

***Montauk Fire District
September 17, 2025
Commissioners Workshop Meeting 18:30 hours***

MINUTES

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

Also Present: Chief Peter Joyce, Jr., 2nd Asst. Chief Joe McDonald, Robert Hauser, Treasurer 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 Mirras motioned to accept the minutes of the September 2, 2025 Regular Commissioner Meeting, seconded by Vice-Chairman Schoen; motioned/passed/carried.

Purchase Request:

- A purchase requisition for Boundtree for medical supplies totaling \$355.58, Commissioner McLean motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried.
- A purchase requisition for Boundtree for medical supplies totaling \$903.60, Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve, seconded by Vice-Chairman Schoen; motioned/passed/carried.
- A purchase requisition for Boundtree for medical supplies totaling \$3,970, Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner McLean; motioned/passed/carried.

Building Use Request:

- Montauk Public School is requesting use of the building January 10, 2025 for their Pasta Dinner fundraiser. This helps raise money for the Robert Fischer Scholarship which is awarded to a Montauk senior at EH High School. Ms. Lucas spoke with Commissioner Marino about this because of the kitchen renovation project, he said we will let Tanzi know to have contractors start on Monday January 13, 2026. Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve, seconded by Vice-Chairman Schoen; motioned/passed/carried.
- Tyler VanSlyke, a teacher at the Montauk Public School would like to use the meeting room for his wife's baby shower on October 18th. Ms. Lucas did receive a \$150 check for the room.

Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve, seconded by Vice-Chairman Schoen; motioned/passed/carried.

Audit of Bills:

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Hauser presented the August Treasurer report. He noticed three accounts that might need attention. Commissioner Mirras looked over the reports, and reconciliation and did his usual checks and signed off. Robert discussed the audit reports, Cullen & Danowski finished 2020, 2021 and almost done with 2022. It seems to be taking about 5 months or so to get each year done. Ms. Lucas after talking with Robert suggested they come here to collect the data they need, right now she has to upload everything to a portal. They used to do this in the past. The board would like Cullen and Danowski to come to the office to collect all the data needed for the 2023 audit. Let's get these completed as quickly as possible so the State does not knock on our doors again. Robert will call them discuss.

Bills- Ms. Lucas presented the bills for payment totaling \$57,301.62 Commissioner McLean motioned to approve payment of the bills, totaling \$57,301.62, seconded by Chairman Wright; motioned/passed/carried.

Workshop Topics:

Hoses- Vice-Chairman Schoen discussed the matter of approving the funds for the purchase of all the hoses, 5", 2 1/2" and 1 3/4", which is \$58,004.58. Chief McDonald was able to get a better quote from Jeremy at High Tech and the price is now \$54,783.64 for all the hoses. This all came about because a PO was never issued in March which caused an increase in pricing. But through negotiations and discounts, cost has come down. The discounts though were applied to all the hoses. So now there will be one PO issued for all the hoses. A public referendum will need to put in paper since the funds will come out of the Apparatus & Equipment Capital Reserve Fund and we can not sign a PO until after the 30 days are up. Vice-Chairman motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried. Ms. Lucas will notify Jeremy at High Tech. Chief McDonald is afraid that if we wait the 30 days, Jeremy might not be able to save our spot and we would have to wait another 10 weeks. The boards response is that they are bound by law to put it out for a public referendum so they can take the money out of the reserve account, which means waiting the 30 days for public approval. It has nothing to with dollar amount, how it was derived, bids, state contract or anything else. The board can not arbitrarily take money out of a reserve account without seeking public referendum. Chief Joyce was wondering if there is any provision if it came down to it to offer Jeremy from High Tech some sort of money as a show of good faith to keep us in the spot. Vice-Chairman Schoen noted that's a deposit on an overall contract that we can't issue a PO on.

LOSAP- extend maximum benefit- Ms. Lucas was asked to send the email that the board received from Tony Hill at Firefly to our lawyer Joe Frank for his thoughts. Joe's response was emailed back to Ms. Lucas and attached to all board members packets. Commissioner Mirras believes we need to agree with what our attorney states, that if we extend maximum benefits, the members 41st year would be service in 2026 credited in 2027. That would increase the maximum benefit to \$1,500.00. Ms. Lucas will respond to our attorney Joe Frank and request a new resolution to what he noted in his email.

Fuel Usage School- This was addressed at last meeting, Our attorney Joe Frank noted we should not get involved and take the risk. Commissioner Mirras does not agree with it. Commissioner McLean motioned to decline the request from the Montauk Public School with regard to fueling their gasoline

vehicles at our pumps. We do it in consideration for the Police department because they are partners in emergency services for the Montauk community, the school is not and upon advice from our counsel we decline their request. Vice-Chairman Schoen seconded, Commissioner Mirras is against; motioned/passed/carried.

Budget Hearing Date- Ms. Lucas explained the Budget Hearing has to be the 3rd week of October, typically it usually is the 3rd Tuesday, which is October 21, 2025. So Ms. Lucas proposes to have Budget Hearing October 21, 2025 and move our Workshop meeting to same date, right after the hearing. She would also like to move the Regular meeting from October 7th to October 8th. Chairman Wright motioned to move the workshop meeting from October 15th to October 21st after the budget hearing, seconded by Vice-Chairman Schoen; motioned/passed/carried. Vice-Chairman Schoen motioned to move the October 7th Regular Commissioner meeting to October 9 seconded by Chairman Wright; motioned/passed/carried.

Miscellaneous Items:

- Chairman Wright asked the board if they were interested in going to Saratoga this year. It is in October, not sure of dates. Commissioner Mirras may be interested.
- Vice-Chairman Schoen discussed the letter that Meeting House Lane Medical sent to numerous members of the department. The new office manager stated they were letting people know about their physicals. Vice-Chairman Schoen noted the letter was outdated and not factorial. The office manager discussed with the powers to be and told Vice-Chairman Schoen they will never send out reminder letters to members of the Montauk Fire Department from Meeting House Lane for physicals.
- Vice-Chairman Schoen noted the district received a letter from Donna Hitscherich to hold a class to train the new EMT's. Chairman Wright also noted she has been trying to start a class for all new EMT's with this guy she knows from up island. Commissioner McLean noted that was back then, but Donna has been in touch with the Captain of Co.4, who met with the guy from Hunter. Chief Joyce was asked if he knew about this, yes he did and as far as he knows the guy from Hunter did come out but the issue is Hunter is not associated to Southampton/StonyBrook Hospital or any medical powers to be that we deal with. Chief Joyce under that regard does not believe this class qualifies for a suitable class provided to any new EMT. Vice-Chairman Schoen noted we took care of this 2 years ago, when a discussion arose about new EMS members taking an accredited Suffolk County EMT course. Commissioner Wright motioned for a resolution to read as follows; The board of Fire Commissioner's requires any new EMS member to take a fully accredited Suffolk County EMT Course. Commissioner McLean stated that Hunter is listed on Suffolk County REMSCO's site as a sponsoring agency. Commissioner McLean also noted that Suffolk County REMSCO doesn't accredit, New York State accredits. Another question arose, what if a member takes a class through college are we going to make them take it again. Ms. Lucas noted in the paperwork we were given it states the course is pending DOH (department of health) approval so it's not technically a class yet. Chief Joyce noted the department by-laws states any training has to pass approval of the officer and office of the chief. It has been expressed that the course schedule does not adequately support new EMT's. Some classes are 3x per week, all other EMT classes require no more than 2 absences and you are obligated to make them up in short fashion. This schedule has no discussion on missed classes. Having members go 3x per week when classes are once or maybe 2x per week, the chief believes puts these members at a disadvantage and rushes the entire process. Chief is not entirely opposed to it, but he feels pressed to say yes to get these people started, but there is a class already available and ready for them to start. Vice-Chairman Schoen noted he believes there is a class starting on September 30th in Southampton. Chief said yes and members are signed up for that and he has a request under the Chief's report to pay for their registration fee. Commissioner Mirras asked who is involved in getting

this other course approved. The course hasn't been approved by any real powers to be. It has to pass the chief's office, then the board and then submitted to the state. Since this is in discussion, he would prefer these individuals take the class that is readily available in Southampton. Chief stated from the Chief's office they are not opposed to a class in Montauk in the long run, it's just not being approached 100% correctly. He believes it was a good test, but more planning and time need to be put into it for consideration. More discussion arose about this. Chief Joyce felt it was all being rushed and rushed for the wrong reasons. Commissioner McLean asked the chief when was it first proposed. Chief McDonald noted it was July and it got shot down with Suffolk County. Chief Joyce explained Suffolk County does not recognize Donna Hitscherich as an instructor because she has not taught EMT-B and does not have a contract with Suffolk County REMSCO. Commissioner McLean is confused every time there is a chance to have an EMT class in Montauk it gets shot down. Chairman Wright noted Donna has been told numerous times to stop stepping out of chain of command. Commissioner McLean asked if it was in this case. Chief noted Donna try's to follow the correct protocols but at the end of the day the Chief's office does not feel it is the correct move. He doesn't think Hunter as a sponsor is the correct move because they are primarily associated with transports between facilities and are not a responding agency. So for patient contact that would solely fall on interactions in the Montauk Fire department or going up to Hunter which as far as the Chief knows is a corporate ambulance service that primarily goes between nursing homes and hospitals which doesn't jive with the patient contact that members need to be trained on and they are not eligible to go to Southampton/StonyBrook Hospital to get their patient contact there. The members are restricted. Chairman Wright motioned to not take on this class, seconded by Vice-Chairman Schoen, Commissioner McLean opposed; motioned/passed/carried.

Chief's Report

- Chief Joyce has a request from Caption of Co4 for \$250 to pay for two registrations for the Suffolk County EMT class starting 9/30 at Southampton. Commissioner McLean motioned to approve, seconded by Vice-Chairman Schoen; motioned/passed/carried.
- Chief Joyce noted that Bob Mautschke has resigned from the fire department. Commissioner Mirras motioned to accept, seconded by Chairman Wright; motioned/passed/carried. Vice-Chairman Schoen noted he was voted back into department took a physical and then 2 weeks later resigned. In the future if he so desires to rejoin, this matter should be taken into consideration.
- Chief Joyce also noted, Thomas Greci, III (little Greci) was voted into the department. Commissioner Mirras motioned to accept, seconded by Vice-Chairman Schoen; motioned/passed/carried.
- Chief McDonald noted all new fire side members are signed up for Firefighter 1 which starts January 8, 2026. It's online and there are 4 in person classes in Yaphank and should be wrapped up by June.
- Another house was donated to the department, 9 Monroe Drive, no live burn but using it for dry training.
- New Engine information- 9-3-1- is being painted . 9-3-4 is in the construction phase. Both are still projected for middle of October.
- Chief asked about updates on 9-3-8- Commissioner McLean noted the transfer case has been destroyed. Also the geared deck that puts the truck into all wheel drive is shot too. Richie Valcich from Emergency Mechanical is in search for a transfer case, NOS (new old) stock) or rebuilt. He also is loaning us 6 tires with the hubs lining up so they won't be setting their own tracks.
- Fireworks will be in October, Chief will reach out to Amagansett to request they pull their rig east to help with that.

Vice-Chairman Schoen motioned to adjourn @ 19:27, seconded by Chairman Wright; motioned/passed/carried.

Adjourned 19:27 hours