

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

MINUTES OF APRIL 14th, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board was called to order by Chairman Sartorio 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, Stephen Morrison, Andy Mozumdar and Tony Sartorio. Commissioner Michael Ruppert was absent.

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

Approval of Minutes

On the motion of Commissioner Sartorio, seconded by Commissioner Mozumdar, the minutes of the meeting of March 10th, 2022 were unanimously approved.

Public Comment – None

Presentation by Chief Todd Harris – Chief Harris made a slide presentation including operational statistics for the Rocky Hill company for the 2021 year. The company responded to over 200 calls and had an average of five members respond to each call. The most active time of the day was between 7:00 a.m. and 5 p.m. Rocky Hill now has three daytime paid firefighters who individually cover four days out of the week. He discussed current staffing and equipment and set forth plans for future staffing and equipment acquisitions. He noted various grant opportunities that the company was seeking and explained the financial relationship with the borough government.

Chief Harris spoke about continued cooperation between Rocky Hill and District 2. As set forth in the new agreement he will work with the District 2 officers to pre-plan for calls along the Route 206 corridor business district. He will also work to have his personnel assist in hydrant testing in the area upon request. Most importantly he intends to work with the District 2 officers to formalize fireground command and practices so that everyone knows what they are expected to do. Joint

drills between the companies will be a priority. He noted that Rocky Hill was moving to IAR this year to permit tracking of responding members.

Chief Harris will attend the BOFC meeting in July or August to provide an update on progress.

Meetings

Emergency Services – No meeting held.

Fire Prevention- Chairman Sartorio and Chief Verducci attended the meeting. Discussion included the importance of reporting all false fire alarms to the office of the fire marshal. All burn victims must also be reported.

The new village shopper complex construction is proceeding rapidly. The Starbucks and other stores in the newly erected building will be occupied in the next weeks. The remaining old section of the building will be razed and a new structure will be erected. Improvements and reconstruction of the intersection of the Village Road and Route 206 are in process.

The Committee discussed standpipe connections throughout both districts. New buildings will be constructed with dual 2 ½ connections. Older buildings throughout both districts will remain with Storz connections including many in the Montgomery Center and 206 corridor.

Fines collected throughout the district totaled \$19,332.19 through the end of December, 2021. This sum has accumulated over more than five years. Potential uses for the money were discussed including the acquisition of a boat for high water rescue.

Rescue Task Force- No meeting held.

Chief's Report

Chief Verducci reported that there were 27 calls in the month of March. The County Chiefs Association is implementing an new accountability system. Among other aspects, the system will utilize green cones to collect accountability tags. As the system is implemented the Chief will request approval to purchase the equipment necessary to comply.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

T46- F&SS has updated their quote for the slow jib boom response. The new quote in the amount of \$8,401.13. This quote is good for 30 days. The apparatus hydraulic

system will need to be flushed as part of this repair. A rear tire was found to be flat and off the rim. The tire was restored by Bergey's.

E467- The CAFS system is back in service after repairs by F&SS. The deck gun auto-stow and light tower repairs to be scheduled.

B46-Awaiting transport to Mercer Spring to review the defective suspension which is causing the apparatus to lean to one side. The tires on the apparatus have an active recall per Bergey's. Information on the recall is being requested.

R46- Attempting to schedule at Mercer Spring to replace the shock absorbers.

FP46 – All tires on the vehicle have dry rot and have exceeded their service dates. Replacement quote for the tires is in the amount of \$1,195.00.

Testing- Fire Flo has quoted a price of \$8,780.00 for the pump, ladder and hose testing of all apparatus and the equipment of Rocky Hill. This quote does not include the testing of the Hurst equipment which would be an additional 3 to 4 thousand dollars. The Hurst equipment was not tested last year. The BOFC will need to increase funding for testing in the FY23 year.

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:

Total Cost of Administration \$0.0.

Cost of Operations:

Apparatus Housing: \$16,000.00 (FY22); Insurance: \$3,824.00 (FY21);
\$7,000.00(FY22); General Operations: Repairs and Maintenance: \$4,535.02(FY22);
Snow Removal: \$500.00(FY22); Adj. Municipal Services: \$5,000.00;
Fuel: \$792.00(FY 21) Utilities: \$ 566.71(FY22); Supplies/Equipment:
\$1,385.49(FY21); Gen Ops. Other: \$163.52 (FY22); Training and Fire Prevention:
\$1,364.00(FY22).

Total Cost of Operations \$36,079.25(FY22); \$6,001.49(FY21)

Total Cost of Administration and Operations: \$42,080.74

Resolution 2022-13 Payment of Bills

*The Chief Financial Officer having certified there are sufficient unencumbered funds in the 2021 and 2022 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 **\$42,080.74***

On Motion of Chairman Sartorio, 2nd by Commissioner Mozumdar the BOFC unanimously approved payment of the bills.

Purchase orders have been issued for all requisitions from the March meeting. The rehab tent for MEMS has yet to be delivered. The website has been updated to include the February minutes. Board policies will be posted in the coming month.

The bills for tonight included a Workers Compensation audit premium for FY21 in the amount of \$3,884. The ERM for the year was 1.25. It was noted that claims impact the ERM for a three year post-claim period. The ERM should decrease over the next two years if there are no additional significant claims.

The final fuel bill for FY21 was received from Montgomery Township. The bill included the amount of \$374.70. for gas and \$417.30 for diesel. Total fuel expenditures for the year were \$3,701.00 for gas and \$3,672.73 for gas. These amounts include fuel for Rocky Hill apparatus. Reviewing FY21 consumption the budgeted amount of FY22 should be enough to cover expenses even with the increased cost of fuel.

Purchasing

Requisitions: There were three requisition requests from the Chief and Engineer as follows:

OneTele-Lite LED Scene Lite replacement in the amount of \$1,275.00; \$316.74 miscellaneous items from Grainger; four tires for FP46 in the amount of \$1,195.00. Total Requisitions: \$2,786.74

The Engineer has provided PM quotes from Four Lanes for PM on E467, R46, E468 and B46. Approval is sought for an amount not to exceed \$12,000.00.

Commissioner Hogan moved approval of the requisitions; Commissioner Mozumdar seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Financial Disclosure Reports – Attorney Perkins noted that all commissioners should have received information on their obligation to file the State financial from the Township Clerk. The deadline for filing the forms is April 30th.

OLD BUSINESS

Tower Replacement

Chief Verducci reported that the revised price for the new aerial apparatus is \$1,680,673. The Chief and officers removed some items from the original spec so that there is money available for a limited number of change orders during the building process. The contract will require a payment of ninety-five percent of the purchase price when the apparatus is delivered to the dealer in East Brunswick. The remaining five percent will be due upon delivery to the firehouse. At the present time it is anticipated that delivery will take place 520 calendar days from the date of the order. Two months of training are included post delivery.

Chairman Sartorio moved the purchase of the apparatus through the Houston Purchasing Cooperative. Commissioner Mozumdar seconded the motion and it was adopted by a vote of 4-0. A copy of the formal resolution is attached to these minutes.

Deputy Chief Vehicle A possible vehicle has been located and may be available to purchase under the State contract in June. In the interim the Chief is exploring options with Montgomery Township for the possible lease of a used police vehicle.

Viburnum Underground Tanks – No action.

FEMA Chairman Sartorio noted that the application for FEMA reimbursement remains pending. The amounts have been reduced from the initial application and now include \$26,000 for the replacement of the deputy chief vehicle and \$12,000 for manpower.

Mr. Newberry will work with the Chief to provide the State OEM with the documentation necessary to receive outstanding funds due for Superstorm Sandy.

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 12th, 2022. *Motion by Mozumdar, 2nd by Sartorio. Motion passed without objection.*