

**Montauk Fire District
September 2, 2025
Commissioners Regular Meeting 18:30 hours**

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: James Wright
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:

Chairman Wright 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: Vice-Chairman Schoen motioned to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2025 Workshop Meeting with said corrections, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried.

Time Off Request:

- Ms. Lucas is requesting two vacation days off, 10/23 & 10/24/2025. Commissioner McLean motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried.

Audit of Bills:

Treasurer's Report: July 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 \$47,429.25, Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried.

Committee Reports:

Apparatus: Commissioner McLean gave his report;

- 9-3-8- will be going to Richie Valcich on 9/3/2025. He has a set of tires that he feels will be suitable for the rig. Richie will put them on and return rig to us and see if we like them. See

the handle ability, speed, etc. If we like the tires, then we can buy a set. Richie will also check all the fluids and do a PM (preventative maintenance) on it as previously discussed. .

- 9-3-16- will be going back to the vendor either end of this week or beginning of next week for the mirror project, which is internal under the dashboard. This will need to be done at the plant in Holbrook. The vehicle can still be used but the mirrors will need to be adjusted manually.
- Chairman Wright asked if we received the stickers for the new ambulance. Commissioner McLean said NO, but we did inquire and the response; the stickers are coming from Albany. We are still legit and just waiting for the stickers to come.

Equipment: Commissioner Marino gave his report;

- Air Cart from 9-3-2 is waiting to go out for repair.
- Ms. Lucas stated MES was here to do the annual testing on the SCBA Packs. The tech will be back tomorrow. He believes he will be here till end of week.

Buildings & Grounds: Commissioner Marino gave his report;

- Solar company came and removed the damaged thermal inverter. Just waiting on a new part, once they receive will be back to replace.
- AC for the ambulances- Richie from SeaHag came by to take a look at the project. He gave a proposal for three AC units, plus installation, electric would be separate, totaling \$21,500. It would be three units with variable capacity of 9,000 & 3,400 BTU, ductless wall hung heat pumps with total cooling capacity of 9 tons. Breakdown; three wall units, three outdoor units, outdoor heat pumps installed on north side at ground level with 10' spacing. Chairman Wright noted we also have an estimate from Marshall's for twice that. He wanted to remind the board we have to go through John Tanzi, our architect because of total cost. Commissioner Marino would like to get another quote if possible. Commissioner McLean suggested maybe doing two units to see if they do the job and if so then we can expand the project. Commissioner Marino will reach out to John Tanzi about the project.
- Masonry Project- Commissioner Marino and John Tanzi did a walk through, saw some issues. A&Y, the contractor was contacted and will be out to address after Big Bucks, which will include the numbers on the building.
- Chairman Wright asked about the fuel tanks. Commissioner Marino noted waiting on proposal from G&M Diege. He also thought that maybe the Town can get involved too. Ms. Lucas has a contact she can reach out to see.

Budget and Capital Reserves:

- Commissioner Mirras noted having the meeting the first Tuesday of the month doesn't give us a lot of time to get work done. Reports right now are through July 31st. We seem to be always 6 weeks behind. It might be beneficial to put it back to the 2nd Tuesday of the month. It would depend on Ms. Lucas and Mr. Hauser.
- Apparatus & Equipment Capital Reserves- \$2,889,026.31, Building Capital Reserves- \$647,280.33- \$207,100 (Masonry project) = \$440,180.33.
- Commissioner Mirras explained he carefully looks at the general fund, looks at the 5 highest amounts paid and then randomly checks 5 more to make sure everything is written correctly. Everything is good.

Insurance:

- Commissioner McLean has been in touch with all the adjusters on all the claims and submitted any additional information that was requested. Just waiting on next steps. He also noted that the spoiled food claim has been withdrawn and the insurance company was notified.
- The annual questionnaire renewal was submitted to our broker John Ecker and he noted all looks good and submitted to insurance carrier.

Communications:

- Commissioner Mirras explained there was money put in the budget for a new siren on Industrial Road.
- The board agreed and signed a 2 year contract for dispatching services with the Village of East Hampton. In a year and a half it has to be reviewed. The Town is also dispatching, has had some bumps but we will see when we review if we go with them or stay with the Village.

Paid Personal:

- Chairman Wright noted he is trying to keep overtime down for all personnel, but some days with the paid paramedics it's needed. The office staff has shown a difference and the goal is working. He has had the usual complaints which will be addressed this fall.

Department Personal:

- nothing at the moment

Law:

- Vice-Chairman Schoen mentioned he received information from 2nd Asst. Chief Joe McDonald regarding mutual aid. In May of 1977 when Larry Franzone was Chief, he signed an agreement for mutual aid in Fire Protection, no definition of what the fire protection area was. It basically stated if we need fire protection we call them, if they need they call us. This looks like it precluded any Fire Protection contract with the Town.
- Driveway issue- Vice-Chairman Schoen sent communication to Thom Flight regarding this. . Thom responded with a 4 page letter. The Town is issuing a Public Awareness Campaign, core message, "If we can't reach you, we can't save you." Objectives- educate homeowners about Town code driveway width requirements. Target Audience- homeowners & landlord. Visual branding, etc.- See attached information. This subject was raised previously for the board to put something in the paper, but it's the Town's responsibility.
- At our last meeting, the Montauk public School was requesting to use our pumps to fill their buses. Commissioner Mirras wanted to clarify, it's gas only not diesel. The expected gallon usage is 400- 450 gal per month. Vice-Chairman Schoen did reach out to Joe Frank, our attorney and he sated it's a can of worms you don't want to open up. A discussion arose about this situation. Vice-Chairman Schoen is going to get all this in writing from Joe Frank and ask why is that we can do for the police department? Also ask if there is any possibility to be indemnified against any action of liability against the police or school, like hold harmless.
- Vice-Chairman Schoen noted there has been a lawsuit filed, the Montauk Fire District is not partied to it but our medical director is. Our medical Director, Dr. Michael Ameres asked Vice-Chairman Schoen to contact our insurance company to find out if he would be covered for this lawsuit. Vice-Chairman Schoen did receive notice back from VFIS, YES Dr. Michael Ameres will be covered in the pending lawsuit Montauk Fire District itself is not mentioned in the lawsuit, there are 5 other entities mentioned, either people or agencies.

Old Business:

- **VFIS-** Ms. Lucas discussed the Risk Assessment meeting done last Thursday with Kevin Yoos from VFIS. We discussed, vehicle maintenance, driver training, etc. Kevin also requested copies of the Ariel device report. Ms. Lucas had all the documentation that Kevin requested, even copies for him to take if need be. Kevin pointed out the biggest thing, there were 11 incidents within the last couple of months. He basically stated it boils down to driver training. Kevin did have recommendations on what could be done, he gave Ms. Lucas Vehicle Response Guidelines, which the members/drivers would read and then sign an acknowledgment page. Kevin also talked about spotter responsibilities, it's very important and should be done when backing a vehicle up, especially into the bays, where there is the most incidences Ms. Lucas is making the board aware because that is why our insurance deductible went up to \$5,000. Kevin also noted that they have trainers that can come out to us and do a training, which he suggested we do. Ms. Lucas will inquire about a vehicle training at the firehouse.
- **Inspection- New Engines-** Vice-Chairman Schoen was asked to contact Firematic about the engine inspection in Wisconsin. He had a lengthy conversation with Ray Mueller and bottom line Ray denied any thoughts to pay for our guys to go inspect the engines. Vice-Chairman Schoen said we would be going to basically assure that Firematic is fulfilling the contract that the Montauk Fire District signed, Rays response was YES. Wouldn't it be better to fix any problems at the factory while it's there. Ray said they can still fix it. So Vice-Chairman Schoen said to wait till it comes to Yaphank to inspect. We are in no rush to receive, we have 2 engines that are working and a 3rd waiting to hear back on. Vice-Chairman Schoen doesn't believe it's worth it to send people to do their work for \$6,000.
- **2026 Budget Prep-** As of July there is about \$948,000 left in the budget and we should be fine to finish out the year as per Commissioner Mirras. For the 2026 budget, Ms. Lucas and Commissioner Mirras came up with their own numbers and then together came up with a decent plan. Vice-Chairman Schoen has a question about the appropriated fund line item and at last meeting it was discussed of the potential need for a new Ariel ladder with a cost of about \$2 million. Right now we still have to pay for the two new engines and tanker and that will basically deplete the funds in that account. Chairman Wright noted, he brought up in a previous meeting the fact that we will probably need to bust the cap because of the need for the Ariel ladder in the future. Commissioner Mirras went over the budget and discussed line items that were changed from previous discussions; salaries and pension- which was increased, capital items- turn out gear- increased, Utilities- gasoline- increased, building maintenance- grounds- increased, equipment repairs left basically the same just increased a little due to labor cost since we are getting 2 new engines and tanker, contractual fees-audit- increased, uniforms- department- increased, the appropriated fund- increased both the equipment fund and building fund. The cap is 2% and after putting in the numbers to the state website, and busting the cap it would turn out to be a 4% increase. Once audit is done then any left over can be put into the capital accounts. Vice-Chairman Schoen noted the recommended equipment replacement schedule and the next dates involve 9-3-80, 9-3-81, 9-3-17, 9-3-18 and 9-3-32. Vice-Chairman Schoen doesn't feel 9-3-81 needs to be replaced any time soon or at all. He said he would swap 80 and 81 first before anything. Replacing 9-3-17 with one like new 9-3-16 was previously discussed. 9-3-32 will definitely need to be replaced. A discussion arose about the other apparatuses that will eventually need replacing, and the fuel tanks. Chairman Wright asked if there is money in the budget for the replacement of the fuel tanks. Commissioner Marino is not sure when this will happen, might not be till 2027, we don't even have a quote

with approximate cost. Ms Lucas noted she spoke with G&M Diege asking where our proposal was for the new fuel tanks. G&M Diege thought someone came out to inspect and give a proposal already. Someone will be out to take care of this. They did state right now Suffolk County is concerned with containment systems. Ms. Lucas explained we already have that and if we are looking to replace the tanks we would be completely covered. Commissioner Marino also noted maybe we can get the Town to help out with this too. Back to the budget, Commissioner Mirras stated the total budget with all the changes for 2026 is \$4,261,678 and feels busting the cap by 2% to get what the district needs to plan ahead is pretty good. Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve the proposed budget of \$4,261,678, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried.

Chiefs Report:

- Chief Joyce was wondering after the quick discussion about VFIS should he let the chauffeurs know at the next meeting in order to keep your EVOC status, they may need to sit through additional training. Chairman Wright noted not yet because nothing is confirmed yet.
- Chief asked if the hose order got squared away and did the district pay the gentleman for the turn out gear. Ms. Lucas stated, she does not have an invoice to pay. She has contacted Jeremy and is working on it with him. Vice-Chairman Schoen noted the purchase of the hose was voted on back in March for \$38,766 with a 10 month delivery date, PO was never issued to Hi-Tech, due to tariffs the price went up about \$11,000. Jeremy is taking partial blame for it and will check on pricing and get us a revised quote. Chief McDonald spoke with Jeremy from Hi-Tech and was advised, the manufacturer was able to work out some sort of deal and was sending a revised quote. The board will then have to approve. Good thing, Jeremy is holding our spot in line and the delivery date is still the same.
- Chief is requesting the houseman to set up the meeting room for a department meeting on Monday September 8th and then Tuesday September 9th flip it for a Town Chief's dinner. The board will take care of that.
- The production on the two new engines started last week, they are still on schedule for first week of October and second week of October. There should be pictures on Firematic's website. The tanker is still a mystery.
- Chairman Wright explained to the Chiefs that members who had physicals done by their private doctors will still need to get a fit test done.

Miscellaneous items:

- A gas meter was sent out for repair, John Drewes from Coastal emailed Ms. Lucas stating it needs an o2 sensor, calibration and flex PVC. The cost to repair is \$392 plus shipping. The Chief would like to go ahead on the repair.
- Ms. Lucas presented a resolution from Tony Hill of Firefly (LOSAP administrators) to possibly extend maximum benefits from \$1,200 to \$1,500. She will also pass this information on to Joe Frank and get his comments. Ms. Lucas will put on agenda for next meeting since the board needs to review.

Commissioner Mirras motioned to go into Executive Session @ 19:22 hrs regarding personal seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried.

Vice-Chairman Schoen motioned to go back into Regular Session @ 19:36 hours, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried.

Vice-Chairman Schoen motioned to adjourn @ 20:00 hours, seconded by Commissioner McLean; motioned/passed/carried.

Adjourned 20:00 hours