

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

MINUTES OF JANUARY 13th, 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, 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 December 9th and the special meeting of December 17th, 2021 were unanimously approved.

Public Comment - None

Meetings

Emergency Services – No meeting held.
Fire Prevention – No meeting held.
Rescue Task Force- No meeting held.

Chiefs Report

Chief Verducci reported that there were 26 calls in the month of December. There were 344 runs during 2021. Fifty-four of the calls occurred in connection to Tropical Storm Ida. The remainder included 140 false alarms, 32 fire calls and 33 rescues. Commercial calls were down for the year. Overall membership response was very positive.

The Fire Police van was placed back in service on January 13th.

Seagraves has not provided an update for the pricing on the replacement of T46 but expects to do so in mid-February. The build on the truck is anticipated to be 500 days.

Deputy Chief Rendall has been developing specifications, meeting with vendors and estimating prices for the replacement deputy chief vehicle.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

T46- The repair of the Master drain leak by Four Lanes is pending the availability of parts. The intake drain spring return is not functioning. F&SS has been contacted to provide a quote for the repair. The jib boom speed issue and alignment remain on hold. The aerial manual rotation brake is leaking and needs to be replaced. F&SS will perform the repair. Milspray has been scheduled to undercoat the apparatus.

E107 - Seagraves has provided a quote in the amount of \$2,475 to diagnose the CAFS PTO issue. The deck-gun auto stow repair has been scheduled with Four Lanes Four Lanes will also diagnose the light tower stow issue.

B46 - Mercer Spring has been requested to provide a quote for repair of the defective suspension which is causing the apparatus to lean to one side. Engineer and officers continue to work on a lighting upgrade plan. The high idle switch will be addressed with the lighting plan. The apparatus may need new tires during the next year.

R46- The cab tilt relay or safety has failed. Repair part has been ordered. Four Lanes scheduled to repair the MIV valve. Shock absorbers need to be replaced. Quote from Mercer Spring for \$560.00. A tripod light mount is broken. Replacement part may not be available.

U46 -Needs brakes. Obtaining quote from Harlingen Garage.

Milspray is scheduled to apply to apply underbody coating to T46.

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: Office Expense: \$42.37(2021);
Total Administration \$42.37.

Cost of Operations:

Apparatus Housing: \$16,000.00 (2022); General Operations: Repairs and Maintenance: \$2,501.26 (2021); General Operations: snow removal: \$1,495.00(2022);Utilities: \$632.10 (2021); \$93.99(2022); Gen Ops. Other: \$76.22(2021); Supplies: \$200.00 (2021); Training and Fire prevention \$700.00(2021)\$1,050.00(2022); Montgomery EMS \$4,000.00 (2021); Rocky Hill Mutual Aid \$5,000.00(2022)

Total Cost of Operations \$8151.95(2021); \$23,638.99(2022)

Total \$31,748.57.

Total FY 2021 Budget Administration and Operations: \$31,790.94

Resolution 2022-01 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 **\$31,790.94** On Motion of Chairman Sartorio, 2nd by Commissioner Mozumdar the BOFC unanimously approved payment of the bills.*

Purchasing

Purchase requisitions approved at the December meeting have been issued. The SFS grant items and water rescue equipment has been ordered. The Sensit detector has been ordered from AllHands Fire. Estimated ship date is 2/7/22.

Requisitions

After discussion the following requisitions were approved:

_E107 – Up to \$6,000.00 to Seagraves for trouble shooting the CAFS PTO and to make repairs if feasible and within the amount of the appropriation.

R46 - \$560.00 for the replacement of shock absorbers.

U46 - \$1,000.00 for the replacement of brakes.

T46 - \$950.00 to Mistics for testing

Hurst tools - \$3,044 for bi-annual testing

Approval of the requisitions in the amount of \$11,554.00 was moved by Commissioner Sartorio, seconded by Commissioner Mozumdar and approved unanimously by the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Workers Compensation Insurance

The insurance agent advised the Board that Benchmark, the current workers compensation provider, has given notice that it will no longer write coverage in New Jersey. The Board's coverage will now be placed with a State pool. The change in companies, and recent loss experience, are expected to cause a 50% increase in the cost of workers compensation coverage for FY22 from \$41,000 to \$64,574. This is based on 37 current active members and 71 total members. It was agreed that the membership will be reviewed quarterly to make certain that coverage was on appropriate members.

2022 Agreement with Montgomery Township Volunteer Fire Company No. 2

Chair Sartorio noted that the existing agreement with the fire department for housing the apparatus and other services expired on December 31, 2021. A one-year extension of the agreement on the same terms as the prior agreement has been drafted and is acceptable to the fire company. Chairman Sartorio moved approval of the 1-year extension, seconded by Commissioner Mozumdar, and adopted by a unanimous vote of the Board. The chair noted that he will appoint a committee to work on the development of a successor agreement at the March meeting.

2021 LOSAP – Gene Keller Jr. has provided a copy of the LOSAP list for 2021 indicating payments in the amount of \$53,878.05. Chairman Sartorio moved a resolution requiring that the be posted on the firehouse notice board and made available to all members for comment during the next thirty days consistent with statute. Commissioner Hogan seconded the resolution which was unanimously approve. The Board will consider approval of the list at the February meeting.

2022 Election – Noting the statutory requirements, Chair Sartorio will contact the individuals who served as clerks for the December referendum to determine if they will serve on February 19th. Commissioner Ruppert will open the polls and he and Commissioner Mozumdar will close the polls and tally the results.

RESOLUTION 2022-2 Designation of Official Newspaper – In compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, Commissioner Ruppert moved a resolution designating the Courier News as the official publication of the Board. The Princeton Packet is designated in the event that a second paper is required. Courtesy notification will be supplied to the Montgomery News. Chairman Sartorio seconded the motion which was then approved by unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION 2022-3 Designation of Official Banking Depositories – Commissioner Mozumdar moved a resolution designating PNC Bank and Northfield Bank as operating account depositories; First Bank and PNC Bank are designated as

capital account depositories. Chairman Sartorio seconded the resolution which was approved by unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION 2022-4 Adoption of a Temporary Budget – Mr. Newberry noted that he had circulated a draft proposal after reviewing prior year expenditure patterns. As required by statute, the temporary budget is in the amount of \$102,535.00 representing 14% of the prior (2021) budget exclusive of capital items. Chairman Sartorio moved the adoption of the temporary budget, second by Commissioner Hogan. The temporary budget was unanimously adopted

OLD BUSINESS

Viburnum Underground Tanks – No action.

FEMA The next meeting on the application for reimbursement for costs incurred during the Tropical Storm Ida disaster will be held on January 19. The BOFC application seeks recovery in the amount of \$120,000.00.

FY 2020 Audit –The audit has been loaded onto the State FAST website and posted on the BOFC website. A synopsis has been forwarded to the Courier News for publication in compliance with the statutes.

Communications Policy – Chairman Sartori will distribute the approved policy.

2022 Budget – Chair Sartorio distributed copies of the approved FY22 draft budget. He noted that the budget conformed to the cap law and reflected an increase in the amount to be raised by taxation of \$24,769.00. This increase will not increase the local tax levy over the amount set in FY21. The budget also includes \$1,780,000, approved by the voters at the recent referendum, for capital purposes of acquiring a new command vehicle to replace the vehicle lost in Tropical Storm Ida and to replace the aging T46. Total anticipated expenditures for FY 22, including capital purposes, will be \$2,835,270.00. The Division of Local Government of the DCA has approved the budget for adoption. Additionally notice of tonight’s hearing has been published in the Courier News and posted at the municipal building.

Chairman Sartorio opened the meeting for public comment on the FY22 budget. No members of the public appeared to comment on the budget. Commissioner Ruppert made a motion to close the meeting to the public. Commission Mozumdar seconded the motion which then passed on a unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION 2022-5 APPROVING THE READING OF THE FY22 BUDGET BY TITLE

Whereas N.J.S.A. 40A;14-78.2 provides that a Board of Fire Commissioners may read a budget by title prior to adoption if during the week preceding the hearing it

has been posted in public place as notice in the district, and is made available to each person requesting a copy during said week and at the hearing; and

Whereas, the Board of Fire Commissioners has complied with these conditions, now therefore be it

Resolved, that the FY22 budget shall be read by title.

Chairman Sartorio moved the resolution which was seconded by Commissioner Mozumdar and adopted by a unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION 2022-6 ADOPTION OF THE FY22 BUDGET

Whereas, the proposed FY22 budget has been approved for adoption by the Division of Local Government of the Department of Community Affairs, and

Whereas, the budget, and the public availability of copies of the budget, has been published on the BOFC website and in the Courier News, and

Whereas, notice of a public hearing on the adoption of the budget has also been published and posted as required, and

Whereas, no person or persons have raised objections or made comments regarding the budget, now therefore be it

Resolved, that the FY22 budget in the amount of \$2,835,270.00, of which sum the amount of \$995,309.00 is to be raised by taxation, is adopted and shall be placed before the public for approval at an election/referendum to be held on Saturday, February 19, 2022.

The above resolution was moved by Chairman Sartorio, seconded by Commissioner Ruppert and approved by a unanimous vote of the Board.

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 February 10th, 2022. *Motion by Mozumdar, 2nd by Sartorio. Motion passed without objection.*