

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

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 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 Stephen Morrison, Andy Mozumdar, Michael Ruppert and Tony Sartorio. Commissioner Gerard Hogan was absent.

Also present: Chief Adam Verducci, Deputy Chief Kyle Rendell, Engineer Justin Kabis, LOSAP administrator Gene Keller Jr., QPA Bill Newberry and Attorney Eric Perkins.

Approval of Minutes

On the motion of Commissioner Sartorio, seconded by Commissioner Morrison, the minutes of the meeting of September 15th, 2022 were unanimously approved.

Public Comment – None

Meetings

Emergency Services – No meeting held.

Fire Prevention- No meeting held. Fire prevention night at Station 45 on October 20th.

Rescue Task Force- A drill was held. RTF should be active in the next weeks.

Chief's Report

Chief Verducci reported that there were 36 calls in the month of September. The calls included a cover assignment in Ewing in support of a large structure fire. No

fire company personnel were injured, and no apparatus were damaged in any of the responses.

The Chief reported that the Marine 46 rescue boat is now in service. Members are continuing training in the use of the boat for high water events.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

T46- F&SS has provided a quote in the amount of \$2,275.00 for the repair of the following items which were determined to be defective in the annual PM: right-side cab scene light, inoperable #4 discharge gauge; torn steering tie rod boots; replace engine oil cap; cracked engine exhaust flange at the turbo. A review determined that the rear brake pads are only 50% worn and do not need to be replaced at this time. The replacement of the rear spotlights with LED spotlights has been delayed as the parts have not been delivered.

E467- Continue to await Four Lanes examination the deck gun auto-stow. The control circuit board for the light tower was found to be the likely cause of the stow issue. Repair is in process. The items requiring repair noted during the PM including the leaking DEF Doser, rear axle lubrication and the replacement of the rear body frame isolator were approved at last month's meeting and await scheduling by Four Lanes.

B46- An update from the dealership indicates a further delay as the replacement engine will not be delivered to the dealership until December.

E468- During the PM it was noted that the air dryer desiccant needs replacement. Awaiting a quote on that item and other PM repair items by Four Lanes.

R46- Replacement of the auto charger which was approved in September and replacement of the front seat belts and lubrication of the rear axle, approved in October await scheduling by Four Lanes. Additionally, the cab tilt relay/safety switch replacement approved in October is also pending Four Lanes scheduling. Anticipate scheduling of for the replacement of shock absorbers by Mercer Spring within the next two weeks. No action on replacement of the broken tripod light mount. The parking brake switch on the truck has failed.

U46 - There is an issue with the catalytic convertor. The apparatus will be taken to the dealership for warranty repair.

C46 - New tires were installed on the Chief's command car.

Milspray has provided a quote for the annual undercoating of all apparatus (except the brush) in the amount of \$2,047.00.

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: No invoices received.

Total Cost of Administration: \$0.

Cost of Operations:

Apparatus Housing: \$16,000.00; General Operations: Medical \$1,015.00; General Operations: Repairs and Maintenance \$3,228.26; General Operations: Rocky Hill Contract: \$5,000.00; General Operations: Other \$1,397.54; Supplies: \$943.68; Utilities: \$571.76; Training/fire prevention: \$217.58.

Total Cost of Operations \$28,373.82

Total Cost of Administration and Operations: \$28,373.82.

Resolution 2022-19 Payment of Bills

*The Chief Financial Officer having certified there are sufficient unencumbered funds in the FY 22 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 **\$28,373.82**.*

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

The website has been updated to include the September minutes.

The auditor expects to complete the audit in time for consideration at the December meeting.

Purchasing

Requisitions:

The following items were submitted by the Engineer/Chief:

Water rescue equipment in the amount of \$1,313,21; \$2,275 to Four Lanes for the repair of T46 as detailed in the Engineer's report; \$2,047 to Milspray for undercoating of the apparatus.

Total requisitions in the amount of \$5,635.21

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

NEW BUSINESS

LOSAP Update – Gene Keller Jr. who administers the program for the BOFC provided an update on the cost of the program for the current year. Assuming member response at the current level the estimated cost of the program for this year will be \$47,806.00 which is down from the level of \$55,292.00. He noted that a likely cause of the decrease was the ending of COVID work from home practices and the members enrolled in college were now back on campus rather than engaged in remote learning.

OLD BUSINESS

Firehouse Generator – The lead time for a new generator is estimated to be 55 weeks. The fire company is currently reviewing alternatives for the existing generator which was installed in 1991. The current system is powered by propane but a natural gas pipeline has now been installed along Country Route 518 so the replacement may have a natural gas option. The fire company will proceed with the purchase and installation of a new generator. The BOFC will consider the cost of this project in determining future facility rental costs.

FY23 Budget – Chairman Sartorio reviewed a draft of the proposed FY 23 budget which he had prepared. He noted that the BOFC faces another year under the State workers compensation insurance alternative. Costs for this coverage are estimated to increase by 10%. Various suggestions were made for increases and decreases in the draft document. Attorney Perkins will follow up with the Township on the ratable increases for the year as well as the outstanding fuel bill. Chairman Sartorio will make revisions and bring the draft back to the BOFC at the November meeting.

Annual Election Date – No action pending a meeting to be scheduled between the chairs of BOFC District 1 and 2 to consider options.

Membership Review – President Kabis indicated that he will provide an updated membership document at the November meeting.

T46 Replacement: Awaiting receipt of the revised final specifications document from Seagraves which must then be re-reviewed and approved by the BOFC representatives.

N.J. American Rescue Plan Firefighter Grant: No update.

Deputy Chief Vehicle – No new estimate of when State contract will be open for a new vehicle. The Chief is investigating the purchase of a used police car from the township for \$8,500.00 using the monies from the fire prevention bureau.

FEMA – The MUA document is still pending.

FY 23 Capital Projects – After an extended discussion it was agreed that the BOFC would propose two items for referendum for next year. One item be a new brush truck in the amount of \$150,000.00. The second item will be a partial upgrade replacement of the radios to all band radios consistent with the new system installed by Somerset County. Approval of funding in the amount of \$150,000 will be requested for this purpose. The BOFC set the referendum date of November 10th and directed Attorney Perkins to prepare the requisite public notices.

Banking –. Commissioner Mozumdar indicated that the process of consolidating accounts is progressing.

Renewal of Contract with MTVFC#2 - Discussions between the company and the board continue.

Rocky Hill Contract – Chairman Sartorio and Chief Verducci met with Chief Harris who provided an update on the report that he made to the BOFC earlier this year. Rocky Hill has decided to order a new 2500 gpm pumper with a 750 gallon tank rather than re-habilitating their existing apparatus. They will rely on Station 46 for extrication tools. Discussions on the contract will continue

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on November 10th, 2022. *Motion by Sartorio, 2nd by Mozumdar. Motion passed without objection.*