

***Montauk Fire District
August 12, 2025
Commissioners Regular Meeting 18:00 hours***

MINUTES

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

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

Call Meeting to Order:

Vice-Chairman Schoen called the regular Commissioner Meeting to order at 18:00 hours and we all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Secretary's Report:

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2025 Workshop Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried.

Purchase Requisitions:

- A purchase requisition for Boundtree for medical supplies totaling \$1,475.00, Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner McLean; motioned/passed/carried.

Building Use Request:

- The Town of East Hampton, Ed Michael's is requesting use of the meeting room, on August 20, 2025 at 1:30pm for a fisherman meeting regarding preconstruction of the town dock, Commissioner Marino motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner McLean; motioned/passed/carried.

Miscellaneous items:

- Ms. Lucas is requesting approval for the subscription renewal of the SonicWall Threat Protection at \$911.40 for 9/22/2025-9/21/2026. Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried.
- A MSA gas meter from 9-3-4 was sent out for repair, John Drewes from Coastal emailed me to say this meter is not repairable. Chief asked asked if the board can approve a cost so we do

not delay the process. Commissioner Mario approved a new MSA gas meter up to \$1,200, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried.

- John Drewes from MES (Coastal) would like to pick up the air cart on Wednesday to install the couplings for use with the new Scott Packs. Chief said that is fine.
- Ms. Lucas notified the board and chief's that we received the grant/donation in the amount of \$50,000.00. Vice-Chairman Schoen suggested we put the money into the Apparatus and Equipment Capital Reserve account, as per donors instructions. Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner McLean; motioned/passed/carried.
- Jeff from East End Financial Group would like to come to our September/October meeting to talk about our LOSAP investment.
- Vice-Chairman Schoen confirmed with Commissioner McLean that if we wanted to get another ambulance delivery time is 2-3 years.

Audit of Bills:

Treasurer's Report: June 2025- Commissioner Mirras went through Treasurer's Report and signed off on all accounts. Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried,

Ms. Lucas presented the invoices for payment totaling \$289,855.20, Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried.

Committee Reports:

Apparatus: Commissioner McLean gave his report;

- 9-3-1A- 2 batteries were replaced and front discharge was addressed by closing drain valves and restoring water flow.
- 9-3-7- new tank vision system installed and functioning, came in under budget. The wheel chock holders were removed, repaired and operating fine. The upgraded light bar (stock supplies) was installed.
- 9-3-18- fuel hose clamp came loose, it was repaired and the PM (preventative maintenance) was performed.
- 9-3-4- water flow gauge repaired and it should be fully operational.

Equipment: Commissioner Marino gave his report;

- wanted to know if Chief received chainsaw back from repair. Chief's response, Yes it is on rack just hasn't been put on truck yet.

Buildings & Grounds:

- Richie from SeaHag was here about the refrigerator/freezer repair. The repair should be done sometime next week.
- Maccarone was here for the AC, just waiting for all the parts and will be back for the repair.
- Jeff Hauser from Intelli-Tec will be coming out to fix the box outside the bay doors.
- Waiting on mark outs for the lights down the driveway so the electrician can start the work for that. This all stemmed from the repair of the electric at the flag pole. Ex-Chief Peter Joyce suggested contacting Mark from East Hampton about mark outs and will give Commissioner Marino his number. Also some of the light stanchions need to be looked at they are cracking really bad.

- Did a walk-through of the building, there is about 5-6 little things that Commissioner Marino would like done. The letters still need to be put back and the number 12 needs to be sent out. We should be getting some money off this contract because we didn't go into any overage.
- Lights front of building- will need to get a lift to figure it out.
- Chief Joe McDonald mentioned there are 2 lights out on the building at the substation and one light on a pole on the north side.
- The NO PARKING signs at substation was brought up. Commissioner Marino would like to get one of the trailers moved so no one can park in between them. Chief noted get no parking signs with arrows toward each other and if anyone is parked there they will get ticketed. Signs will be ordered.

Budget and Capital Reserves:

- Commissioner Mirras noted the Building Capital Reserves as of June 30, 2025 has \$680,139.89 and the Apparatus and Equipment Reserves has \$3,129,265.51 which includes interest that is through June 2025.

Insurance:

- As per Commissioner McLean, we had another accident with the new ambulance 9-3-16. The passenger side mirror was ripped off while backing into the firehouse. The damage has caused the controls for both sides inoperable. Claim filed and waiting on the adjuster. There are several active claims right now; a claim for the tires on the brush truck, the adjuster asked for some pictures. There is also an open claim for 9-3-18, fender flare, which was ordered and replaced by Fully Involved, waiting on a bill so it can be submitted with the fender flare invoice of \$797 to adjuster. Vice-Chairman Schoen asked about the vehicle that we hit, did we hear anything about that because they attempted to contact us. That information was given to the insurance company and they are handling it. Also we have an open claim for refrigerator, the spoilage of food. Vice-Chairman Schoen took pictures and will submit the pictures to Ecker's office and see what happens. Commissioner McLean also noted the repairs of the unit would not be covered.
- Currently our deductible is \$500.00 and our policy renewal is coming up in October. We have to submit a survey each year by September 1st. They have notified us of an increase in the premium of the Auto physical damage coverage of \$7,429 which would bring the cost to \$52,178 for the year. There is also an increase in our deductible to \$5,000 per occurrence, the reason for this increase is due to adverse loss history. Vice-Chairman Schoen noted do we need to make every driver involved in an accident take the EVOC course again before they can drive again? Chief Peter Joyce, Jr suggested moving forward if an accident occurs, both the Chief and Commissioner McLean get an accident report and thinks it's unrealistic to have a driver who was involved in an accident be forced to wait for an EVOC instructor to re-train them. Chief believes it should be left to him to determine what level of ramification should be taken. Board agrees.
- Commissioner Marino asked how are we addressing the line issue in/out of the bays. Chief McDonald had a request from the EMS Captain and Lieutenant to have lines on both sides of the ambulances for less accidents. Discussion arose about the lines and backing into the bays. Commissioner Marino and the Chief will get together to determine line issues and length.

Communications:

- **Siren-** Commissioner Mirras asked about siren status. Ex-Chief Peter Joyce noted the siren needs to be taken care of, he feels replacing with stainless steel is best option and to include spikes on top so the seagulls don't destroy the new siren. It was put in the budget for a new siren.

Paid Personal:

- Chairman Wright not present.

Department Personal:

- nothing at the moment

Law:

- Vice-Chairman Schoen had two conversations with the attorney that represents us in a lawsuit that is being filed by one of our members. The information he was requesting was given to him and Vice-Chairman Schoen does not believe we will be named in the lawsuit.

Old Business:

- **Tony Hill- Firefly-** Anthony Hill from Firefly has received all the data. They are in the process of going through the file of beneficiary forms and separating/renaming them with year forms were signed. Comparing and making sure there are forms to back up all the data. Depending on what is found, they will either contact members directly or ask Ms. Lucas to help out and get new forms signed. Commissioner Mirras asked if the \$450,000 is still an accurate amount to put into the budget. Tony explained Firefly takes a bit of a different approach when calculating the contribution amount. Firefly takes the unit credit normal cost approach, which is calculating the actuarial liability for all service earned during the year. This becomes the base cost of our contribution for the year. Firefly then looks at the amount the plan is underfunded and amortizes that over a period of time, which is the second part of the contribution. The 3rd part of the contribution is a slight interest adjustment due to the contribution being paid after January. Anthony handed out a report that was broken down by members and total service credit. This will show the impact currently and for the future. It would be better if we can contribute \$500,000. If you do not change/amend the plan and leave it at the 40yr cap and keep the contribution at \$450,000 than more money would go to the underfunded part of the plan but then there would be a group of members that could not earn the 50 points. Commissioner Mirras stated in the past we were always told if we were 90% funded that was acceptable. Anthony Hill stated we want to be moving toward 100%, that is the target/goal. Commissioner Mirras asked if the board decided to go to 50 years would it be better to increase the contribution to \$500,000, answer was YES. Anthony also stated by extending the maximum from 40years to 50 we will be extending the current costs. Anthony noted if the board was to amend the plan as most people interrupt the law, effective 1/1/2026 the people who are at 40 years CAN NOT earn the benefit this year. He also noted how the law is written, it contemplates there is a maximum benefit that can't be exceeded. The resolution can read the maximum benefit is going from \$1,200 to \$1,500 effective 1/1/2026 and there is nothing in the law that states people can't earn service credit, they just can not exceed the maximum benefit. Firefly can write the resolution for the board. It was asked what the thoughts are from our lawyer Joe Frank. Anthony Hill stated through correspondence with Joe Frank, he believes the maximum is based on service credit. But Anthony Hill respectfully

disagrees, the law doesn't say firefighters can't earn service credit, it just says there is a maximum benefit. How the plans were administered over the years is with the 40 year max in mind. Anthony noted based on his interaction with Joe Frank he would disagree on the interpretation. Other well known attorneys have agreed and other districts. Vice-Chairman Schoen suggests the board have Anthony Hill write the resolution so the members can earn the credit this year and we will then open that discussion up. There is another issue Anthony noted, there is a quirk in the law, if you attain the entitlement age you are automatically 100% vested and do not have to wait the five years. This has been something that Anthony has brought up and even made a presentation to the Law and Ledge Committee of the Association of Fire Districts stating it's ridiculous and needs to be changed.

- **Eddie Schnell- Tires-** Captain Eddie Schnell discussed tires for the brush truck, 9-3-8. He noted the tires and rims that are on the truck now are the wrong ones for the application. They do not have B Lock. The military surplus tires that fit on the truck and are less expensive than brand new ones from Barnwell and are available. Three different places have them and 10 more online that state call for price. Best option would be to have the tires and rims assembled by a vendor, shipped to us and then mount them ourselves. There are two different rim options, Combat (Eddie has a spare tire and rim for his army truck the board can take a look if need be) and Hemtt which has a better internal offset. Captain Eddie Schnell also stated a good resource would be to have Richie Valcich take a look at the truck. It was noted that the rear hubs might be spun the wrong way. They were correct for when it was a dully and should have been switched when it went to a super single. It would get you to have the front tires inline with the back tires so when you are driving a straight line you are going over the same ground. Vice-Chairman Schoen stated the board will seek out Richie Valcich, but wanted Mr. Schnell's opinion since he is very knowledgeable about all this. Captain Eddie Schnell suggested talking to Richie Valcich about the rims and offsets, he has more knowledge about them than Mr. Schnell does. But he would recommend getting the B Lock Super Single tires same size as we have now but it's now metric so the size is 395/85R20 which is about an inch smaller, gives more tork and clearance to chassis. Just remember these tires are used, the older the tire the cheaper it is, but the rubber is so thick that we will not burn through the treads b4 we need to replace it. Vice-Chairman Schoen asked Mr. Schnell what is our next step, Mr. Schnell's response is to contact Richie Valcich to determine what rim would be best to go with Hemtt or Combat. Mr. Schnell also mentioned Kevlar walls to help protect the tire from side wall piercing. Chief Joyce also noted there have been complaints about this truck and he hasn't determined if it is driver error or something with the truck. He thought it would be best to have all the oils changed and determine the normal wear and tear of the vehicle. Commissioner McLean will contact Richie Valcich for a complete study of the truck.
- **Bid Opening- old 9-3-16-** Vice-Chairman Schoen suggested the board establish a minimum bid that will be acceptable before opening the bid. Commissioner Mirras asked what the evaluation was from the online companies? The appraisal range was \$20-\$30,000. Discussion arose about the process, Vice-Chairman Schoen responded it was advertised and we received one bid, it doesn't matter where it came from. Three votes for a minimum bid of \$12,500 and one vote for \$20,000. Ms. Lucas opened and read aloud the bid from Aminu Martin of \$5,000. Ms. Lucas will thank him for his interest and let him know his bid did not meet the minimum requirement. The board discussed if they want to put in paper again and if so, include other publications. Vice-Chairman Schoen spoke with Amagansett and found it's their policy when ordering new equipment to include in the contract a trade-in value on currently owned

equipment. Vice-Chairman Schoen believes in the future we should have that included with the bid process.

- **Resolution Adoption-** Resolution on Assignment of Fire Department Personnel, Equipment and Apparatus, all Commissioner's read resolution and Vice-Chairman Schoen motioned to delete squads from the resolution, seconded by Commissioner McLean; motioned/passed/carried. The Resolution was then put to a vote and the vote is as follows, Chairman Wright-not present, Vice-Chairman Schoen- YES, Commissioner McLean- Yes, Commissioner Mirras- Yes, Commissioner Marino-Yes; motioned/passed/carried. A copy will be provided to the Chief.
- **Monthly Reports-** Finger reader and Audit trail reports are included in the packet as part of the Audit stuff. In the future she is asking to change it to quarterly reports, the board agreed.
- **2026 Budget Prep-** Commissioner Mirras noted Ms. Lucas and himself came up with numbers separately and then compared. The numbers were basically the same except for a few that Ms. Lucas had more information for. Commissioner Mirras will need to adjust for salaries and then it was asked if this will be done b4 next meeting, answer was YES. Then we can input into state website to see what we need to ask the Town for. It was also mentioned we should start next Wednesday's meeting at 6pm. All agreed.

Chiefs Report:

- Chief McDonald noted that the department meetings for July and August are still on finger reader. Ms Lucas will double check and make sure no one gets points for them.
- Tanker should be done by end of August. Captain Eddie Schnell has been in touch with them, some tweaks, actually clarifications. Engines will start construction next week, 1st one should be done beginning of October, 2nd one mid October. Chief McDonald did mention the final inspection was never incorporated into the price of the engines. The cost is \$1,500 per member, which we would need to vote on. Chief thought maybe the board wanted to speak with them since they just bought 2 pieces of equipment and spend over 2 million dollars. It will be discussed at next meeting.
- Chief McDonald also noted the emergency lights on vehicles seems to be extremely bright especially the new ambulance 9-3-16. There should be a way to adjust the power level. Commissioner McLean will look into that. It has also been noted for 9-3-16 the rear view mirror issue. One has been ordered as per Commissioner McLean.
- Chief Joyce mentioned the good standing points seem to be off on total calls for each company, they should all be the same. Ms. Lucas will look into that.
- Chief also wanted clarification about points, the point you can get for going to an ambulance call gets logged as a rescue call not fire, correct, YES. Are they considered 2 separate or the same for good standing, it's a department decision, and the way it's been read it's both. Vice-Chairman Schoen noted the reason we had to separate for LOSAP is because in LOSAP members can earn 25 points for fire calls and in addition 25 points for rescue calls. So members could ultimately make their LOSAP points without ever going to meetings/drills or anything. Good standing points is up to the department to delineate.
- Chief McDonald asked about the garage door openers for the trucks. Commissioner McLean stated there is one on order. Commissioner McLean asked what rigs do not have them. Chief stated none of the fire trucks do. 9-3-3 and 9-3-7 have one. Commissioner McLean was told they all have them, he will look into that.
- Radio batteries have been shipped and should be here by Friday.

- In the future when ordering equipment, lets make sure we get delivery dates as per Vice-Chairman Schoen.

Vice-Chairman Schoen motioned to go into Executive Session @ 19:34 hrs regarding contracts, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried.

Vice-Chairman Schoen motioned to go back into Regular Session at 19:55 hours, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried.

Commissioner Marino motioned to adjourn @ 20:02 hours, seconded by Commissioner McLean; motioned/passed/carried.

Adjourned 20:02 hours