

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

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2024

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, QPA Bill Newberry, Engineer Justin Kabis and Attorney Eric Perkins.

Approval of Minutes

On the motion of Commissioner Hopkins, seconded by Chairman Mozumdar, the minutes of the meeting of January 11th, 2024 were unanimously approved.

Public Comment - None

Meetings

Emergency Services – No meeting held.

Fire Prevention – No meeting held.

Rescue Task Force- A drill is scheduled in March.

LEPC – A meeting was held on January 18th.

Chiefs Report

Chief Verducci reported that there were 44 calls in the month of January. The company responded to three significant mutual aid calls in Hillsborough, Lawrence

and North Brunswick. During the North Brunswick call the responding apparatus filled multiple tankers with over 100,000 gallons over multiple hours at a warehouse fire.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The Engineers report which was emailed to all members contains a more detailed explanation of repair and PM activities. It was noted that activities were limited pending approval of the budget.

U46- Requires new shocks and possibly tires. Assessment and completion of repairs for consideration at the March meeting.

E108- Drain manifold leak was repaired in-house.

R46- Waiting Four Lanes re-location of the rear differential vent.

Annual testing and inspection of the pumps, ladder and hose is scheduled for May/June. The Hurst annual PM will occur in September.

The Engineer's report contains a PM schedule for all 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. Mr. Newberry noted that the bills included the second payment on the workers compensation insurance policy for FY24.

Administration: Advertising: \$233.35(FY23); Elections: \$554.50(FY24); Office Expense: \$72.46(FY24).

Total Cost of Administration: \$233.35(FY23); \$629.96 (FY24)

Cost of Operations:

Apparatus Housing: \$16,000.00 (FY24); General Operations Snow Removal: \$1,840.00 (FY24); General Operations Other: \$420.67 (FY23) \$878.24 (FY24); General Operations Insurance: \$16,079.02 (FY24); Rocky Hill Contract: \$5,000.00 (FY24); Repairs and Maintenance: \$403.05 (FY23); \$117.00(FY24); Utilities: \$889.23(FY24); Training and Fire Prevention:\$365.00 (FY23); \$316.95 (FY24).

Total Cost of Operations: \$785.67 (FY23); \$41,120.44 (FY24)

Total Cost of Administration and Operations : \$42,766.42

[\$1,019.02 (FY23) and \$41,747.40 (FY24)].

Resolution 2024- 9 Payment of Bills

The Chief Financial Officer having certified there are sufficient unencumbered funds in the 2023 and 2024 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 \$42,766.42.

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

The FY 23 State Supplemental Fire Safety Grant monies in the amount of \$1,780.00 have been received from Montgomery Township

Mr. Newberry indicated that all FY 23 1099 forms have been issued and the IRS 1096 form has been filed.

Mr. Perkins reported that he is corresponding with the Workers Compensation carrier regarding the audit for FY23.

Purchasing

Requisitions: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Agreement with Fire District #1 - Somerset County is following up with all fire districts to verify compliance with the Fire Service Emergency Deployment Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14E-14, which requires Local Fire Mutual Aid agreements. Attorney Perkins will draft an agreement for consideration by both fire districts.

OLD BUSINESS

2024 Budget – Commissioner Morrison reported that he had uploaded the FY2024 adopted budget to the DCA FAST website and received an acknowledgement and approval to proceed with the budget referendum on February 17th.

Annual Posting of LOSAP Activity: Gene Keller Jr. presented the board with his updated chart of LOSAP activity for FY23. He confirmed that the list has been posted at the firehouse for the required 30-day period since the last meeting and that he made two corrections in response to questions raised. at the December meeting. The State has now published the approved program amounts for the year.

Commissioner Hogan moved a resolution approving the transmittal of the FY 23 LOSAP monies to Corebridge Financial in the amount of \$50,818.50 for deposit to the individual member accounts. Commissioner Ruppert seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

FY 24 Election - Commissioners Hopkins, Mozumdar and Ruppert have submitted petitions for re-election to the open positions on the BOFC. Chairman Mozumdar reported that the voter lists will be provided by the Somerset County Board of Elections next week. Chairman Mozumdar will open the polls at 2:00 p.m. He will close the polls with assistance of Commissioner Hogan at 9:00 p.m.

DCA ARPA Grant – No response to the grant submission as of this date.

AFG/FEMA Grant – Radios have been ordered and should be delivered in late summer. They will then be programmed prior to being placed in service.

ISO Evaluation – No follow-up has been received from ISO.

Tower Replacement – Seagraves reports that the cab is now in the cab weld process. Delivery of the completed apparatus is anticipated at the end of May. It was noted that the agreement with Seagraves will need to be modified assuming passage of the budget referendum on February 17. Chief Verducci will contact the vendor to obtain the requisite paperwork so that it can be approved at the March meeting.

Sale Of T-46 - Chief Verducci will prepare a description and related materials regarding the existing tower and forward them to Mr. Newberry to facilitate the sale of the apparatus. It was noted that the existing aerial certification certificate expires on June 9, 2024.

Brush Truck Replacement – Chief Verducci will meet with East Coast on February 13 to obtain a quote for the body installation. A second quote will be required. The lighting package will be obtained under state contract. Commissioner Morrison will verify that the apparatus is insured as it will have to be driven to a vendor for the next part of the assembly process. Chief Verducci anticipates that the apparatus will be placed in service in July.

FEMA – No action on the MUA.

Change of Election Date – No action at this time.

Firehouse Generator – The generator delivery has been delayed and is now anticipated in the next weeks. After careful evaluation it has been determined that it is not financially feasible to run a natural gas line from County Route 518 to the new generator. The equipment will continue to run on propane as did the machine it is replacing.

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 February 8th, 2024. *Motion by Mozumdar, 2nd by Hogan. Motion passed without objection.*