

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

MINUTES OF MAY 11th, 2023

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 Gerry Hogan, Rich Hopkins, Stephen Morrison, Andy Mozumdar and Michael Ruppert.
Also present: Chief Adam Verducci, Deputy Chief Kyle Rendell, Engineer Justin Kabis, QPA Bill Newberry, Attorney Eric Perkins.

Approval of Minutes

On the motion of Commissioner Hogan, seconded by Commissioner Morrison, the minutes of the meeting of April 13th, 2023 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 23 calls in the month of April. The most notable responses were to a structure fire in Princeton and a solar panel roof fire in the Cherry Valley development. Drills on truck operations and forceable entry were also held.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

R46 – The apparatus failed to start. Four Lanes made an emergency service call and found that the start/stop solenoid had corroded contacts. The contacts were cleaned, and the apparatus was placed back in service. Will continue to monitor starter. Awaiting delivery of replacement tripod lights.

T46- Master drain leak repairs to be completed by Four Lanes after delivery of parts. The annual MISTRAS testing on the apparatus will be conducted on June 9th.

Annual Testing and Inspections: Pumps and hose scheduled with Fireflow for July 13-14th. Ladder testing on July 7th.

The Engineer provided a written report to the BOFC on other pending repairs on apparatus E467, T46 and E 108. Repairs are delayed due to the inability of the vendor to obtain parts. The apparatus remain in service as the repairs do not interfere with the firefighting capability of the apparatus.

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: Elections: Office Expenses: \$78.00 (FY23)

Total Cost of Administration: \$78.00 (FY23).

Cost of Operations:

Apparatus Housing: \$16,000.00 (FY23); Gen. Operations-Insurance: \$575.87(FY23); Gen. Operations: Repairs and Maintenance: \$15,209.76 (FY23); \$2,275.00 (FY22); Gen. Operations: Adj Municipal Services: \$5,000.00; Utilities: \$474.04 (FY23); Training and Fire Prevention: \$818.38 (FY23).

Total Cost of Operations: \$38,078.05 (FY23); \$2,275.00(FY22).

**Total Cost of Administration and Operations: \$40,431.05
[\$38,156.05 (FY23); \$2,275.00(FY22).]**

Resolution 2023-15 Payment of Bills

The Chief Financial Officer having certified there are sufficient unencumbered funds in the 2022 and 2023 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 \$40,431.05.

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

Purchasing

Deputy Car – A Power of Attorney was approved and executed giving Mr. Newberry authority to register the apparatus with the N.J. Division of Motor Vehicles. The purchase order approved at the April meeting was issued to East Coast Emergency Lighting in the amount of \$39,115.43.

Workers Comp Audit – The requisite information has been provided to the carrier.

Requisitions: A requisition was submitted by the Engineer for a contract in an amount not to exceed \$1,200.00 for the annual tower NDT testing. The Engineer also requested approval for the purchase of Class A foam in an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00. Commissioner Ruppert moved approval of the requisitions; Commissioner Hogan seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the BOFC.

NEW BUSINESS

Brush Truck Sale – Mr. Newberry reported that a single bid was received matching the minimum amount of \$100,000 for the sale of the surplus vehicle. The buyer will be responsible for all auction fees. Commissioner Ruppert moved a resolution approving the sale to the bidder Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus of Union Grove, Alabama. The motion was seconded by Chairman Mozumdar and unanimously approved by a vote of the full Board. Commissioner Ruppert will retrieve the title so that the sale can be completed.

OLD BUSINESS

Financial Disclosure Reports – Attorney Perkins reported that all commissioners filed the required State financial disclosure forms by April 30th

ISO Evaluation – Chief Verducci reported on the ISO visit which occurred on May 4th. The district currently has a 3 rating which has been in effect since 2013 and is the best that can be obtained given the percentage of the district which does not have fire hydrants. The existing rating may have been in error as it considered Rocky Hill to be a sub-station of Station 46. On the positive side the district has more members and more water carrying capacity than it had during the prior evaluation. There are a number of actions that can be taken to improve the rating including annual driver re-certification which will be implemented this year. Another possibility is the establishment of daytime in-station duty crews. The date

for the issuance of the actual ISO report is not known at this time as the evaluator needs information on the Viburnum tank and clarification of the Rocky Hill status.

Chief Verducci noted that if the rating changes the impact on homeowners insurance rates in the district may be minimal. Some insurance companies do not consider the ISO rating in setting rates. Additionally, fire insurance makes up only about 10% of the average home policy premium. The district will have an opportunity to respond to the ISO report when it is issued.

Capital Fund Investment – Chairman Mozumdar reported that the investment reallocation has been delayed by PNC due to discrepancies with the name of the account. He hopes to resolve the issue within the next days.

OSHA and WC Posters – Commissioner Morrison received the new posters which will be placed in the radio room and hung in other locations.

Rocky Hill Report - Chairman Mozumdar reported that he deferred the quarterly meeting with the Chief of Rocky Hill until next month given the lengthy agenda for tonight's meeting.

Tower Replacement – Chief Verducci provided a copy of a letter from Seagraves responding to the Board letter to Seagraves requesting clarification on the price increase. The response letter did not provide all of the information requested. It was agreed that a conference phone call should be scheduled with Seagraves representatives to obtain additional information. Chief Verducci will set up the phone call.

Brush Truck Replacement – Chief Verducci reported that it now appears that the apparatus cannot be purchased and outfitted for the \$150,000 price approved by the voters at the referendum last fall. It was suggested that the Board solicit bids for the chassis and investigate alternatives for outfitting. Mr. Newberry will prepare bid specifications for a two door, gasoline powered Ford 550 or equivalent. It is anticipated that bids will be received prior to the June meeting.

Deputy Chief Vehicle – See QPA report.

Update of Long-Term Financial Plan: Chairman Mozumdar appointed a committee including Chief Verducci, Engineer Kabis, Deputy Chief Rendell, Commissioner Hogan and Commissioner Hopkins.

FEMA – The MUA must still be completed.

Change of Election Date – Discussion deferred until a future date.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on June 8th, 2023.
Motion by Mozumdar, 2nd by Hogan. Motion passed without objection.