

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

MINUTES OF JUNE 9th, 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 Gerard Hogan, Andy Mozumdar, Michael Ruppert and Tony Sartorio. Absent: Commissioner Stephen Morrison

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

Guest: Kirk LeBlanc, Nottingham Insurance

Approval of Minutes

On the motion of Commissioner Mozumdar, seconded by Commissioner Ruppert, the minutes of the meeting of May 12th, 2022 were unanimously approved.

Public Comment – None

Insurance Review – Kirk LeBlanc of Nottingham Insurance provided an extensive overview of coverages for the BOFC and fire company. He noted that the recent workers compensation claim history made it impossible to find continuing coverage in the private market. Coverage is now under the State program. The ERM portion of the premium will remain elevated until the three-year tail on the claims has elapsed. He noted that the only way to reduce the premium would be to control the roster. It was noted that the fire company reviews the membership roster quarterly. Associate members are not covered under the workers compensation program but have coverage under the general liability policy. New members must be placed in the program once they begin firefighter training.

Mr. LeBlanc also reviewed coverages on each piece of apparatus as well as the coverages on buildings and contents.

It was suggested that the company have each member review his/her beneficiaries on the accidental death policy to ensure that they are up to date.

Meetings

Emergency Services – A virtual meeting was held. The OEM headquarters will be relocated to the new municipal building. Discussions included the possible creation of service “islands” during flood events. Meetings will be held on a quarterly basis during the coming months.

Fire Prevention- No meeting held.

Rescue Task Force- No meeting held.

Chief's Report

Chief Verducci reported that there were 44 calls in the month of May including two vehicle fires, two overturned vehicles, a solar panel fire in Rocky Hill and a major structure fire on Regents Court in district 1. No fire company personnel were injured and no apparatus were damaged in any of the responses.

The Chief indicated that he has ordered a rescue boat and trailer from All Hands Fire Equipment through Montgomery Township using the monies obtained through fire prevention fines. The delivery date for the boat is unknown at this time. The boat will be utilized for rescue during high water events.

He noted that the T46 replacement committee will be making a pre-build trip to the manufacturer in Wisconsin within the next weeks and requested approval of the amount of \$4,500 to cover the expenses of the trip.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

T46- Cummins Inc. sent a representative to trouble shoot the sluggish engine response which occurred immediately after the apparatus was started. The problem was diagnosed as a failed sensor. A replacement part was ordered and installed in-house. We are awaiting an invoice from Cummins, but it is anticipated that it will be less than the estimate given the rapid resolution of the issue.

F&SS indicates that it now has the parts necessary for the jibboom repair and anticipates completing the work on or about July 18th.

The engineer was unable to find parts to repair the existing halogen rear spotlights. He has ordered Whelen 900 Series Gradient Opti-Scenelights to replace the existing units.

FP46 – The tires on the vehicle have been replaced by Ritchies. The master brake cylinder is now leaking and must be replaced. The work will be scheduled with Harlingen Garage at an estimated cost of \$538.34.

E467- The deck gun auto-stow and light tower repairs await scheduling with Four Lanes to diagnose problems at a previously approved cost of \$100.

B46–Awaiting scheduling with Mercer Spring to review the defective suspension which is causing the apparatus to lean to one side. No information on the tire recall has been located.

R46- The deck gun needs to be rebuilt. The project will be awarded to Four Lanes in the amount of \$1,071.00. The cab tilt relay or safety has failed and will also be scheduled for replacement/repair with Four Lanes. The halogen Roto-Ray light bulbs were replaced in-house. Continue to await scheduling at Mercer Spring to replace the shock absorbers.

The annual testing for the pumps, ladders and hose is scheduled for late August. Annual apparatus PM's have been approved and will be scheduled.

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 expenses: \$4,112.13; Professional fees: \$5,025.00.

Total Cost of Administration \$9,137.13.

Cost of Operations:

Apparatus Housing: \$16,000.00; Insurance: \$10,325.00; General Operations: Medical: \$120.00; General Operations: Repairs and Maintenance: \$4,560.15; General Operations: Other \$1,722.51; Utilities:\$5,115.89; Training/fire prevention: \$800.00.

Total Cost of Operations \$34,083.40.

Total Cost of Administration and Operations: \$43,220.53.

Resolution 2022-15 Payment of Bills

The Chief Financial Officer having certified there are sufficient unencumbered funds in the 2022 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 and Operations bills in the total amount of \$43,220.53.

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

Mr. Newberry noted that tonight's bills included the third payment of the VFIS P&C policy premium in the amount of \$10,235.00.

Purchase orders have been issued for all requisitions from the May meeting. The website has been updated to include the April minutes.

Purchasing

Requisitions:

The following items were submitted:

Continental Fire in the amount of \$203.00 for a McLeod tool.

Water rescue equipment in the amount of \$7,219.35 under State contract from All Hands Fire.

Water rescue equipment in the amount of \$2,642.42 from All Hands Fire.

Mud flaps for E108 in the amount of \$2,000.00.

Response incentive award cards in the amount of \$5,000.00.

Pre-construction tower trip costs in the amount of \$4,500.00.

Total requisitions amount of \$23,328.47.

Approval for the above requisitions was moved by Chairman Sartorio, second by Commissioner Mozumdar and unanimously approved by a vote of the full BOFC.

NEW BUSINESS

N.J. American Rescue Grant: Mr. Newberry described the details of the new grant program which will provide money for PPE, SCBA and turnout gear. The maximum grant award is \$75,000 and it must be matched 50%/50% with monies of the grant recipient. The BOFC will be required to pass a resolution to apply for the grant. Mr. Newberry will prepare a resolution for consideration at the July meeting. The grant deadline is August 1st.

OLD BUSINESS

Records Retention – Mr. Newberry indicated that he been in touch with the municipal clerk to obtain her signature on the records destruction request form. The request will now be sent to DCA for approval.

Deputy Chief Vehicle – The State contract was opened and an order was submitted for a GM Tahoe. Pricing and delivery date are unknown at this time. It is likely that the apparatus will not be delivered until 2023.

FEMA - Deputy Chief Rendell noted that he is work with FEMA but that the process is difficult and FEMA continues to reduce the amount of Ida recovery. It may be necessary to appeal the FEMA determination on the value of the Deputy Chief's vehicle which was already reduced by the amount of insurance payments.

SANDY- The requisite documentation has been submitted and the reimbursement in the amount of approximately \$6,000.00 should be received shortly.

Banking – Awaiting execution of new signature cards to permit account access by all commissioners.

Renewal of Contract with MTVFC#2 - Chairman Sartorio appointed himself and Commissioner Hogan to work with fire company president Kabis and treasurer Phil Adams to develop a successor agreement by the end of the year.

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 July 14th, 2022.
Motion by Mozumdar, 2nd by Sartorio. Motion passed without objection.