

Montauk Fire District

August 20, 2025

Commissioners Workshop Meeting 18:00 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:

Vice-Chairman Schoen called the meeting to order at 18:00 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 August 12, 2025 Regular Commissioner Meeting with, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried.

Purchase Request:

- A purchase requisition for Boundtree for medical supplies totaling \$876.70, Commissioner Marino motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner McLean; motioned/passed/carried.

Audit of Bills:

Bills- Ms. Lucas presented the bills for payment totaling \$20,947.91 Commissioner Marino motioned to approve payment of the bills, totaling \$20,947.91, seconded by Commissioner McLean; motioned/passed/carried.

Workshop Topics:

AC-Bays- Vice-Chairman Schoen noted there seems to be an issue in the North Bay with keeping ambulances cool. New 9-3-16 has it's own onboard cooling system but heats up the rest of the bay so it might be time to think about air conditioning that bay to maintain proper temperature. Commissioner Marino suggested split units and will get pricing on them. Chairman Wright noted Alan Burke got a quote from Marshall's for \$45,000, a similar unit to what is already in the training room with duct work piped to the ambulances. We already know that there is a bid process and we can let

Marshall know once we have all the particulars. Commissioner Marino will get more information and reach out to John Tanzi. Also we should separate the two bays to keep the cool air with the ambulances. If this is done there is no need to get ambulances with the cooling system in the future.

Final Inspection on Engines- Vice-Chairman Schoen asked Chief McDonald how many people were on the engine committee. There were about 11-12 guys. Six guys are interested in going, but probably 4- 5 could actually go. Question arose did we buy from Pierce again? YES and they are located in Appleton, WI. So we are going there to inspect and make sure they met the contract requirements, basically doing their job. Vice-Chairman Schoen believes that Firematic should be making the arrangements to inspect the engines and if they do not want to do that then they can deliver to us and if anything is wrong, then they would have to come back to pick up engines. Vice-Chairman Schoen will contact Firematic to discuss they should be paying for us to inspect the trucks. We might be able to negotiate since we are buying 3 trucks in total.

Budget- Commissioner Mirras noted Ms. Lucas did a great job putting the budget together, one item that needs be looked at is salaries/payroll. Commissioner Mirras motioned to go into Executive Session regarding Salaries/Payroll @ 18:18 hours, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried. Commissioner Mirras motioned to go back into Workshop Session @ 18:29 hours, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried. Chairman Wright asked if we are going to bust the tax cap. Commissioner Mirras's response was he does not know yet, but would like to. Chairman Wright noted with all the new apparatus that is needed and some OSHA regulations coming, he feels we need to bust the cap. Commissioner Mirras discussed how Ms. Lucas inputted all the information that was previously discussed at last meeting and between them and just needs to adjust for salaries. Discussion arose on how Commissioner Mirras came up with budget amount of \$3,909,178 and how much we need to ask from the taxpayers. Ms. Lucas will input this into the state form which will tell us what the 2% tax cap is and Commissioner Mirras wants to go over that amount, maybe 4-5% which should not affect the taxpayers that much. We already discussed what we want to put into the reserve accounts and most likely would like to increase those numbers and also increase some other budget lines. Chairman Wright noted that he believes a ladder truck will be needed in the next 2-3 years and could cost over \$2million, and agrees with increasing the reserves accounts. Commissioner Mirras will see how much is needed, he knows the equipment account needs more to cover new equipment, but what about the building account now with the AC unit. Commissioner Marino also noted the fuel tanks will need replacing, just waiting on an estimate. So Commissioner Mirras noted he would like to increase those accounts and the repairs and maintenance a bit too, everything else is pretty much accurate. The budget was worked on between Commissioner Mirras and Ms. Lucas. Any comments about the budget needs to addressed to Commissioner Mirras before our next meeting on September 2, 2025. A discussion arose about leasing fire trucks and why is it a bad thing? Commissioner Mirras said NO. In his experience, long term, you end up paying more for the truck. Vice-Chairman Schoen said if we were to talk about leasing, he would need to see the bottom line and numbers because the numbers don't lie. Commissioner McLean asked about a timeline moving forward for the budget, the Commissioners need to have any changes they feel is needed by next meeting. Ms. Lucas stated the proposed budget needs to be approved on or before 9/30/2025, so the board needs to approve 9/17/2025. Ms. Lucas will then send the proposed budget to the town with the budget hearing notice. Then send the budget hearing notice to the paper and the actual budget hearing is the 3rd Tuesday in October, which is October 21st. Commissioner McLean's comment was that we are on schedule.

Miscellaneous Items:

- Vice-Chairman Schoen noted there was a call on Saturday at about 11:15 am and halfway down the stretch the driver was asked to turn the siren off. After getting through Amagansett, the driver was

asked how long will it take to get to the hospital? Driver's response 40 minutes to an hour because with no siren people weren't moving over. Vice-Chairman Schoen spoke to our attorney Joe Frank about the situation and his response was as follows; The person in charge of the sirens and operations which is called the PICOPC (Person in Charge of Patient Care) is ultimately responsible to tell the driver how to proceed. If you do not want the siren on, the vehicle is longer an emergency vehicle. So when the flashing lights are on, you will still need to abide by all traffic laws, stop at stop signs, red lights, no passing, etc. The person in charge of the back has the ultimate decision. Unless you are using lights and sirens you are not an emergency vehicle, you have no more rights than a regular person driving their car. Chief McDonald noted after speaking with one of our paid paramedics, this lights siren issue came to be from calls up island that were not ALS . They just don't want the district to get into trouble. Chief noted this is just for point of reference and where we are situated warrants light and sirens. Commissioner McLean noted we should speak with the party that was involved and explain how we operate here. Bottom line, the question was who has the authority when it comes to the lights and sirens of the ambulance when going to the hospital. The person in charge of patient care does (PICOPC) in the back.

- Vice-Chairman Schoen mentioned at the last meeting there was a discussion about replacing 9-3-17 because it can take up to 2-3 years. If we decide to purchase an ambulance we take delivery outside of the 6 months, May to September so there is no pressure in the summer months and do not put the new air conditioning system in the rig and include a trade-in allowance. Commissioner McLean noted we have a brand new ambulance with a high end option, climate control and need to know if it's operating up to par. Chairman Wright and Commissioner Mirras can't understand why the medication box just can't be air conditioned instead of the whole ambulance.
- Commissioner Mirras noted the Treasurer of the Montauk Public School asked if they could gas up here. Vice-Chairman Schoen would like to get a legal opinion on that first. Commissioner Marino would like to know how much they are using, we only have a 1,000 gallon tank. It was asked where do they fuel up now. The Chief believes North Shore road where Justin Rayner lives. Maybe ask Justin about the fuel consumption. Commissioner Mirras noted the Treasurer told him it's allowed, something to due with municipal to municipal. Will get more information.
- Vice-Chairman Schoen asked Commissioner McLean about the status of the adjuster for the mirrors claim on 9-3-16. The incident happened and then the claim was filed 2 weeks later, waiting on the adjuster to make a decision on when he is sending someone out.
- Commissioner Marino noted the solar people are coming next week the 25th to fix the solar. He also noted there is tax on the estimate, Ms. Lucas already spoke with them and got a revised quote without the tax. We have to pay for the labor but the materials are under warranty.
- The refrigerator/freezer work is completed. Rich from SeaHag came back to re-check and added a defrost system to the freezer that it never had.
- Walter Cooke from Precision Mark Outs came out to mark the bad electric lines at lights in front of the firehouse and somehow got zapped so he will be back tomorrow to look at it.
- Chairman Wright asked about the kitchen project, has the parts been ordered. Commissioner Marino has not heard anything about that yet.
- Commissioner Marino asked if the board could get Brent Becker a scissor lift for 2 days to do the lights on the front of the building. The cost is about \$1,500 for it. Commissioner McLean motioned to approve scissor lift for 2 days, not to exceed \$2,000.00, seconded by Chairman Wright, motioned/passed/carried.
- Vice-Chairman Schoen talked about changing the next meeting from the 9th to the 2nd of September. Ms. Lucas stated we changed the meetings this year to be the 1st Tuesday of each month because of the

treasurer. She also noted that she would like to bring the meeting back to the original schedule because it's affecting the way the bills are paid and reports.

- Vice-Chairman Schoen would like to know what are we doing with old 9-3-16? It was voted at last meeting we will not take anything less than \$12,500.00. Commissioner McLean asked where was it listed online. Vice-Chairman Schoen will get that information. Chairman Wright noted that George Dempsy is sending ambulances over to the Ukraine and we could donate ours and get a tax deduction, it could be a good thing to do. All we can do is make inquiries and get the information.

Chief's Report

- Chief McDonald is requesting a key fob to access the back garage, or main building for the pre-school/ day care to take the kids in case of an emergency. The lead teacher would have access to the key which is Pilar Prado. The board has no problem with that.
- Chief might have someone go on medical but still needs to discuss it with the member and will talk about it another time.
- Vice-Chairman Schoen noted the physical list was given to Chief McDonald and about 24 members are still in need of a physical.
- Chief McDonald would like to know the status of the brush truck- 9-3-8. Commissioner McLean stated he has been in touch with Richie Valcich and asked him to consult us on it and draw up a plan, he has all the paperwork that Captain Eddie Schnell gave to Commissioner McLean. He has a plan to come out and meet to devise a proper proposal.
- Commissioner McLean also noted at last meeting Chief McDonald stated the garage door openers were not in the rigs. All rigs have openers with the exception of 9-3-5 and 9-3-8 because they are not usually the first rig out. The ice rescue and 9-3-81 car does also. Everyone started to talk at once, Ms. Lucas could not understand what was being said. Commissioner McLean started talking about what a Chief might have said about the openers being put in the rigs the day after a meeting, could not understand. Commissioner McLean responded to a statement that the garage door openers were not in the vehicles and in fact he inspected himself and they were. Chairman Wright's questions was to make sure the garage doors were working properly because there were issues in the past. Commissioner McLean stated they are working and all the garage openers are in the rigs with the exception of the ones he stated earlier, 9-3-5 and 9-3-8.

Commissioner McLean motioned to adjourn @ 19:17, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried.

Adjourned 19:17 hours