioner McLean will have John take a look at all the jacks.

Equipment:

- Commissioner Dess is now in charge and was unaware until tonight.
- Chairman Schoen asked if there was any problems with equipment. Commissioner Mark asked about the exhaust fan, what is the status? Ms. Lucas tried to explain she spoke with John from MES (Coastal) and he stated they were waiting on a part. Commissioner Mark stated maybe Commissioner Dess wants to get on the phone and explain it's a piece of equipment that is needed. The fan belongs to 9-3-2.
- Chairman Schoen discussed an article about these battery operated pieces of equipment. It seems they have been creating fires which include fire departments. Is it the charging mechanism or the battery itself? This raises questions on how to handle, it's scary. Commissioner Mark asked if the problem is with certain brands/products. Chairman Schoen stated the actual video/article was "Lithium batteries tend to catch fire." How would you address this? Not buy battery operated equipment? The question stands where would you even start, maybe with manufacturers or our own pieces of equipment?

Buildings & Grounds:

- Commissioner Wright talked with John Tanzi about the oil burner project, there has been four interests and he will be out January 17th for a walk through for any interested parties. Commissioner Wright will also be there to discuss preliminary plans for kitchen project, discuss plan for water leakage on back of building and also discuss camera system.
- Chairman Schoen asked about the camera for the EMS closet. Commissioner Wright said Brent was going to get one, but he was busy with the the holidays, will follow up with him tomorrow.
- Commissioner Dess asked about the Ansul system, When was it inspected? Commissioner Wright will ask Brent about that too.
- Commissioner McLean wanted to know where we stood with the hot water heater, we approved an emergency repair. Commissioner Wright asked if it's still leaking? But did say to move forward, just waiting on the contractor. Commissioner McLean noted the hot water heater is still leaking.
- Commissioner Mark asked about the progress on the leak at the substation. As per Commissioner Wright he was told it was fixed, the issue was a back valve and it was replaced. The water authority was doing some work over there.

Budget and Capital Reserves:

- No report

Insurance:

- Commissioner McLean stated for the record he spoke with Ms. Lucas about the Enhanced Cancer Insurance deadlines. He noted one was due by January 1, 2023 and asked if that deadline was met. Ms Lucas responded, YES. There was another deadline, Ms. Lucas explained the two deadlines, 1st deadline was a roster update which was sent via email and received, 2nd deadline was for a verification of policy which was also sent via email and received. Commissioner McLean just wanted to clarify the proof of benefit was sent, yes it was with a copy of the first page of our policy as per Ms. Lucas.

Communications:

- Commissioner McLean stated we received the 10 new pagers and batteries, they were given to Chief Glogg. The ones that were sent out for repair came back also, believe it was six.

Paid Personal:

- Commissioner Wright stated nothing new, everything seems to be running smoothly. Chairman Schoen noted that as of the first of the year, their pay rate has increased and other districts have gotten higher than us. Springs is paying \$35.50 per hour. Commissioner Mark asked if this was verified, Chairman Schoen stated it came through on a fax. We need to keep this in mind if we have issues with filling open shifts. Commissioner McLean asked what did we go up to, Ms. Lucas stated \$33.50 per hour, Ernest Zabiela \$34.50 and Chris Boccabella \$37.00.
- Commissioner Mark also discussed the paid paramedics sofa. There has been complaints that it's uncomfortable. Some thought maybe two reclining chairs like the the game room or a new couch. Chris Boccabella is aware of this. Commissioner Mark and Wright will discuss at their monthly meeting.

Department Personal:

- Commissioner Mark asked about the harassment complaint, it will be addressed later in meeting.
- Chairman Schoen heard about Myrsini, Chief Glogg will present under Chief's report.

Law:

- As per Chairman Schoen 2022 points have been posted, all members have until the end of January to address.
- Chairman Schoen stated a question arose at last meeting, should JR fire department members attend refreshers, pertaining to sexual harassment. The response from our attorney Joe Frank; Too much for young children, even a 16 and 17 year old. He wouldn't do it with out parental or guardian permission. Joe Frank stated, we should look to see if there are any programs that have been developed for young people. It's our obligation to train employees, officers, paid employees, volunteers who are treated as employees for the purpose of OSHA guidelines and other safety related programs such as sexual harassment and retention programs. Also youth programs are particularly vulnerable to predators, even child to child bullying might have a sexual component. We might want to explore the options for enhanced training for officers, paid employees, volunteers with regard to mutual treatment of youth program participants and training for youth program participants. There should also be clear rules for the program to prevent contact outside of the program, one on mentoring and fraternization between firefighters and youth program members which can lead to abuses. The adults should know better. The lines might be confused for an 18 and 19 year old thinking there is no problem with dating a 15,16 or 17 year old. 18 & 19 year old 's dating habits are not our issue until they involve our members and employees dating youth program members. Chairman Schoen stated that the Jr Fire department s members WILL NOT be going to refreshers. Commissioner Dess just wanted everyone to be aware if you need to contact a Junior member, please contact Heather Matthews. Their numbers have been excluded from the calendar as per her request.
- Chairman Schoen received a letter from Tom Bogdan in reference to the East Hampton Town Board public session on Tuesday regarding a study that is being formulated about the commercial traffic that would be transferred to Montauk if East Hampton airport closes. It's a court ordered event that the Town is complying with. Mr. Bogdan thought the MFD (Montauk Fire Department or District) would like to add their viewpoint. Chief Glogg stated the department will not be going. Chairman Schoen asked who supplies the truck in the event of a crash. Chief McDonald believes the East Hampton Fire Department has a crash truck in a bay on the airport property. Commissioner McLean suggested as part of this study it should include emergency service response and the specific equipment and/or personal that will be needed. Commissioner McLean motioned to go forward and present our concerns for emergency

preparedness with this study and potential commercial traffic in Montauk. Chairman Schoen has no problem going to meeting and asking these questions.

- Chairman Schoen mentioned the the next Commissioner training class is in North Patchogue on February 4th. Commissioner Wright will be away but might attend the one in April or do the online course.

Old Business:

- **IOMR Physical Scheduling-** Chairman Schoen stated the physicals were originally scheduled for April 15th and 16th but those dates were not available, so the new dates are April 29th and 30th.
- **Brush Truck/UTV information- Brush truck-** Commissioner Dess explained this has been a process but the committee came together and this is what they want a Dodge Ram 3500 Truck Chassis, single rear wheel, no bed required. When this goes out to bid, it has to be specific; no substitutions will be accepted at all. The committee wants a gas engine not diesel, 6.4 V8 Heavy Duty Hemi, 8 speed automatic transmission, GVW of 11,000 pounds, dual alternators, the biggest off road tires they could get with the wheel well, vinyl seating instead of cloth and bench seat. Commissioner Dess also noted, undercoating, standard mirrors and bumper no chrome- black, LED bed lighting, clearance lights on roof and tow hooks. Now just need to find out if this is OK with the committee, then we can put it out to public bid. Commissioner Dess was told about 3-5 months for the truck to be built from the factory. Then a welder would have to make the box and we need to get a skid pack. Chief McDonald stated there was one item we overlooked but Captain McDonald noted to see if we can get a manual floor shift for the 4 wheel drive, Commissioner Dess will look into that. Commissioner Mark was curious about the clearance lights, will they get damaged, can we remove? Commissioner Dess noted they come standard with truck. After further discussion, Commissioner Dess will look into the manual floor shift, lights, seats and auxiliary switches. Chief Glogg asked if there is going to be a light bar on top to identify truck when going to a call. Commissioner Dess will get all information and present at next meeting so we can put this out to bid.

UTV- Commissioner Dess was able to get a hold of the company that built the Polaris's for SCWA (Suffolk County Water Authority) that included skid packs on the back. The main concern is exactly what is this being used for. In the past the discussion was to transport people off the beach, transport manpower to fires in the brush. What is the primary function we are going to be doing with this vehicle? Captain McDonald mentioned that Polaris has a government website that we can order directly from. Commissioner Dess will check that out but stated he is waiting on a quote and was told it is on SourceWell. This vehicle would require a trailer. Commissioner Dess mentioned in earlier discussions the reason for getting a UTV was to get to isolated areas, trucks may not be able to, Then it progressed to carrying a stokes basket. Further discussion arose and Chairman Schoen stated the primary function for the vehicle would be to those areas we have no access to now. Chief Glogg was able to find the government website for Polaris, military.polaris.com.

- **Camera-EMS Closet-** talked about earlier in meeting.

New Business:

- **Assigning Companies-** Chairman Schoen explained that when we have new members in the department the district needs to be aware of what companies they are being assigned to.
- **Officer Qualifications-** Chief McDonald started an officer training class and is far better than the class that is offered at Yaphank. Chairman Schoen would like that put in as qualifications on becoming an officer for the district. The ones that are offered at Yaphank we have been told are a waste of time and lately not being offered. The training that Chief McDonald offers is far

more comprehensive to our needs. Chairman Schoen motioned to make Chief McDonald's course a requirement to become an officer rather than the boiler plate courses at Yaphank. Commissioner Wright thought there was a reason why we have the requirements we have in place for becoming an officer. Chairman Schoen tabled it until he can research some more.

- **Commissioner Training-** was discussed earlier in the meeting
- District Officer's meeting will be on January 31st in Amagansett at 6pm because they will have representatives to discuss the paid ambulance billing. An article was written in the East Hampton Star about the turmoil going on in East Hampton. The letters that were written had so much misinformation and nothing to do with the law that was passed. Chief Glogg stated that Mayor Laarson changed the certification to now be under East Hampton Village, not the East Hampton Village Ambulance Corp. He wants everything under his control. Commissioner Wright stated back in the day the certificate was originally in the village name but somehow it was changed unlawfully, lawyers are involved and it's going to court. The question arose is this all stemming from the paid ambulance law that was passed? It shouldn't because they could have been billing for years since they are an ambulance corp. as per Commissioner Mark. Commissioner McLean stated this really has nothing to do with our situation, except for the false press it's presenting and misinformation that is scaring the citizens according to Chairman Schoen. Is it misinformation? As the laws reads according to Chairman Schoen, if you have insurance your insurance company will be billed, no one will be responsible through this paid ambulance program. No individual will be responsible for paying for the ambulance, it would only be handled through the insurance. If you do not have insurance it will not get paid/billed. What about situations where the insurance company will not pay and then the patient/individual has to pay, credit ratings get disrupted. Remember this law was just passed in New York, we are only concerned with what happens in this state according to Chairman Schoen. Commissioner Dess's understanding is that if you have insurance the insurance company should be paying. According to the law as Chairman Schoen has read it, if an ambulance comes to take a person to the hospital, the question is asked do you have insurance? and with who, if they do not have insurance, no billing at all. Only the insurance company is sent the bill, all of this is already being paid for through the premiums people are already paying. It's just something the insurance companies haven't had to pay for in the past.
- Chairman Schoen noted that the letterhead should be changed, Ms. Lucas will take care of that.

Chiefs Report:

- Chief Glogg presented a purchase requisition for the Ice Rescue Class that is being given at Bayport Fire Department. The cost is \$2,440.00 to include hotel and registration fees. This does not include travel expenses. Eight members will be attending. A question was asked if any officers will be attending? Ms. Lucas stated YES, 2 will be attending. Commissioner Dess motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried.
- Chief Glogg presented a purchase requisition for two more sets of turnout gear not to exceed \$5,000.00. Commissioner Wright motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Dess; motioned/passed/carried.
- Chief Glogg received a letter from Myrsini Fatsis's doctor that states she can return to EMT/Fire Police duty as of 12/31/2022. That was an important date as per Chairman Schoen because she went out 1/1/2022 and if she did not come back by 1/1/2023 she would have been dropped from the rolls of the Montauk Fire department. Commissioner Mark asked if you are on medical leave you can get dropped after a year, YES, it depends on the leave, department related or non department related.

- Chief Glogg asked about the CO detectors, is there an ETA. Ms. Lucas stated she will find out.
- Chief Glogg was at the company 4 meeting last night and a discussion arose about the need for drivers and last year it was brought up about a possible auxiliary company for drivers. Chief wasn't sure about the legalities or insurance. As per Chairman Schoen an auxiliary is not a member of the fire department. There would need to be some sort of criteria, physicals, drug testing, history? It comes down to the details, how would it be set up? Chief stated he would get a committee together, set up guidelines, could be a potential by-law change. It's a process that needs to get started. Chief Glogg stated his feeling is that they need to reach out to other department members to help. The chief's goal this year is to get more people involved. Chairman Schoen stated there are a lot of open ended and unanswered questions, need more information. Chief will form committee, get details, go over and bring back to board.
- Chief was approached by two members and Captain Ecker about setting up a Montauk fire department Instagram account. This would be run by the two individuals that came to the chief and Captain Ecker and the chief's would give the OK to post. This was brought up because this is how people communicate nowadays on social media. Chief Glogg asked Sal Termini to explain how Instagram will be useful for the department. Instagram and social media presence will be a great recruitment tool for fire and EMS, fundraising supplementation with allowing people to donate online, emergency preparedness communication and information, special event postings, big bucks, pancake breakfasts, parade, etc., communication method for current members with reminders of upcoming drills and meetings, inform the citizens as well as visitors to the town of the incredible volunteer work of the members. This is how business and people are communicating in their organization.
- Chief Glogg stated at the last town chief meeting is was voted on to go back to signal communications. The 9th division is the only one in Suffolk County to use plain language. This is going to be phased in over time. Commissioner Dess asked wasn't the county switching over years ago to plain language, Chief said YES because of federal funding. Chairman Schoen said NO it was because of the total confusion during 911. Chief Glogg agreed but it was also due to the potential loss of federal funding and grants. Dispatch did say that they really have no issues with how Montauk talks on the radio it's other departments that are causing problems. If we have to do it, then we will.

Chairman Schoen motioned to go into Executive session regarding harassment at 20:50 hours, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried.

Chairman Schoen motioned to go back into Regular session at 21:17 hours, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried. Chairman Schoen noted the discussion in executive session was about a harassment complaint and no further action will be taken by the board, the appropriate members will be notified that there is no basis to take further action. This was determined by an independent counsel.

Commissioner Wright motioned to adjourn @ 21:18 hours, seconded by Commissioner Dess; motioned/passed/carried.

Adjourned 21:18 hours