

Montauk Fire District
October 10, 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, Treasurer Robert Hauser 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: Commissioner McLean motioned to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2025 Workshop Meeting with said corrections, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried.

Purchase Requisitions:

- A purchase requisition for Boundtree for medical supplies totaling \$1,216.04, Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried.

Audit of Bills:

Treasurer's Report: September 2025- Robert Hauser presented the Treasurer's Report, noted we should keep an eye on three accounts, capital items, building repair and association dues but otherwise all looks good. Robert does want to let the board know he finally spoke with Cullen and Danowski, they are finalizing the 2022 financial's and was able to complete the AFR (Annual Financial Report) for 2022 and upload to the state comptrollers website. He was also able to confirm that Cullen and Danowski will come to the district office to complete 2023, 2024 and 2025 financial's. They will coordinate with Ms. Lucas. Vice-Chairman Schoen noted that himself and Ms. Lucas met with 2 gentleman from the state comptrollers office about the four recommendations that were given to us which we fulfilled. They were very receptive of all the answers we gave them, because we did everything they asked us to do. Ms. Lucas had everything ready that they were asking for from a list of about 8-10 items. A huge stack that they only made copies of a few things. They also thanked Ms.

Lucas for being organized with all her paperwork. We were not the only ones audited, 20 other Fire Districts were too. Commissioner Mirras and Commissioner Marino noted they were called too. Chairman Wright stated he was available by phone which Vice-Chairman Schoen noted and gave them Chairman Wright's phone number. Vice-Chairman Schoen noted the gentlemen did recommend an in-house audit at the end of each year, and we did note, we do one each month. One more thing to add, Vice-Chairman did note regarding LOSAP, that the board was not in agreement with the percentage requirement Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve treasurer's report, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried,

Ms. Lucas presented the invoices for payment totaling \$41,247.33, Commissioner McLean motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried. Ms. Lucas has two more bills to add, one for disability insurance from Hartford for \$754.88 and one for Zoro for a mirror all totaling \$1,196.87, Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve, seconded by Chairman Wright; motioned/passed/carried.

Committee Reports:

Apparatus: Commissioner McLean gave his report;

- 9-3-2- Dash board screen message has been corrected and functional
- 9-3-8- Emergency Mechanical found a transfer case, once received it will be installed in rig. And back on the road.
- 9-3-3- check engine light on, Fully Involved notified and will be out to check.
- 9-3-80- had a check engine light, resolved, it was an anti pollution filter.
- 9-3-16- returned from shop, cable issue with mirrors, waiting on mirrors. It also developed an issue with the drug safe once it was returned. The drug safe can not be opened, waiting to hear back from the company to troubleshoot. A question arose did we loose a lot of narcotics. No. Commissioner McLean stated it wasn't narcotics, it was the fact that not all drugs were removed. Commissioner McLean asked the paid paramedic supervisor to create a check list for the on duty person if asked to removed drugs. Procedure for removing drugs, if the occasion arises that a rig has to go out of service is that the board goes to the paid provider on duty and they remove the ALS drugs and any other ALS Equipment and store in firehouse. 9-3-16 hasn't been returned to full service but could be used if we have a paid paramedic on duty because the paid person would have narcotics on them. So right now it is last to go out. Back to check list, Commissioner McLean was told there is already a checklist and has been for 2 years. The mirror has a 6-8 week backlog, once in VCI will come out and fix.
- 9-3-31- ignition issue- resolved
- Vice-Chairman Schoen spoke with Ray Muller of Firematic, he will be going to factory around the 20th of this month and expects to have engines delivered to Yaphank first week of November. Vice-Chairman Schoen noted once in Yaphank we will have a team go and inspect them before we take delivery.
- Old 9-3-16 was sold and we received the money. It was picked up on Wednesday morning by two young individuals with no plates. They said it's the fourth time they have done this and will be driving it back to Oregon. It sold for \$14,400.00.
- In the near future we will be getting 2 new engines and old 9-3-1 back. The old pieces of equipment will need to be listed for sale, which means we need to come up with a dollar amount for them. 9-3-1, 9-3-1A, 9-3-4, we were told could sell for about \$20-30,000. Tanker could sell for \$30- \$40,000. We can list these with an availability date. Chairman Wright

asked if we have the money to pay for all of them, thought we wanted to wait till new year. No, money is available, there is \$2,932,984.46 available in the Apparatus and Equipment.

Equipment:

- NO REPORT

Buildings & Grounds: Commissioner Marino gave his report;

- Houseman is back, he came back Wednesday. Luke Stein and Jimmy Angelidis did a great job taking care of everything.
- Masonry company was suppose to be back September 23rd but haven't seen them. Commissioner Marino finally spoke to John Tanzi and arranging for them to finish and put letters back on building.
- Kitchen Project will start 1/13/2025 because of Pasta Dinner for School fundraiser. John Tanzi spoke with the contractor and they are fine with that.
- Commissioner Dinner will need to be switched since our month to host is January.
- Entry box by the bay doors is working now. Control room has an issue with bay doors, will be addressed with Brent.
- G&M Diege who does our pump maintenance sent us an estimate for the tank replacements of \$245,000. We can't go bigger on the tanks because we are in a ground water recharge district. There will be a push with the town to provide a great deal of that cost. Chairman Wright stated this will need to go out to bid, but G&M Diege handles all our maintenance. They also supplied us with three engineers that specialize in this. Commissioner Marino motioned to contact an engineering firm for tank replacement and get this out to bid, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried.
- Chief noticed in front of bay 1 or 2 the asphalt is lifting and making a pothole. Chairman Wright noted the Town usually takes care of that for us in the spring, but Chief is concerned about the winter. Carmine will talk with Brent about.
- Carmine noted we talked about extending the the lines longer, adding lines for backing vehicle in, those lines are complete. Chief McDonald stated the membership is very happy with them and it seems to help.
- Chairman Wright noted gas pumps keep doing down. Ms Lucas has been in contact with vendor and repair guy We have been resetting it manually. The repair guy will call Brent next week to discuss.

Budget and Capital Reserves:

- Commissioner Mirras asked Ms. Lucas if 2026 Budget was submitted to the Town, YES it was.
- Capital Reserves- Equipment- \$2,932,984.46 and Building Reserves- \$443,394.14. Once Audits are done hopefully there will be a surplus to put into the Reserve accounts.
- Budget Hearing Notice is on website and the date is October 21, 2025.

Insurance: Commissioner McLean gave his report;

- Pending claims were settled, received money for them and working on repairs from those designated claims.
- Vice-Chairman Schoen noted we received a Notice of Claim from the Supreme Court of the State of New York involving the accident with the parked car, a Tesla. Approximately \$16,000 worth of damage in the Gosman's parking lot. The information was sent to our insurance company.

Communications:

- NO REPORT

Paid Personal:

- Chairman Wright noted he has been on texts back and forth with Commissioner McLean and Chris Boccabella, paid ALS supervisor and they seem to be getting a long much better these days.
- Chairman Wright also noted everyone was happy with our backup houseman, do we want to work in a third. Answer was NO.

Department Personal:

- Chief noted Catherine LeFevre transferred from Juniors to the the Department.

Law:

- Vice-Chairman Schoen noted a couple of meetings ago a member approached the board to put a public ad out about clearance and driveways. Vice-Chairman Schoen spoke with Tom Flight and he said he would take care of it. In the paper, ad about driveway requirements and access. So the public has been notified.
- 10 members are still in need of a physicals as of yesterday. They have till November 1 and if they don't get one as per District policy, they will be suspended. Their suspension will be lifted once they receive said physical. They have till December 31, 2025. if they have not gotten one by this date they will be removed from the rolls of the department.

Old Business:

- **Hoses-** Ms. Lucas noted at the last meeting we approved the purchase of all the hoses for the new fire trucks. In that meeting it was said a public referendum need to be put out to expend the money out of the reserve account. Ms. Lucas went back to the notes and folder and realized we do not have to that because in our original resolution we wrote in there to include 2 engines expenses for such project, incidental expenses, furnishing and equipment. So Ms. Lucas brought it to Vice-Chairman Schoen's attention and he said Ms Lucas could send over the PO to the vendor. Ms. Lucas sent the PO and spoke to the vendor directly, everything was taken care of. She also let the chief's know.
- **EEFG- Ernie Vorpahl-** Ernie Vorpahl from East End Financial Group talked about our portfolio. As of September 30, 2025 the portfolio is \$7,339,265 pus and a year-to-date gain of about 12% or approximately \$797,000. The S&P 500 Index, which is used to track everything was up about 15% and the Bond Index up about 6%. So year to date we have captured about 80% of the markets return with about half the risk. We are trying to cut risk but keep pace with the overall market. Last year, the portfolio was up about 10% or around \$600,000. Since EEFG (East End Financial Group) started managing the portfolio in 2016 the portfolio had an average rate of return of about 7% for a cumulative gain of \$3.29 million. The assumed rate of return is 5.25 % so we are way past the assumed interest rate, which is what we are trying to do. We can't be too aggressive or too conservative because the taxpayers have to make up for the difference if we go too crazy one way or another. The portfolio is being managed with allocation of 50% stock, 50% bonds. Equity holdings are 71% large cap stocks, 17% mid cap stocks and 12% small cap stocks. International stocks make up 14% of the portfolio. The beta or risk of the portfolio is .55 verse the markets beta of 1.00. The average credit quality of the

bonds are investment grade, which mean Triple B or better. The bonds have an average maturity of 4 years and average duration of 4.2 years. Cash holding total \$171,000 as of September 30, 2025 which includes \$23,814 in actual cash and \$147,270 in a high yielding money market within the portfolio. That will be replenished once portfolio is re-balanced. When stocks experience a 10% decline EEFG will automatically moved bonds to stocks. Commissioner Mirras asked if Ernie Vorpahl was aware we switched to a different administrator, which is Firefly. Question arose what prompted that, better service for a cheaper price. Stocks will continue to do double digits in 2026 and 2027. The AI momentum is real, a ton of money is being spent on it. The 2025 program contribution was \$393,946 and the 2026 program contribution is \$423,133. Ms. Lucas noted that will actually be \$500,000 as per Tony at Firefly. EEFG has always attempted to match the emerging liabilities with the maturities of the bond portfolio top have that cash stashed away for at least two years. The scholarship program this year was awarded to Mackenzie Lenahan.

Chiefs Report:

- Chief McDonald gave an update on new engines. 1st one is done, little hiccup on graphics. Ray Muller of Firematic is flying out to the factory to inspect. Hopefully tanker will be done around same time.
- Chief presented a purchase requisition for 2 sets of turnout gear totaling \$6,901.50 and the members old sets will be used for the probies. Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve, seconded by Vice-Chairman Schoen; motioned/passed/carried.
- Chief presented a purchase requisition for 20 NOMAX hoods totaling \$797.60, Commissioner Marino motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried.
- Chief presented a purchase requisition for 5 SCBA masks (M) totaling \$2,007.20 and the . Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried.
- Chief presented a purchase requisition for 10 Minitor VI chargers and 10 Minitor 7 pagers and chargers totaling \$5,631.50 Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner McLean motioned/passed/carried.
- Training started with the new members and they all seem pretty motivated.
- Chief Joyce discussed awhile ago there was a request to add air tanks and a hose reel to 9-3-2, it revolved around the hydro testing of these tanks, which was done. Was there any follow up? The old truck utilized air tanks and a hose reel and they really need that for the air tools. Chairman Wright remembers this, a compressor was going to be twice as much. He motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried.
- Open house and pancake breakfast this weekend. Fireworks Saturday night. Amagansett is loaning us their brush truck with chauffeur.
- FYI, don't be alarmed if you see a young girl doing a 88 mile endurance run for an FDNY charity. She is running from Islip to the lighthouse
- Commissioner Mirras spoke with Tim Treadwell, Town of East Hampton Marine Patrol Commanding Officer about storing the East Hampton Town boat at the firehouse because of the storm coming. Commissioner Mirras spoke with the Chief and he said it was fine.

Vice-Chairman Schoen motioned to adjourn @ 20:02 hours, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried.

Adjourned 20:02 hours