

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

MINUTES OF April 11, 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 Rich Hopkins, Stephen Morrison, Andy Mozumdar and Michael Ruppert. Absent: Gerry Hogan.

Also present: Chief Adam Verducci, Deputy Chief Kyle Rendell, Engineer Justin Kabis and QPA Bill Newberry. Absent: Attorney Eric Perkins.

Approval of Minutes

On the motion of Commissioner Hopkins, seconded by Chairman Mozumdar, the minutes of the meeting of March 7th, 2024 were unanimously approved.

Public Comment - None

Meetings

Emergency Services – No meeting held.

Fire Prevention – No meeting held.

Rescue Task Force- A drill is scheduled in March.

LEPC – No meeting held.

Chiefs Report

Chief Verducci reported that there were 28 calls in the month of March. The most significant call was a water rescue on River Rd. The calls required 89.5 man-hours. An additional 146.75 man-hours were consumed in training activities.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The Engineers report which was emailed to all members contains a more detailed explanation of repair and PM activities.

U46- The new tires, previously approved, were installed by Harlingen Garage. The blower issue previously identified was also repaired in-house.

T46- The aerial Jib-Boom Stow sensor was repaired in house. Also, an aerial hydraulic leak was fixed by F&SS.

R46- Waiting Four Lanes re-location of the rear differential vent. Tripod light mount parts received awaiting installation.

E-107 - Light tower stow sensor. Multiple repairs have been attempted. Waiting on report from Four Lanes.

The Engineer's report contains additional details and the PM schedule for all apparatus.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Role Adjustment

Going forward, in large part due to other commitments, QPA Bill Newberry will attend these meetings remotely. He will make every effort to attend one meeting each quarter in person.

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 details included in the Treasurer's report. The report was accepted as presented.

Administration: Elections: \$509.54; Office Expense \$469.37

Total Cost of Administration: \$978.91.

Cost of Operations:

Apparatus Housing: \$16,000.00; Repairs and Maintenance: \$3033.93; RH Mutual Aid Fee \$5000.00; Utilities: \$1400.75; Supplies: \$464.25; Training and Fire Prevention: \$1,500.00(FY24).

Total Cost of Operations: \$9434.68

Insurance: Workers Comp \$4301.06

Total Cost of Insurance: \$4301.06

Training/Fire Prevention: Drill expense \$1488.73; Fire Academy \$1075.00

Total Cost of Training/Fire Prevention \$2563.73

Total Cost of Administration and Operations : \$33,278.38

Capital Appropriations: 2022 Brush Truck \$20,404.84

Total Capital Appropriations \$20,404.84

Resolution 2024-14 Payment of Bills

The Chief Financial Officer having certified there are sufficient unencumbered funds in the 2023 and 2024 budgets 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 and Operations bills in the total amount of \$53,683.22.

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

Purchasing

Requisitions: Commissioner Ruppert moved approval of the Engineer's request to purchase tires for U46. Commissioner Mozumdar seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Agreement with Fire District #1 - Somerset County is following up with all fire districts to verify compliance with the Fire Service Emergency Deployment Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14E-14, which requires Local Fire Mutual Aid agreements. Attorney

Perkins has prepared a draft agreement and provided a copy to both Chiefs and Board chairs for consideration.

American Rescue Plan Grant – Chief Verducci reported that the grant writer has advised that the BOFC has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$75,000.00 for the purchase of PPE. The amount of the grant match is unknown at this time. The BOFC discussed the increasing cost of PPE and the need to have spare PPE available. It will be important to prepare an inventory of the PPE and its expiration dates as it is received so that replacement can be correctly budgeted. QPA Newberry will provide guidance on implementation prior to or at the next meeting.

PHONE LINES – Fire Company President Kabis reviewed the various phone lines now servicing the firehouse. He proposed deactivating four lines which do not appear to be used to reduce costs. He will work with Mr. Newberry to complete the line review and deactivation.

OLD BUSINESS

AFG/FEMA Grant – Some of the equipment order is being delivered. The plan is to outfit one truck at a time and then wait three weeks to outfit the next apparatus to ensure that the programming is working correctly. The project will not likely be completed until the fall.

State Radio Grant – Montgomery township continues to review options for the use of the funds.

ISO Evaluation – No follow-up has been received from ISO.

Tower Replacement – Chief Verducci reported that construction of the new tower has commenced with the cab fabricated and painted, the rails are on a jig, and the body is beginning to come together. We are hopeful for a June delivery.

Sale Of T-46 – In view of the impending delivery of the new tower the current tower has been placed in limited service. In addition, a motion was made by Hopkins, seconded by Mozumdar and approved unanimously to list the current tower at a price of \$195,000.

Brush Truck Replacement – Chief Verducci reported that the brush truck is now at A&K, with the body and skid unit being added. In order to expedite delivery a stock body is being used with no cost increase.

Banking – In order to maximize returns of capital, there was some discussion with regard to shifting capital from PNC and the brokerage account to maximize interest while maintaining liquidity. Commissioner Morrison will report back on specific actions in the next meeting.

Long Term Capital Plan - Commissioner Hopkins reported that the plan will be reviewed again in May as planned. A particular concern is to ensure that capital is available to support the longer lead times to obtain heavy equipment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on May 9, 2024. *Motion by Mozumdar, 2nd by Hogan. Motion passed without objection.*