

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

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 10th, 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, Steven Morrison, Andy Mozumdar, Michael Ruppert and Tony Sartorio.

Also present: Chief Adam Verducci, Deputy Chief Kyle Rendell, Engineer Justin Kabis and G. Keller Jr.

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 January 13th, 2022 were unanimously approved.

Public Comment - None

Meetings

Emergency Services – No meeting held.

Fire Prevention – No meeting held.

Rescue Task Force- No meeting held.

2021 LOSAP – Chair Sartorio suggested revising the normal agenda order to accommodate a presentation by Gene Keller Jr. who maintains the LOSAP records. Mr. Keller reported that the chart that he had provided in January regarding member allocations has not been questioned by any member. He noted that he had met with the Chief and officers to review how calls were counted and that minor revisions in the counting would take place for the 2022 year. The Chief will make certain that all members of the company are aware of the new process. Mr. Keller noted that the State has recently published an increase in the LOSAP contribution rate. Accounting for this increase and the revision in the manner of counting the

total appropriation for the 2021 year will be in the amount of \$55,292.60 and will be distributed to 32 members. This represents a decrease of approximately \$10,000 from the 2020 distribution. The decrease is mainly the result of eight members leaving the company during the past year. Mr. Keller agreed to prepare a draft LOSAP SOP for the Board clarifying vesting requirements and the claw back provisions.

Chairman Sartorio moved a resolution transmitting the sum of \$55,292.60 to AIG/VALIC for deposit to the individual member accounts. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hogan and unanimously approved.

Chiefs Report

Chief Verducci reported that there were 26 calls in the month of January. The calls included two motor vehicle accidents, 1 mutual aid call in Princeton and two structure fires within the first week of February. In both structure incidents the fires were extinguished, and the buildings were preserved. There was a problem with County Dispatch system during the truck rollover on County Route 601 as the call should have been the responsibility of Station 45 which was never dispatched.

The Chief indicated that he had spoken with the Seagraves representative but has no new information on the pricing for the proposed T46 replacement. The representative has forwarded a building specification sheet to the factory and anticipates that pricing will be available by the end of February. Given the uncertainty of material pricing the price for the apparatus may only be good for thirty days.

Deputy Chief Rendall continues to work with QPA Newberry on specifications for the replacement deputy chief vehicle.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

T46- Four Lanes has been unable to make any of the contracted repairs due to labor shortages as a consequence of COVID 19.

E107 - Neither Seagraves or Four Lanes has been able to perform scheduled repairs or to diagnose problems as their manpower has been impacted by COVID 19.

B46 - Mr. Kabis indicated that he has not been able to transport the apparatus to Mercer Spring to review the defective suspension which is causing the apparatus to lean to one side. He hopes to accomplish this task during the next month.

R46- As noted above, Four Lanes has not been able to accomplish the contracted repairs due to a lack of personnel. The apparatus will be scheduled for Mercer Spring to replace the shock absorbers.

U46 -After further review by Harlingen Garage it was determined that the brakes did not need to be replaced. As the apparatus was due for an oil change this was accomplished during the review.

Milspray has completed the undercoating of T46 and FP46 vehicle.

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 Administration \$0.0

Cost of Operations:

Apparatus Housing: \$16,000.00 (2022); General Operations: Repairs and Maintenance: \$2,666.55 (2021) \$2,421.08 (2022); General Operations: snow removal: \$3,460.00(2022); Utilities: \$15.86 (2021); 541.92 (2022); Gen Ops. Other: \$940.88(2022); Supplies: \$14,366.15 (2021); Training and Fire prevention \$344.81(2021);

Total Cost of Operations \$17,378.39 (2021); \$23,378.86(2022)

Total \$40,378.39.

FY 2021 LOSAP: \$55,292.60.

Total Budget Administration, Operations and LOSAP: \$96,049.85

Resolution 2022-07 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, Operations and LOSAP bills in the total amount **\$96,049.85***

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

Mr. Newberry reported that the IRS and 1096 forms have been distributed.

Purchase orders have been issued for all requisitions from the January meeting. The water rescue equipment has been delivered. The rehab tent for MEMS has yet to be delivered.

Unfortunately, new problems have arisen with electronic access to the bank accounts. Commissioner Mozumdar will attempt to resolve this problem and acquire new signature cards in anticipation of the BOFC reorganization meeting next month.

Purchasing

Requisitions: There were no requisition requests from either the Chief or Engineer.

Mr. Newberry suggested that the Board consider membership in additional purchasing cooperatives to provide alternatives for the purchase of the Deputy Chief vehicle.

Chairman Sartorio moved a resolution to join the Cranford Police Cooperative and Educational Services Cooperative network. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mozumdar and approved by a unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Workers Compensation Insurance

Chairman Sartorio reported that the Board has received the annual request from the previous workers compensation insurance carrier for a membership premium audit for the 2021 year. He will respond to the request.

2022 Election –Hargun Ghai and Branden Quirnale will serve as poll watchers for the election on February 19th. Commissioner Ruppert will open the polls and he and Commissioner Mozumdar will close the polls and tally the results. The results of the election will likely not be available until Friday of the following week when the absentee ballot results are available from the Somerset County Board of Elections.

Fire Company President Kabis indicated that the company will work on a get out the vote campaign.

OLD BUSINESS

Viburnum Underground Tanks – No action.

FEMA The deadline for submitting documentation to FEMA for costs incurred for volunteer hours and equipment damaged during Tropical Storm Ida is this February 12th. Deputy Chief Rendall will submit an email with information of parts E & B. The recovery amount on the BOFC application is now between seventy and eighty thousand dollars.

Communications Policy – Chairman Sartorio will distribute the approved policy which will also be placed on the BOFC website.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on March 14th, 2022.

Motion by Mozumdar, 2nd by Sartorio. Motion passed without objection.