

Montauk Fire District

April 16, 2025

Commissioners Workshop Meeting 18:30 hours

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: James Wright
Richard Schoen
Charles “Chip” McLean
Michael Mirras
Carminc Marino

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

Call Meeting to Order:

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

Secretary's Report:

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner McLean motioned to accept the minutes of the March 26, 2025 Commissioner Workshop Meeting with said corrections seconded by Vice-Chairman Schoen; motioned/passed/carried.

Chairman Wright motioned to accept the minutes of the April 1, 2025 Regular Commissioner Meeting , seconded by Vice-Chairman Schoen; motioned/passed/carried.

Purchase Requisitions:

- A purchase requisition for Boundtree for medical supplies totaling \$5,473.06, Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried.
- Chris Boccabella would also like to add another vendor for medical supplies, McKesson, he uses them at other locations he works at. Chairman Wright has no problem with it.

Audit of Bills: Ms. Lucas presented the bills for payment totaling \$54,448.86. Commissioner Marino motioned to approve payment of the bills, totaling \$54,448.86, seconded by Vice-Chairman Schoen; motioned/passed/carried.

Workshop Topics:

LOSAP Presentation- Anthony Hill from Firefly- Anthony Hill was at Penflex for about 17 years and decided to step away when they sold to McNeil and Company. He wanted to provide an independent 3rd party Actuarial Administration Service. The vendors that work in this space are either insurance agencies or owned by insurance companies. Firefly is the only one still independent and their only interest is to make sure LOSAP runs well. They want to provide less work for us here at the

Fire District. Statements are more modernized and Firefly would mail them to our participants rather than the District. If an address is wrong it would go back to Firefly not the district and they would handle. It also allows Firefly to keep track of forms that might be needed for entitlement. Firefly statements also show if a beneficiary form is on file and if not, the member can go to the Montauk Fire District's assigned website and fill it out online with docusign. Then it would get uploaded to a secure file (Citrix) which is a shared file program that the district and Firefly share copies of documents. If members do not like using the online portion to fill out forms, paper forms are still available and Firefly would send them out. Also included in the statement is a plan summary which you are required by General Municipal to provide certain information about the plan to participants every year. Also on the website Firefly would include the plan summary, the plan document and the point system if they are given one.

One other thing, Firefly provides contact information for any member collecting benefits. The payments would stay with Comerica since Firefly is their client. Helps streamline everything. Also the reports from Comerica are a bit lengthy and since Firefly knows the system, they get the raw data and run it through their own system and provide a more consolidated report. Once a month after the payments are processed the consolidated report would be run and then uploaded to share a file for us to download and review. There is also a different report for anything other than recurring monthly benefits, such as death a benefit.

There are actuarial differences between Penflex and Firefly. Penflex uses a projected model, any member under 65 they project that they will remain an active volunteer and earn 50 points till they reach 65 or their 40th year. No cost of living adjustments for LOSAP like a regular pension. Every year Firefly calculates the liability that is represented for the service that was earned during the current year and makes sure the district contributes that, always 100% funded. If any unfunded liability, Firefly amortizes it and then adds on top of contribution amount. This makes is much easier to understand.

At this point if the board was to go from 40 to 50 years of service the budgeted contribution would not change but the board would be forgoing a savings.

If the district was to hold the referendum this year to extend the maximum years of service, traditionally members will loose the ability to earn points for 2025. The law states the amendment is in effect January 1st after the election. The law does not allow retro-activity. The statue states earn 50 points, you earn service credit. It also says the maximum benefit you can earn is an amount that can not exceed \$30 per year for 40 years of firefighting service. It does not say once you hit 40 years you can not earn service credit. It just defines what the maximum benefit is. So you can hold a referendum to say we are going to raise our maximum benefit from \$1200.00 to \$1500.00 and make it very clear how it's going to be. Effective 1/1/2026 our maximum benefit is now \$1500.00. So whatever service was earned during 2025 can be credited because it's under the new maximum benefit. But remember we have to run it by our attorney Joe Frank. The board said we could tell our attorney, Joe Frank this is what we want to be done.

Firefly has moved away from a fee structure, they do not charge for each service, they base their flat rate on participants, plan provisions, entitlement age, etc. The flat rate for 3 years will be \$8,000 and they bill two times per year. They work on calendar year agreements, Penflex does not. If we decide to go with Firefly there is no extra cost for 2025. We would start paying 1/2026. Tony did say that Penflex has put into their agreements a transition fee of about \$1,000 and suggests to pay it so we can get all of our data back. Firefly's agreements do not have any transition fees, they are just the custodian of the data and will never have transition fees. Penflex usually charges a base fee at the end of the year and we wouldn't have to pay that, it would save us money minus the transition fee.

Bid Results- Kitchen and Masonry Project- Chairman Wright noted the results came in for both projects a little less than \$1 million dollars. He believes the kitchen will not happen this year because of logistics. We should move ahead with the re-pointing, the building is getting old and it needs it. Commissioner Marino wants to find out if they will hold the bid on the kitchen project till end of year. He will contact John Tanzi about this. Commissioner Marino motioned to approved the Re-pointing Project, seconded by Commissioner Mirras, motioned/passed/carried. Ms. Lucas will put in paper Friday for \$325,000.00. This has to be done before a contract can be signed or payment processed. Ms. Lucas will also contact John Tanzi to let him know the same.

Dispatch Contract- Chairman Wright received a text from JP Foster stating the mayor wants us to decide by May 1st so they can figure out their budget. It was told to him that Sag Harbor and Amagansett are going to sign with them. Vice-Chairman Schoen spoke with Amagansett this afternoon and they are not in consensus to go with the village. Also each district's cost for dispatching will remain the same regardless if some opt for other services. Vice-Chairman Schoen also put a call into Town Supervisor Kathy Burke- Gonzalez just waiting to hear back from her tomorrow. There seems to be a conflict in a legal assessment. This came from Jack Emptage at Amagansett the Village's disposition is that the Town can't charge you for dispatching services because it is a conflict of double billing. But Vice-Chairman Schoen spoke with Joe Frank and he said the Town can most certainly charge you and sign a contract with you to supply dispatching services. Vice-Chairman Schoen feels pressured by the village to sign, he feels we should wait to see what the Town is offering. He also said he received an email from the Town stating they would provide 911 service no question about money or anything but what does 911 service mean. 2nd Asst. Chief Joe McDonald explained right now how 911 calls operate, if it is a fire or EMS call the village will accept, if it's a police call they transfer to the Town. It sounds like the Town would be answering the 911 calls and transferring to the village for fire and EMS if we stick with the village. Vice-Chairman Schoen is concerned about mutual aid, if we go with the Town and Amagansett goes with the Village what happens? Question arose would we have to buy new equipment if we went with the town. Radios would stay the same. Contract costs originally for a 5 year period was \$1,428,503, the updated contract dated 4/14/25 is \$1,354,249 a difference of \$74,254 over the 5 year contract. This contract would not be signed as is because of item #4 the indemnify clause, which states if the village screws up and there is a delay or if there is omission, act resulting in a reasonable delay or inaccurate address, the district would be held responsible for the mistake the village made. This item would need to be eliminated as per our lawyer Joe Frank. Commissioner Mirras was concerned how the town will handle this. He feels maybe a 2 year contract with the village so the district can see how the town develops this on their end. Commissioner Mirras thought the supervisor for the Town was going to come here to talk to us. Ms. Lucas tried but she wanted the district to come to her or call her to discuss. Chairman Wright did say there is a conference call set up with the village on 4/24/2025 at 5:30pm. Ms. Lucas will contact the mayor's assistant Marcos for the Teams contact information.

9-3-1A Purchase Agreement- Commissioner McLean explained the rental period is over for 9-3-1A and as previously discussed and agreed upon we now owe \$6,500 to St. James Fire District. The paperwork has been prepared to submit to the insurance company for the reimbursement of the rental fee. Commissioner McLean would like to go ahead and submit the balance due to St. James Fire District. Ms. Lucas will cut a check tomorrow for the balance. Commissioner McLean also noted the insurance company wants a heavy duty appraisal inspection to further evaluate the damage to the engine. Commissioner McLean has had the truck moved from Fully Involved because of time constraints to Richie Valcich's shop because he showed interest in the tear down of the engine. The rig has been moved at the expense of the insurance company. Richie Valcich has already started the tear

down which will be paid for by the additional appraiser. The insurance company will then determine if they pay the claim or not. Vice-Chairman Schoen asked if the insurance company approves to rebuild the engine for x amount of dollars, do we have to? Commissioner McLean has spoken to a few people and was told NO but will run it by Joe Frank to find out his answer. We do have some quotes on rebuilding the engine one for \$41,000 and one for \$45,000. Also received a quote to rebuild the engine inside the vehicle for \$27,000 from John Tepedino with Fully Involved. The market if we could find a buyer would only withstand about \$15,000- \$20,000. Chief Peter Joyce, Jr just wants to make sure that in the paperwork we don't have to give them a certain truck with a certain VIN#. We are not committed to give them anything, the agreement is that they will assist us in listing or attempt to sell said piece of equipment. No trade-in with the contract that we signed. Chairman Wright did note we have a letter from Joe Lenahan that he is interested in one of the engines. Commissioner McLean did say there was some outstanding work that was completed yesterday on the apparatus and will give a full report at the next meeting. Vice-Chairman Schoen asked about the 5" and 2.5" hose for the new trucks, will we then need fittings/adapters? Chief's stated 3" hose use the same as 2.5", they are universal, 5" should be fine because it will only be used as supply it will work with our portable hydrant that is already associated with our hose truck. 9-3-4 has an adapter to go to 5" as it is now. 9-3-1A that we just purchased is already set up for 5" just as the new trucks will be.

Remediation Plan- Audit- Chairman Wright asked about the finger reader report, Ms. Lucas provides that at the first meeting of the month. He also stated any Commissioner can approve overtime but our new protocol is to have it in writing through an email and copy Ms. Lucas.

Miscellaneous items-

- Vice-Chairman Schoen received an email from Suffolk County Fire District Managers Association about NERIS (National Emergency Response Information System) training which will be replacing NIFRS. There is a meeting on Tuesday May 20th from 10-3pm in Dix Hills for the chief's, Commissioners, etc.
- Vice-Chairman Schoen asked if Brent put a camera outside the walk-in cooler. Ms. Lucas stated she believes he put a call in to the gentleman who did our cameras just waiting for him to come out.
- Commissioner McLean was approached by the 50 year club, to create a 50 year corner in the firehouse to celebrate members who are in the department 50 or more years. The corner where the defibrillator is. The department would pick up the cost, so no cost to the district. Chairman Wright motioned to approved, seconded by Vice-Chairman Schoen: motioned/passed/carried.

Chief's Report

- Chief Joyce noted that Bridgehampton Fire Department contacted him regarding 5 members that are in need of physicals, they use the same outfit we use IOMR. He was told the company will bill Bridgehampton directly for those members. Chief stated as long as it doesn't interfere with spots for our members he is fine with it. The Chief of Bridgehampton contacted IOMR directly before contacting our chief to make sure it would get billed to them.
- Chief presented a request for EMS, they are in need of a CME class for their ALS members, the class is Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Advanced Life Support skills evaluation for all five volunteer ALS members of the department. The proposed date is May 31, 2025, cost is \$1200.00, Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried.
- Chief requested the housemen to set up 5 tables , 10-12 chairs for a new member meeting for tomorrow night. Commissioner Marino will take care of it.

- Chief also noted tentatively June 18th will be the hose testing. Ms. Lucas confirmed that date.
- 2nd Asst. Chief McDonald stated some members started on the bus for next year's parade, it's at the substation if anyone wants to help.

Chairman Wright motioned to go into Executive Session regarding personal @ 19:45, seconded by Vice-Chairman Schoen; motioned /passed/carried

Commissioner Mirras motioned to go back into Regular Session @ 19:50, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried. Commissioner McLean motioned to approve the Annual Commissioner's Appreciation Award of \$200 to the Harvest. It will be presented at the Annual Inspection dinner, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried.

Vice-Chairman Schoen motioned to adjourn meeting @ 19:52 hrs, seconded by Commissioner McLean motioned/passed/carried.

Adjourned 19:52 hours