

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

MINUTES OF JULY 8, 2021

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 R. McGeedy, B. Bonder, M. Ruppert, A. Sartorio (by Zoom video) and A. Mozumdar. Also present: Chief Adam Verducci, Deputy Chief Rendall, Lt. J. Nieves, Engineer J. Kabis, QPA W. Newberry and Attorney E. Perkins.

Approval of Minutes

On the motion of Commissioner Sartorio, seconded by Commissioner Bonder, the minutes of the meeting of June 10, 2021 were unanimously approved.

Public Comment - None

Meetings

Emergency Services –no meeting held.

Fire Prevention – No meeting held.

Rescue Task Force – No meeting held.

Chief's Report

Chief Verducci reported that there were 29 calls in the month of June including a fatal motor vehicle accident and a shed fire. One member of the company was involved in a minor motor vehicle accident while responding to a call. VFIS has been contacted and will cover the deductible for the repairs. The members personal insurance will cover the balance of repair costs.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The air conditioning on E107 has been recharged at BCI. The system will be monitored over the coming weeks to verify that the recharge has corrected the problem. No further progress with the vendor regarding the E107 CAFS/PTO repair. At this point it may be necessary to seek out another vendor.

Engineer Kabis reported that T46 is OOS caused by a failure in the rear suspension system. One of the air bags has ruptured and will no longer hold air. The second bag appears to be worn. A similar problem occurred in 2012 and repairs were made by Mercer Spring. The air bag rupture appears to have been caused by a failure of one of the structural cross members. Absolute Fire may be able to manufacture a new cross member as they are the service agent for E1. Further investigation is required to determine the full scope and cost of required repairs. Given the damage the apparatus will likely have to be transported as it cannot be towed or driven.

Given the uncertain nature and cost of repairs it was decided not to proceed with the scheduled rear tire replacement, front end alignment, conversion of the electrical system or repairs to the jib boom on T46.

All of the chassis batteries on B46 were replaced. The final cost after the old cores were returned was \$145.48. The Engineer is currently trouble-shooting the possibility that the apparatus may have a bad fuel injector.

C46-1 has an outstanding GM recall for a wheel speed sensor. Chief to schedule.

A recall has been issued for the passenger side airbag on the deputy chief's vehicle. The parts are not yet available.

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.

Invoices from the 2020 Budget: \$620.00 (ladder)

Invoices from the 2021 Budget:

Administration: Advertising: \$97.78;

Operations: Apparatus Housing: \$16,000.00; Insurance: \$10,205.00; Supplies Other Equipment: \$712.00; General Operations: \$13,777.38; Training and Fire Prevention: \$920.00.

Total 2021 Budget Cost of Administration and Operations: \$41,712.16

Resolution 2021-16 Payment of Bills

*The Chief Financial Officer having certified there are sufficient unencumbered funds remaining in the 2020 and 2021 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 bills in the total amount **\$42,332.16**.*

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

Mr. Newberry noted the recent interruption of internet access to the firehouse. The situation has been resolved with the vendor and the fire company. The cost of service to the BOFC will increase \$10 monthly.

On the recommendation of the Engineer PM contracts were issued to Fire and Safety for T46 and 46-8. The remaining apparatus will receive PM by Four Lanes. Both vendors prices were below the quote threshold.

Purchasing

The purchase requisitions approved at the June meeting have been issued. Some items have been received but there are a couple of outstanding items. The lock-out/tag-out padlocks and breaker lockout set has been received but not been invoiced. Pagers ordered from M&W and the radio scanner for the Deputy Car have also not been received.

Requisitions

No purchase requisitions have been received this month.

NEW BUSINESS

Captain Ron Gershel of Squad 47 made a presentation in support of a request to purchase an inflatable rehabilitation tent to be used at fire and other emergency events. The unit inflates in about ten to fifteen minutes. It can be retrofitted with an HVAC system. The projected cost of the base unit is around \$7,000. He noted that perhaps the cost could be split with District 1 or spread out over two budget years. Action will be considered after Captain Gershel makes a similar presentation to the BOFC of District #1.

OLD BUSINESS

Fire Police Vehicle: Outfitting of the new apparatus is in process. No date has been set for the vehicle to be placed in operation.

Financial Disclosure Filings – All filings are completed in compliance with the June 30th deadline.

Fire Prevention Fine Monies – No purchase requests have been made at this time.

Viburnum Underground Tanks – A training activity will be scheduled.

Online Banking –PNC is complete. Northfield Bank is in progress.

Expired Turnout Gear- Commissioner Bonder reported that the documentation for the donated gear has been received and will be placed in the BOFC records.

R46 Refurbishment – The Chief and officers continue to review options.

Long Range Capital – Chairman Sartorio noted the discussions about the replacement of T46. According to the Long-Range Capital plan replacement is anticipated in 2027 when the apparatus would be 25 years old. Replacement at an earlier date will require a revision of the plan and will impact the replacement of other apparatus. It is not possible to significantly increase the annual contribution to the capital account in view of the 2% annual restriction on budget increases. The committee also discussed the replacement of the Deputy Chief's vehicle in 2022. The long-range capital plan will be revised to include replacement of the Chief and Deputy Chief's vehicles every eight years. Other potential expenditures include the purchase of a used tanker in 2025, the replacement of the fire police vehicle in 2026 and the utility in 2027. E107 is scheduled for a ten-year refurbishment in 2023 at a budgeted amount of \$77,000.00.

The Chair created a tower replacement committee. The Chair and Commissioner Ruppert will serve on the committee. Additional representatives will be named by the Chief. It is anticipated that a new aerial apparatus will cost approximately 1.75 million.

The Chief indicated that he will also be seeking to replace radios and SCBA units in 2024. This will require voter approval in 2023.

Renewal of Rocky Hill Agreement: Deferred to a future meeting.

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 August 12th, 2021. *Motion by McGeady, 2nd by Mozumdar. Motion passed without objection.*