

***Montauk Fire District
February 4, 2025
Commissioners Regular Meeting 18:52 hours***

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Richard Schoen
Charles “Chip” McLean
Michael Mirras
Carmine Marino

Also Present: Chief Peter Joyce, Jr., 2nd Asst, Joe McDonald, Treasurer Robert Hauser and Secretary-Deputy Treasurer Dawn E. Lucas and Captain Eddie Schnell.

Call Meeting to Order:

Vice- Chairman Schoen called the regular Commissioner 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 January 15, 2025 Workshop Meeting with, seconded by Commissioner Mirras motioned/passed/carried.

Purchase Requisitions:

- A purchase requisition for Boundtree for medical supplies totaling \$1,328.53, Commissioner McLean motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried.
- A purchase requisition for Boundtree for medical supplies totaling \$815.76, Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner McLean; motioned/passed/carried.
- A purchase requisition for Boundtree for medical supplies totaling \$2,294.10 Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried.
- A purchase requisition for Boundtree for medical supplies totaling \$411.15 Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried.

Building Use Request:

- Ms. Lucas presented a building use request for the Red Knights, Chapter 25 East End. They want use of the meeting room for their monthly meeting on either June 10th or June 17th and both date are available. Vice-Chairman Schoen stated June 10th. Commissioner McLean motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried.
- Commissioner Mirras also noted that Mastic Beach Fire Department is requesting to have a BBQ for their 100th at our firehouse at 2pm. Ms. Lucas believes that should be OK. Commissioner Mirras will clarify and get more details.

Audit of Bills:

- Treasurer's Report: December 2024- Mr. Hauser presented the treasure's report and noted there should be a resolution made to fund the accounts that are negative, which are approximately \$181,000. Mr. Hauser recommends the board consider budget code transfers in the form of a resolution to transfer a total of \$181,092.41 from the positive account codes to the negative account codes to clean up the year. Commissioner Mirras motioned to accept the budget code transfers that Mr. Hauser comes up with, seconded by Commissioner McLean; motioned/passed/carried. Mr. Hauser also wanted to inform the board in the detailed budget report under total revenues it looks like we brought in less then what was spent. Ms. Lucas informed the board the Real Property Tax line is incorrect, we received money for 2024 in 2023 that is where the discrepancy is. Mr. Hauser also noted all the reconciliations for the eight accounts are in report and he will report back at next meeting about the findings. Commissioner Mirras also noted he checked the accounts and looked at the 5 largest check images against what was noted to be written, and 5 random checks, all written properly. Vice-Chairman Schoen asked about the interest for the Capital accounts, he doesn't see it on the report. Mr. Hauser noted it's on the bank statements and the interest goes into the reserve funds. Mr. Hauser also noted the false alarm fees are usually lagging by a couple of months. Vice- Chairman Schoen asked if we know the percentages we get on false alarm fees because it looks like the town is raising the fines assessed for false alarms dramatically. In the past the alarm fees were as follows;

- 1- first alarm was free, that will remain.
- 2- second alarm was \$50- raising to \$400.00
- 3- third alarm was \$100- raising to \$500.00
- 4- forth alarm was \$100- raising to \$750.00

Ms. Lucas asked if we know when this will go into effect. Vice-Chairman Schoen sated they are in the process of having a public hearing, then we will find out the details. Ms. Lucas also asked who Vice-Chairman Schoen spoke with at the Town. He responded Gabrielle McCabe, Deputy Village Clerk. Ms. Lucas will look into and ask for a detailed itemized reference with the check and get the percentages we are entitled to in writing. Chief Joe McDonald did say the reports are being done in a timely matter by Pat Moloney and stated right now the percentage for false alarms are 70% to us 30% to the town.

Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve the Treasure's Report for December 2024, seconded by Commissioner McLean; motioned/passed/carried.

- Ms. Lucas presented the invoices for payment totaling: \$61,677.51 Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried.

Committee Reports:

Apparatus: Commissioner McLean gave his report;

- 9-3-14- Ladder testing done today and everything is in good working order, it just needed to be tapped off with water, so the Captain was informed. 9-3-1- Ladder testing could not be performed because apparatus wasn't here.
- 9-3-80- Two new tires were installed, puncture and flat on one tire and a new battery was installed.
- PM's are being done.
- 9-3-17- Glow plug issue and Fully Involved will address at their earliest convenience. Check engine light comes on every other day, Brent checks it to make sure it's just the glow plug.

- 9-3-1- The shortage of a second pumper has been addressed with a rental from St. James which is nearly an identical replacement for 9-3-1. Right now we are addressing the fire protection side and the other avenue will be the repair if it's repairable. The insurance adjuster was there today, just waiting on his report. After dismantling the engine there are possible options for the engine, sending it off to Detroit Diesel in NJ as per Fully Involved, it's a diesel shop and costly about \$45,000.00. There are various other options, replacement engines, John could possibly rebuild the engine in his shop too. So right now we are waiting to hear from insurance company. Vice- Chairman Schoen asked if John from Fully Involved had any idea what to do if the engine is not repairable. Commissioner McLean stated not really but could advertise, pumps and body fully operational but blown engine. If the insurance company pays us money to repair the engine, we should repair it. All these options to repair are talking about 2-3 months. Chief Peter Joyce Jr. asked if we are going to be renting an engine are we going to be able to strip our 9-3-1 of hoses, tools, etc., and will it be able to be transferred to the engine we are putting in it's place? He also asked under our insurance policy is there any provision for them to foot the bill of the rental period same as a rental car. Commissioner McLean stated if and when the deal closed on the rental, it's being hammered out by the legal teams. The engine will go to John's shop and a minor PM will be performed, John will transfer our radio from 9-3-1 into rental and hoses will already be on rig. John from Fully Involved has stated it's basically identical to ours and our members should feel comfortable operating it. Commissioner McLean believes there will be no tools being sent with it. Chief Peter Joyce, Jr. noted they took the Scott Packs off and radios. The rig is sitting outside and it would be in our best interest to take all stuff off regardless what we do with it. Commissioner McLean will arrange with John from Fully Involved to get the stuff you want off the truck when you have the guys available to do so. The Captain and Lieutenant of CO1 will arrange to go up and pull off what is needed. Commissioner McLean also noted that CO1 is utilizing the District pick up as a responder vehicle and equipped it with the Scott Packs and hand tools.
- 9-3-4- As per Chief Peter Joyce, Jr. the apparatus shows full regardless of the water level. Most of the chauffeurs are aware but just want to make sure it's on the list to be checked. It is on the punch list, so next time Fully Involved is out it will be checked.
- On another note, after PM's are complete can we make sure that the inside of the cab is OK, last time the radios were pushed down on dashboard, Scott Packs were shifted under seats, etc. Commissioner McLean noted that he already spoke with John from Fully Involved about this.

Equipment: Commissioner Marino gave his report;

- No report

Buildings & Grounds:

- Commissioner Marino and Chairman Wright met with John Tanzi last week. The kitchen and re-pointing project went out to bid and the bids are due back by end of March. Then we can make a decision if we move forward or not.
- Commissioner Marino also noted we had a 55 gal drum of AAA foam and never showed up. Brent made another call and in the interim we had contaminated dirt from 9-3-1 to get rid of. The new company will take both for about \$2,000. Commissioner McLean noted the contaminated dirt, \$901 plus 12% trucking fee is part of the insurance claim.

- **House Report-** moved to next meeting

Budget and Capital Reserves:

- Commissioner Mirras stated under the Apparatus & Equipment Reserve's fund the balance is \$3,193,739.80, Ms. Lucas put the money that was allocated from the budget into the accounts. Building Reserve fund balance is \$652,003.83, Between the two funds we received about \$15,000 in interest.

Insurance:

- Nothing more than what was already discussed for 9-3-1. Commissioner McLean did note the various tow bills will be included in the claim process.

Communications:

- No report

Paid Personal:

- Chairman Wright not present so no report at this time.

Department Personal:

- No report

Law:

- No report

Old Business:

- **Audit Response-** Vice-Chairman Schoen noted we have until March 24th to file our response. He would like everyone to review the preliminary response he typed up based on the state's suggestion. We will need to update with dates applied, and who is responsible for enforcing and would like to finalize by next meeting so we can run it by our attorney Joe Frank before we submit to the State. Mr. Hauser asked if the LOSAP Actuarial reports are done. Ms. Lucas stated she already sent that information over when she was asked for it. He also noted the delinquent AFRS will be filed once they get completed. For example 2024 will not get done for 6 months and we will file for an extension. Vice-Chairman Schoen noted he thought they only allow you a 60 day extension, will we make that? Mr. Hauser stated, NO.
- **LOSAP-** Ms. Lucas noted she is in the process of changing the report around. She spoke with the program contact (SCM is the program) and found out the report we have is a specialized report just for us. We might have to start from scratch or use what the other districts use.
- **Physical Information-** Commissioner Mirras wanted to clarify what standards are we following for department physicals Are we following the NFPA standards, where every department member is required to have a physical or are we following PESH which we currently follow and it's based on age. Chief Peter Joyce, Jr., stated PESH is our governing body and we are obligated to do what they require which we are doing. If we step up to the NFPA standard, we are going above and beyond what is required of us. Commissioner Mirras motioned to stay with PESH standards, seconded by Commissioner McLean, motioned/passed/carried.

New Business:

- **Firefighter AAA Foam Removal-** was discussed previously

- **Data Request Package- LOSAP 2024-** Ms. Lucas will bring up at next meeting.
- Commissioner Mirras noted every member needs to get a copy of the Code of Ethics. Ms. Lucas will make copies.
- Commissioner Mirras also noted the State approved going to 50 years of service for LOSAP. Right now we approved 40 years of Service for LOSAP. What do we want to do? Commissioner McLean confirmed that the district grants members credit up to 40 years of service and the State has now approved up to 50 years of service. Commissioner Mirras stated, YES that is correct. Vice-Chairman Schoen noted we only established LOSAP in 1989, we still have four more years to go at the 40 year level, so we can think about within the next 4 years. John McDonald noted, actually there was a 5 year credit given at the start of the program. So Vice-Chairman Schoen suggests we move it up to 50 years because we would have people eligible past the 40 year mark. But this also means based on the actuarial tables the amount we would have to put in will also increase because we will then be obligated for the additional 10 years. Vice-Chairman believes we will need a public referendum on this and get taxpayer approval because we will be spending taxpayer money. It will be the same as when we raised it from \$20 to \$30. We will check with Joe Frank first and report back.
- Commissioner Mirras explained he has been back and forth with Ms. Lucas and Mr. Hauser about Mr. Phil Dinkel to come to find out it was actually an annuity through VFIS, and explained to Ross Dinkel that he might have to send back the money. Lets see if there are any other people who might be effected. Ms. Lucas has a list and will get a copy to Commissioner Mirras. Vice-Chairman Schoen was wondering is there any method we or they should have to find out if they suddenly die. Ms. Lucas stated the lady she spoke with from VFIS was surprised because the company who took over the annuity does a daily report on who has passed.
- Vice-Chairman Schoen is requesting to move next meeting from Wednesday February 19th to Tuesday February 18th., does anyone object? So Vice-Chairman Schoen motioned to move meeting from the 19th to the 18th of February, 2025, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried.
- Vice-Chairman Schoen noted the Town and the State and all are having another dead tree/ Napeque stretch meeting February 13th at 6pm at the Down's. It will be open to the public.

Chiefs Report:

- Chief Peter Joyce, Jr. presented a purchase request for turnout gear, 5 jackets, 6 pants, 8 helmets in black, 4 helmets in red, 5 sets of boots, totaling \$25,095.99, A complete set of turnout gear (jacket, pants, helmet and boots) cost \$4,219.91. Ms. Lucas asked if this is in addition to what was already approved. Chief stated NO, this is the manufacturer they are going with now, they are on State contract and SourceWell which we just need to confirm we are also registered with. Ms. Lucas will check. Commissioner Marino motioned to approve, seconded by Vice-Chairman Schoen; motioned/passed/carried. Chief noted they moved to this outfit because it ultimately will fit members better, and will be deemed the standard set of turnout gear moving forward. The gear can be altered 4-6" in any direction.
- Chief presented a purchase requisition for a stream light and various fittings from CO3, totaling \$1,783.47. Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned passed/carried.
- Chief presented a purchase requisition for a new couch for CO4 totaling \$1,797.00, Several member stay on their squad night and the old couches are in disarray. Commissioner Marino motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner McLean; motioned/passed/carried.

- Chief presented a purchase requisition for 15 throw bags totaling \$404.55, 1 per member who passed ice-rescue class, 1 for each ambulance, 1 for 80 and 81 car. Commissioner McLean motioned to approve, seconded by Vice-Chairman Schoen; motioned/passed/carried, Commissioner Mirras asked about length, it's 70'.
- Chief presented a purchase requisition for 4 life vest totaling \$215.16, for members on land. Commissioner McLean motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried.
- Chief is requesting approval for a new thermal imaging camera for 9-3-14 if the current one on hand isn't repairable. The cost for a new one with charger is \$6,230.10. Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Marion; motioned/passed/carried.
- Chief would like to figure out a better system for repairs, quicker turnaround, etc. Chief said the watering can that is down there just needs a new seal and believes the houseman could handle that. Commissioner Marino said he will talk with Brent and then meet with you to figure it out and the members just need to put repairs in the book.
- Chief informed board that if we are mutual aided, 9-3-14 will be the one to leave district if being called to the scene, otherwise it will be 9-3-7 and district pick up or van with additional manpower.
- Chief McDonald noted that the WIFI for the EMS drill wasn't working. The company suggested a repeater to enhance the signal. Ms. Lucas will check with John Craft.
- Chief McDonald also asked about the openers for the trucks, he noticed they weren't in them yet. Commissioner McLean noted there was an issue and Brent was working on it.
- Chief McDonald also asked if they could keep all the extra radios and stuff locked in chief's supply locker and not in back garage. The board has no problem with that.

Miscellaneous items:

- Captain Schnell was asked to discuss the new 9-3-5 tanker by the chiefs. Captain Schnell found the Spec sheet has some problems, discharge in back is 4" not 5", no hard suction and other issues. He spoke with Ray from Firematic on Friday and was told they already started production, but send us an email with your notes and we will see what we can fix, if it's not too late. Captain Schnell received email back today and most of it is too late to change because it's already in production, but it sat on lot for 6 months. Vice-Chairman Schoen asked Captain Schnell what does he propose. Captain Schnell stated the problem is with the drawings vs specifications vs what Gosman said we had;
 - It has a primer with 6" inlet to the pump but no hard suction, no stringers, it's not a draftable truck or usable as a pool, which is not really it's intent. But if you pay for the pump you might as well do everything you can with it.
 - It also has no large diameter inputs to the pump. If you wanted to feed it 5" to feed 5" out to something else you couldn't without shutting it down and a reconfiguration by taking cap off.
 - Vice-Chairman Schoen wants to know what do you (Captain Eddie Schnell) want to do at this point. Captain Schnell would love to have a 5" valve somewhere, the discharge in back of truck to be 5" and not feed through 3" valve because it limits the flow available. He would also like an additional 5" discharge, hard suction and all it's accompaniments. He also noted the monitor on the front bumper is only good for 250 gal per minute just like a 2.5" hand line, we can eliminate it.
 - Vice-Chairman Schoen said there was a pumper committee that presented approved specifications that the Commissioner's voted on and approved and now we want to make

changes. Captain Schnell stated it will be cheaper to fix now then fix later. He noted do we want to stop production and get the design correct or take as is.

- Captain Schnell stated the only thing company 3 was presented with was the schematic drawings and pictures of similar trucks, they never saw the bound specs.

- Commissioner Mirras asked if there is any idea of cost for the changes. Not yet. Commissioner Mirras believes we have to make it right to be a workable truck.

- Chief Joe McDonald stated this discussion revolves around going to 5" with the new engines. The design was 2 years ago and not a thought. We should prepare for the future now.

- A discussion arose about being able to change some items on the truck, is it too late, putting a hold on production and giving a change order.

- Commissioner McLean discussed first stopping production, reconvening with committee to specify what is wanted and get a punch list together of items that need to be changed that were incorrectly agreed to or contracted, then bring Ray back in and present him with punch list and let him tell us what the fee would be or wouldn't be.

- Vice-Chairman Schoen noted two years ago we had a truck committee formed and presented us with all the specs for a new tanker and 2 years later you (Captain Schnell) decide it's not what you want. Captain Schnell stated he only got his hands on the actual specs and found numerous discrepancies. Vice-Chairman Schoen asked if it was Captain Schnell's opinion on this truck, he said yes and spoke with the chiefs about and previous Captain Gosman and discussed some items and he stated they fixed that. Chief Peter Joyce, Jr. stated a common sense approach and not finding ourselves too far down the road where it's set in stone and it may be Eddie taking the lead on it as being the officer, he is doing his do diligence. If it has to be run by an internal committee of CO3 then so be it. We just need to get a confirmation and be in agreement to halt production is really why he had to make the call to Ray. Chief Joe McDonald noted its about 5" valves, hard suction lines and manifold information. It could be worked around but would be better to rectify it now then down the road. Commissioner Marino noted we had to discuss it, we don't want to except a truck that is outdated ad useless. Commissioner Mirras states we should stop production. Vice-Chairman Schoen told Ms. Lucas to get a hold of Ray and stop production and get a quote for all the changes. Commissioner McLean would like to commend the current Captain for finding the possible shortcomings/errors of the current order. We need an official committee and punch list of changes and then a submitted to Firematic after we tell them to stop production and then get a detailed cost of the changes and if there are any punitive damages.

Commissioner McLean motioned to go into Executive Session regarding contracts @ 18:52 hrs, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried.

Vice-Chairman Schoen motioned to go back into Regular session @ 19:08 hrs, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried. Commissioner McLean noted since 9-3-1 is out of service due to an engine issue, he has contacted St. James Fire Department about an engine they might have. The engine is an identical Pierce model and has been maintained over the years by our mechanic John Tepedino from Fully Involved and it's in good working order. Commissioner McLean would like to enter into an agreement to rent that apparatus for a period of 40 days while we investigate and determine the repair ability of 9-3-1. Commissioner Mirras seconded the motion; motioned/passed/carried. Vice-Chairman Schoen also noted after the 40 day and if 9-3-1 is not

repairable the district is considering purchasing that piece of equipment on the agreed upon amount of \$6,500.00.

Commissioner Mirras motioned to go into Executive Session regarding Personnel at 20:15 hours, seconded by Commissioner McLean; motioned/passed/carried.

Vice- Chairman Schoen motioned to go back into Regular Session at 20:35 hours, seconded by Commissioner McLean; motioned/passed/carried. Commissioner McLean motioned effective as soon as possible the signers on all Montauk Fire District accounts will include the following; Chairman Jim Wright, Vice-Chairman Richard Schoen, Robert Hauser and Dawn E Lucas, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried.

Commissioner Mirras motioned to amend previous motion that the 10 hour days are going to start April 5, 2025 for our two custodians, Brent Becker and Rex Martin; seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried.

Commissioner Marino motioned to adjourn @ 20:36 hours, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried.

Adjourned 20:36 hours