

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

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15th, 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, Stephen Morrison, Andy Mozumdar, Michael Ruppert and Tony Sartorio.

Also present: Chief Adam Verducci, Deputy Chief Kyle Rendell, First VP for Fire Company Laurin Long, QPA Bill Newberry and Attorney Eric Perkins.

Approval of Minutes

On the motion of Commissioner Mozumdar, seconded by Commissioner Sartorio, the minutes of the meeting of August 11th, 2022 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 26 calls in the month of August. The calls included an exterior house fire on Cherry Valley Road, to which Princeton Fire Company was also dispatched; and a mutual aid call to a house fire in Hopewell Borough. No fire company personnel were injured, and no apparatus were damaged in any of the responses.

The Chief reported that Fire District 1 has agreed to lend a 20hp motor until delivery of the new 30hp which is on order from All Hands. This motor will enable the use of the Marine 46 rescue boat. The borrowed motor will require service and the boat will require the installation of a fuel tank. Costs for both items are being determined.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

T46- The apparatus is back in service. Rear spotlight replacement with LED spotlights has been delayed as the parts have not been delivered. During the PM the right-side cab scene light and #4 discharge gauge were found to be inoperable. The steering tie rod boots were torn. The engine oil cap needs to be replaced. The engine exhaust flange is cracked at the turbo. The rear brake pads are nearly worn out. F&SS is preparing a quote for the repair items.

E467- Four Lanes is scheduled to examine the deck gun auto-stow and light tower on September 15 to diagnose continuing problems. During the PM the DEF Doser was found to be leaking at the muffler. The rear axle needs to be lubricated and the rear body frame isolator needs to be replaced. Quotes for the requisite repairs from Four Lanes are included for consideration under "Requisitions".

B46- The replacement engine has yet to be delivered to the dealership.

E468- During the PM it was noted that the air dryer desiccant needs replacement in the amount of \$155.00. Other repair items will be quoted by Four Lanes.

R46- The cab tilt relay or safety await review by Four Lanes. Mercer Spring has not been able to schedule replacement of the shock absorbers. The cartridge valve was rusted in place and could not be removed. Four Lanes is waiting for a replacement before attempting additional removal efforts as the plastic components may be damaged with removal efforts. Four Lanes will provide a quote for replacement of the entire assembly. No action on replacement of the broken tripod light mount. The driver and officer seat belts were found to be defective during the PM. The rear axle requires lubricant. Quotes for both items under "Requisitions". The auto charger for the apparatus has failed. Replacement by Four Lanes \$1,1149.00.

U46 - There is an issue with the catalytic convertor. This will be reviewed with the dealership as it may be under warranty.

C46 - The Chief's command car requires new tires in the amount of \$1,352.00.

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: Office Expenses: \$3,808.99; Professional Services: \$5,425.00.

Total Cost of Administration: \$9,233.99.

Cost of Operations:

Apparatus Housing: \$16,000.00; General Operations: Repairs and Maintenance \$16,850.28; Rocky Hill Contract (testing and inspection): \$2,761.60; General Operations: Testing and Inspection \$5,670.20; Supplies: \$1,769.42; Utilities: \$607.73; Insurance: \$10,325.00; Training/fire prevention: \$5,642.29.

Total Cost of Operations \$59,627.17.

Total Cost of Administration and Operations: \$68,861.16.

Resolution 2022-18 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 **\$70,078.33.***

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

Purchase order 2022-123 has been issued to Firefighter One for the turnout gear approved at the August meeting.

The website has been updated to include the August minutes.

The BOFC has received a check from the township in the amount of \$497,654.50 representing the first half of the year of property tax proceeds. The BOFC has also received the State Supplemental Fire Service check in the amount of \$1,779.50.

The FY 21 audit materials have been delivered to the auditor. She expects to complete the audit in time for consideration at the November meeting.

Mr. Newberry reported that he has received the renewal registrations for the Chief's car, B-46 and U-46. The renewal registration for E-107 is in process. All of the new registrations have been forwarded to the Chief.

Purchasing

Requisitions:

The following items were submitted by the Engineer/Chief:

Four Lanes End Apparatus for repairs to E-107, E-108 and R-46 as indicated in the Engineers report in the amount of \$7,189.00.

Harlingen Garage for the replacement of four tires on C 46 (Chief's command vehicle) in the amount of \$1,352.00

Total requisitions in the amount of \$8,541.00

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

NEW BUSINESS

Firehouse Generator – The back-up power generator for the firehouse failed catastrophically, projecting an engine rod through the motor casing. The generator is over 25 years old and repairing it does not appear feasible. The Board and attending members, including Laurin Long, 1st VP of the Fire Company, discussed short-term and longer-term solutions. Initial cost estimate for a rental unit is \$1,700 per month, along with a one-time set up fee of between \$1,000 to \$2,000. Chief Verducci offered to contact the State OEM for the availability of a loaner generator (no monthly fees, but a one-time hook up fee would be required). The initial cost estimate for a replacement generator is \$50,000.00. This project is not currently in the BOFC capital plan. Chief Verducci raised the question about who technically owns and should be responsible for the replacement generator. VP Long agreed to bring this issue to the Fire Company trustees for discussion and a possible vote.

FY23 Budget – Chairman Sartorio announced that he was beginning the preparation of a draft document. He will meet with the chief and line officers before circulating the draft to the members of the board.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual Election Date – A meeting will be scheduled between the chairs of BOFC District 1 and 2 to consider options.

Membership Review – President Kabis was not present, and the updated membership document has not been received.

T46 Replacement: Seagrave indicates that revisions have so far increased the price by about \$4,000.00. This leaves the purchase approximately \$8,000.00 under the project budget cap. The modifications drawings have not yet been received from Seagrave's for approval.

N.J. American Rescue Plan Firefighter Grant: Chair Sartorio reported that he has received confirmation that the grant application has been received and is under review.

Deputy Chief Vehicle – Deputy Chief Rendall reported that there were “rumors”, but no firm update available on the delivery of a vehicle. Vehicle delivery delays continue throughout the country.

FEMA – The MUA document is still pending. Deputy Chief Rendell noted that he submitted an appeal on the value and amount of compensation for the loss of the deputy chiefs vehicle. The paperwork for the claim is in process. An initial payment in the amount of \$10,000.00 has been received for the non-vehicle claim.

Capital Inventory – Chairman Sartorio reviewed the major purchases and the years in which they are scheduled. A discussion followed on the replacement of the radios. Chief Verducci indicated that the county is driving the replacement schedule and has provided little guidance as to when they will upgrade their system. He indicated that he would speak with the mayor about the possibility of funding for radios from the township or seek grant funding for the project. It was suggested that the radio replacement project may also cross budget years and be funded from the regular budget rather than the capital budget.

Banking –. Commissioner Mozumdar indicated that he is in the process of closing the 1st Constitution account to consolidate those funds in the PNC account.

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

Rocky Hill Contract – The Chair will schedule a meeting with Todd Harris of Rocky Hill, the Chief, Deputy Chief and another commissioner to review the contract.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on October 13th, 2022. *Motion by Sartorio, 2nd by Mozumdar. Motion passed without objection.*