

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

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

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 (virtually), Stephen Morrison Michael Ruppert and Andy Mozumdar.

Also present: Chief Adam Verducci, Deputy Chief Kyle Rendell, Engineer Justin Kabis, Attorney Eric Perkins. Absent: QPA Newberry.

Approval of Minutes

On the motion of Commissioner Hogan, seconded by Commissioner Morrison, the minutes of the meeting of July 13th, 2023 were unanimously approved.

Public Comment - None

Meetings

Emergency Services – No meeting held.

Fire Prevention – No meeting held.

Rescue Task Force- No meeting held.

Chiefs Report

Chief Verducci reported that there were 26 calls in the month of August. He noted that he would like approval to purchase two additional dry suits for the swift water team. The suits will cost a total of \$ 2,700.00 and are available from All Hands Fire. He also requested approval for payment in the amount of \$600.00 to Fire Service

Grants for the administration of the approved AFG grant. Commissioner Ruppert moved a resolution approving the requisitions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hogan and approved by a unanimous vote.

The Chief noted that he has spoken with Ron of Montgomery EMS regarding the annual equipment appropriation. The squad would like to purchase a heater for the rehabilitation tent which was purchased last year. Details will be available at the October meeting.

The Chief discussed the possibility of billing for Hazmat calls which involve substantial time, manpower and equipment resources.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Kabis noted that he emailed a copy of his report to all BOFC members earlier in the day. PMs are on-going on most apparatus.

T46- Repairs identified during the annual PM are proceeding.

U46- Once the new deputy chief vehicle is placed in service U46 will be scheduled for a number of repairs including replacement of the shock absorbers.

E107- The issue with the light tower stow warning light appears to be a mother board failure. As the problem does not impact the safe operation of the apparatus no repair will be made at this time.

FP46- The apparatus starting problem was related to a bad terminal which has been replaced.

M46- Broken trailer wheel grease bearing identified; upgraded to Bearing Buddies.

R46 - Starting issue identified as a loose relay. Relay has been adjusted. If issue reoccurs the relay will be replaced.

Annual Testing and Inspections: The annual tests of pumps, ladders and hose has been completed. Several lengths of hose failed in testing and will have to be replaced. The Hurst tool inspection and testing has been completed and no repairs were necessary.

The Engineer's written report to the BOFC provided detail on other pending repairs on the apparatus. Repairs are delayed due to the inability of the vendor to obtain parts. All apparatus remains in service as the repairs do not interfere with firefighting capability.

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:

Advertising: \$162.04; Office Expense: \$4,243.26; Professional fees: \$5,116.66.

Total Cost of Administration: \$9,521.96

Cost of Operations:

Apparatus Housing: \$16,000.00; Gen. Operations: Fuel \$7,078.92; Gen. Operations: Medical: \$ 45.00; General Operations: Repairs and Maintenance: \$8,163.86; Rocky Hill Critical Expenses: \$2,604.98 Insurance: \$10,900.00; Supplies; \$101.21; Utilities: \$1,326.34; Training and Fire Prevention: \$4,620.47.

Total Cost of Operations: \$51,040.80.

Total Cost of Administration and Operations: \$60,562.76.

Resolution 2023-18 Payment of Bills

The Chief Financial Officer having certified there are sufficient unencumbered funds in the 2023 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 \$60,562.76.

On Motion of Commissioner Ruppert, 2nd by Commissioner Hogan the BOFC unanimously approved payment of the bills.

Purchasing

Requisitions: Included in the Chief's report.

NEW BUSINESS

Grants: The Township has been awarded a state grant in the amount of \$1,500,000 toward the replacement of radios and other communication equipment. The grant proceeds will be divided between the BOFC District 1 & 2 as well as Montgomery EMS. All of the equipment will be purchased directly by the Township.

The grant application through the AFG program was also successful. The grant will be divided with District 1, Montgomery EMS and Rocky Hill which will administer the grant. Rocky Hill will purchase the radio equipment directly on behalf of the other grant recipients. The grant requires a 10% match. How and when the match will be paid will be determined.

FY24 Budget – Commissioner Morrison reported that he will be meeting with former Commissioner Sartorio to review the budget spreadsheets in preparation for the FY 24 budget.

OLD BUSINESS

ISO Evaluation – Chief Verducci reported that he has not received a follow-up from ISO.

Rocky Hill Report - Chairman Mozumdar noted that Chief Lewis has been the main point of contact on the radio grant process. He will be asked to attend the October meeting.

Tower Replacement – Chief Verducci noted that he had distributed the most recent correspondence from Seagraves to all members of the BOFC. After a broad discussion on the subject, it was agreed that the BOFC would request public approval of an increase in the purchase referendum amount in November. The referendum will be in the amount of the material cost increase and include a small cushion for unanticipated increases during construction.

Brush Truck Replacement – Mr. Perkins reported that he had received correspondence from Mr. Newberry indicating that three bids have been received in response to the RFP. Two of the bids contained exceptions as the vendor could not meet the 60-day delivery requirement. The remaining bid was also for the lowest price. Chairman Mozumdar moved a resolution accepting the bid from the Whitmoyer Auto Group for a Ford 550 cab and chassis in the amount of \$52,100.00. Commissioner Ruppert seconded the motion, and the resolution was unanimously approved. The vehicle will be delivered to the firehouse and stored until the equipment for final outfitting is received.

Chief Verducci noted that the officers will now continue the process of outfitting the apparatus. Some equipment will be purchased independently and then provided to an installer to be placed on the apparatus. This process will likely take several months. He anticipates that the final cost will not exceed the approved amount.

Deputy Chief Vehicle – Deputy Chief Rendell noted that the vehicle was 95% complete and is presently at the dealership for the installation of brackets and graphics. It is anticipated that the vehicle will be placed in service during the first week of October. Mr. Rendell reported that FEMA has audited the award for the loss

of the prior vehicle and indicated that it will provide an additional \$2,784.40 toward the cost of replacement.

Long-Term Financial Plan – Commissioners Hopkins and Hogan reported on the on-going discussions about the plan. Revisions are required to reflect the recently awarded grant funds for the replacement of radios. The committee will meet with the Chief during the next weeks and provide a revised plan at the October meeting.

FEMA – No action on the MUA.

Change of Election Date – No action at this time.

Firehouse Generator – The transfer switch has been delivered to the installer. It will be held at the installer’s facility until delivery of the actual generator. Delivery of the generator has now been delayed until January 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on October 12th, 2023. *Motion by Mozumdar, 2nd by Hogan. Motion passed without objection.*