

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

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 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, M. Ruppert, A. Sartorio and A. Mozumdar.
Also present: Chief Adam Verducci, Deputy Chief K. Rendall, Lt. N. Garrymore, Engineer J. Kabis. QPA W. Newberry and Attorney E. Perkins participated remotely through Zoom.

Approval of Minutes

On the motion of Commissioner Sartorio, seconded by Commissioner Ruppert, the minutes of the meeting of August 12, 2021, were unanimously approved.

Public Comment - None

Meetings

Emergency Services –no meeting held.

Fire Prevention – No meeting held.

Rescue Task Force – Drill conducted. No meeting held.

Chief's Report

Chief Verducci reported that there were 34 calls in the month of August including serving as a fill site pumper for a major structure fire in Franklin.

The truck committee met on multiple occasions to discuss what apparatus would best suit the needs of the developing housing and commercial construction in the district.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

E107- The TPMS module on the O/R/O was leaking. Replacement part has been ordered but not yet delivered.

E107- CAFS PTO/ Pump transfer case output shaft is worn. Seagraves Sales & Service estimate the repair after the Wildwood convention.

T46 – Frame issue, one rear trunnion suspension airbag ripped another is worn. E1 sent a consultant to review damaged frame member which caused the airbag failure. The consultant determined that the frame damage was due to rust and corrosion to a frame member which would void the warranty. E1 has not yet advised that the warranty is voided. Mercer Spring will quote the repair work, however, parts will need to be sourced by E1. Several other vendors have declined to quote the project. The estimated cost of repairs \$14,270.86 not including the cost of the replacement frame member. Chairman Sartorio will contact a metallurgist to obtain a second opinion regarding the cause of the damage to the apparatus.

B46- The turbo needs to be replaced. The cost of the repair is \$4,000 and will be covered under extended warranty. The manifold and EGR will also need to be replaced and are not covered by warranty. Estimated cost of repair for these items is \$3,216.59.

Car 46-2- The 2009 Tahoe sustained flood damage during Hurricane Ida. Vehicle is currently OOS at Harlingen Garage while the damage is assessed. Initial report is that the damage to the electrical system will exceed the estimated value of the vehicle. It will be returned to the firehouse to remove any salvageable equipment. Chairman Sartorio will file a claim with the insurance carrier. Deputy Chief Rendall will be the point of contact with the adjuster. The Chief will itemize the damaged aftermarket equipment on the vehicle. It is possible that FEMA money may be available to provide additional resources for a replacement vehicle.

Car 46-1- Sustained damage to a front wheel. Cost of repair \$150.00.

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.

Invoices from the 2021 Budget:

Administration: Office Expenses: \$3,253.00; Professional Services: \$5,025.00

Total Cost of Administration: \$8,278.90

Operations: Apparatus Housing: \$16,000.00; Insurance: \$9,040.00; General Operations/Repairs and Maintenance: \$1,776.70; General Operations/Medical: \$5,085.00; General Operations/Utilities: \$501.92; Supplies: \$1,581.48.

Total Cost of Operations: \$33,985.00

Total 2021 Budget Cost of Administration and Operations: \$42,264.00

Resolution 2021-17 Payment of Bills

*The Chief Financial Officer having certified there are sufficient unencumbered funds remaining in the 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 **\$42,264.00**.*

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

Purchasing

The requisitions approved at the August meeting have been converted to purchase orders and have been issued to vendors as follows: Witmer (suspenders, helmets, smoke fluid); All Hands (boots); Firefighter One (SCBA Masks).

Requisitions

None

Other

No operational monies have been received from Montgomery Township as of this date.

The 2020 audit paperwork has been transmitted to the auditor.

Engineer Kabis will provide a final quote from Four Lanes indicating PM amounts for each apparatus as approved at the August meeting.

Problems continue with online access to the PNC account. Chairman Sartorio will follow up with Brian Bonder.

Noting the low rate of interest and fees involved it was suggested that accounts be combined with the 1st Bank account. Previously there had been concern that the amounts on deposit would exceed the FDIC insurance coverage. Attorney Perkins noted that this should not be an issue as the banking institution has to be GUDPA certified for governmental deposits.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Resignation :

Chairman Sartorio noted with regret the recent resignation letter received from Commissioner Brian. The BOFC can name a replacement who would serve until February when the seat would be filled at the annual election. The person elected would serve out the remainder of Commissioner Bonder's term. Commissioner McGeady indicated that she will be moving out of the district and will be resigning from the BOFC at the October meeting. Chairman Sartorio asked the members of the BOFC to suggest replacements for the two vacancies.

Undercoating Apparatus:

Engineer Kabis reported on his review of the various undercoating options available from the vendor Mill Spray. One alternative is to have a permanent epoxy spray applied to the underbody of each apparatus. A second alternative is an annual oil spray. The cost would be approximately \$2,000. E108 may already have the permanent undercoating. Commissioner Ruppert suggested the permanent undercoating be added to the specifications for all future apparatus purchases. It was agreed that the oil spray treatment will be applied to all apparatus except the T46 pending it's return to service.

Hurricane Ida

Chief Verducci noted that the storm exposed previously unknown vulnerabilities in the district. Effectively the district must be prepared to be self-sufficient as flood waters can make it impossible to receive or provide mutual aid from surrounding fire companies. While firefighters received a water rescue course earlier this year, the recent storm suggests that additional training is necessary. It is also clear that additional PPE equipment, floatation devices and helmets should be considered. During the storm the marine apparatus from Station 45 and Station 53 were involved in rescues in other areas and could not be deployed in the district. The BOFC discussed the possible acquisition of a boat. Commissioner Ruppert will provide information on a flat bottom boat utilized in other districts for shallow water operations. Commissioner McGeady noted the need for the operator to obtain a license if the boat has a motor and exceeds ten feet in length.

The consensus of the BOFC was that these concerns should be addressed quickly so that they can be considered in the 2022 budget.

OLD BUSINESS

2022 Budget: Chairman Sartorio noted that he would like to consider a draft of the budget at the October meeting and requested that budget items be forwarded to him as soon as possible. Negotiations with the fire company regarding renewal of the lease which expires at the end of 2021 are continuing. Commissioner Bondar noted that the cost of repairs and equipment has increased considerably over the past year. The recent storm has added additional priorities as noted in the Board's earlier discussion. The BOFC and the fire company need to plan and work together more closely to address the challenges in the coming year.

EMS Budget Request: District 1 will be considering the EMS request next week.

Fire Police Vehicle: The apparatus is now in operation.

Fire Prevention Fine Monies – The Chief indicated that no requests have been made at this time.

Viburnum Underground Tanks – The Chief will schedule a pump exercise to test the floats in the coming weeks.

Renewal of Rocky Hill Agreement: Chief Verducci spoke of the need to do more preplanning and that this should be added to the renewal contract. He indicated that he will work with the Chief of Station 53 to consider additional expenses which might be combined/shared. A meeting will be scheduled with the chiefs to consider additional factors to be considered in the renewal agreement.

Grants: Commissioner Mozumdar will set a meeting with the chiefs of Station 46 and Station 53 to review grant options.

Communications Policy: Deferred to a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on October 14th, 2021. *Motion by McGeady, 2nd by Mozumdar. Motion passed without objection.*