

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Montgomery Township Fire District 2
PO Box 264
Blawenburg, New Jersey 08504**

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board was called to order by Chairman Mozumdar at 7:30 p.m. following proof of publication under the Open Public Meetings Law. Annual meeting notice published in the Courier News official newspaper of the district and provided to two other newspapers, filed with the municipal clerk, posted at the Montgomery Township Municipal Building, board offices and fire district web site, and provided to any person requesting same prior to the meeting.

Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Gerry Hogan, Rich Hopkins, Stephen Morrison and Andy Mozumdar.

Also present: Chief Adam Verducci, Assistant Chief Kyle Rendall, Attorney Eric Perkins and Accountant Susan Perkins. Absent: Engineer Justin Kabis.

Approval of Minutes

On the motion of Commissioner Hopkins, seconded by Commissioner Hogan, the minutes of the meeting of August 8th, 2024 were unanimously approved.

Public Comment - None

Meetings

Emergency Services – A meeting was held on coordination during emergency events and the response order in high water situations.

Fire Prevention – No meeting held.

Rescue Task Force- One drill held this month. Another drill scheduled for Somerville in October.

LEPC – No meeting held.

Chiefs Report

There were 45 calls in the month of August. Two drills were conducted.

Chief Verducci requested approval for the following requisitions:

Servicing of the Hurst equipment to MES in the amount of \$3,983.00. Motion to approve by Hopkins, second by Morrison; unanimous vote of approval.

Purchase of a jumbo 5" gated wye which failed during a recent water supply incident. The cost of the wye is \$2,334.00 and the vendor is Fire Penny.

A replacement for a lost wheel chock in the amount of \$588.99. Motion to approve both requests by Hopkins, second by Mozumdar; unanimous vote of approval.

Eleven bottles of smoke fluid to be charged to the SFSG grant in the amount of \$1,792.89. Motion to approve by Hopkins, second by Mozumdar; unanimous vote in favor of resolution.

Two AEDs (including pads and batteries) at a cost of \$4,147.08 to replace expiring units on E108 and T46. Approval moved by Hopkins, second by Morrison, unanimous vote in favor of resolution.

The Chief continued the discussion begun at the August meeting regarding the replacement of the emergency reporting software. After discussions with other companies in the county he recommends the purchase of the First Due product. This would not only allow for the NFIS report but would also replace the I Am Responding product, allow the implementation of an inventory control system and permit truck checks to be completed utilizing cell phones. The initial contract would be in the amount of \$8,200.00 which would include one year of service and cover the migration of existing data. The contract would provide for a second and third year at \$5,900 annually. He noted that this project needs to proceed promptly as the existing vendor contract expires January 1st. Additional CAD programming is required to integrate the new software with Somerset County.

Several commissioners requested that the Chief provide verification from companies that have already implemented the conversion. A copy of the contract will be provided to the attorney for review in advance of signing. It was also noted that the product may have some benefits to the fire company and that they might share in the annual cost.

Commissioner Hopkins moved approval of a resolution to purchase the First Due product. Commissioner Morrison seconded the resolution, and it was unanimously approved subject to the conditions as noted.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

FP46 – LED headlight replaced -in house.

U46 - Accident damage awaiting repair. The apparatus remains in service.

E107 – Broken mirror was replaced by Four Lanes.

The annual Milspray undercoating has been deferred until later in the year.
Annual PM's for 46-7 and 46-8 are scheduled.

The Engineer's report emailed to the BOFC contains a detail of remaining projected PM activities.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bills:

A copy of the Treasurer's Report was made available to each commissioner with a list and description of the bills to be paid. Additional detail is included in the Treasurer's report. The report was accepted as presented.

Administration: Elections: \$1,581.00; Office Expenses: \$664.97; Professional Services: \$5,513.00.

Total Cost of Administration: \$7,758.97.

Cost of Operations: Apparatus Housing: \$16,000.00; General Operations- Contractual Support to Adjacent Municipality 3rd qtr: \$5,000.00; General Operations- Other: \$3,564.09; Operating Insurance: \$11,548.00; Utilities: \$1,533.46; Training and Fire Prevention: \$623.00.

Total Cost of Operations: \$38,268.55.

Total Cost of Administration and Operations: \$46,027.52.

Capital Expenditure: \$37,918.00 (A&K brush truck)

Resolution 2024-18 Payment of Bills

*The Chief Financial Officer having certified there are sufficient unencumbered funds in the 2024 budget to pay the bills as presented and having designated the accounts to which each should be charged, the Board authorizes the Chief Financial Officer to pay the Administration, Operations and Capital bills in the total amount of **\$83,945.52.***

On Motion of Commissioner Hopkins, 2nd by Commissioner Morrison the BOFC unanimously approved payment of the bills.

Purchasing: Mr. Newberry expects to deliver the 2023 audit paperwork to the auditor during the last week of September.

Requisitions: See Chief's Report

OLD BUSINESS

American Rescue Plan Grant – The BOFC received a letter on June 7th confirming an award in the amount of \$75,000 for the acquisition of 12 sets of replacement PPE, 10 firefighter helmets, 25 PPE harnesses and associated personal escape systems and 6 SCBA facemasks. The FY24 budget must be amended to permit the expenditure of monies for this purpose during the present year. An amendment will be considered at the October meeting.

AFG/FEMA Grant – Wireless Solutions continues the process of programming the new equipment. The first units will be distributed to Montgomery EMS. It is anticipated that the radios will be distributed by late October.

State Radio Grant – Montgomery Township continues to review the various agency needs for the use of the funds.

Seagraves Tower – Chief Verducci reported that the final inspection trip to the factory for final inspection will take place on October 9th and 10th. The apparatus will then be shipped to North Brunswick for final refinements within a few days of the inspection. It is anticipated that it will be delivered to the firehouse in early November.

Sale Of T-46 –The Chief indicated that he continues to discuss the sale of the apparatus to an interested fire company in Virginia.

Brush Truck Replacement – The unit should be delivered in the next two weeks. Commissioner Hopkins moved a resolution approving payment of the balance owed to A&K in the amount of \$37,918.00. Chair Mozumdar seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Chair Mozumdar will work on obtaining a check to pay for the apparatus upon delivery.

Banking – Efforts continue to provide electronic access to all accounts to improve the accuracy of the monthly reports. The insurance check for the damage to R46 was deposited in the Northfield account.

Viburnum Tank – No report.

R46 Damage – Deputy Chief Rendall noted the repair parts have been ordered but will probably not be received for two or three months. The apparatus will remain out of service until repairs are completed.

Accounting Computer/Printer - Engineer Kabis has purchased the printer. The computer itself should be delivered in the next two weeks.

NEW BUSINESS

Replacement of FP 46 - The committee is recommending the replacement of the existing 1998 GMC Savannah with a new Ford F150 with a cap and brush guard upfit. The apparatus will be purchased under State contract. Voter approval will be sought at a referendum later this year. Final pricing for the referendum is under discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on October 10th, 2024. *Motion by Mozumdar, 2nd by Hogan. Motion passed without objection.*