

**Montauk Fire District**  
**April 11, 2023**  
**Commissioners Regular Meeting 18:30 hours**

**MINUTES**

**Commissioners Present:** Richard Schoen  
James Wright  
John Mark  
Charles “Chip” McLean  
Thomas Dess

*Also Present:* 1<sup>st</sup> Asst. Chief Peter Joyce, Jr., 2<sup>nd</sup> Asst. Chief John McDonald and Secretary/Treasurer Dawn E. Lucas.

**Call Meeting to Order:**

Chairman Schoen called the regular Commissioner Meeting to order at 18:30 hours and we all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

**Secretary's Report:**

**Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner McLean would like to compliment our Secretary on recording an arduous set of records from last meeting. Just couple items need to be corrected, the date of the meeting was March 22, 2023 not February and a typo on page 2. Commissioner Wright motioned to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2023 Commissioner's Workshop Meeting with said corrections, seconded by Commissioner McLean motioned/passed/carried.

**Purchase Requisitions:**

- A purchase requisition for Boundtree for medical supplies totaling \$331.73, Commissioner McLean motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried.
- A purchase requisition for EMP for medical supplies totaling \$413.85, Commissioner Wright motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Dess; motioned/passed/carried
- A purchase requisition for EMP for medical supplies totaling \$4,785.41. Chairman Schoen was curious, he was told that other districts with proper training are now utilizing filling a syringe with Epinephrine from a vial and those injections costs about \$6 as opposed to \$450 for a 2pack. Commissioner Mark would like to know how often do we use Epinephrine? Chairman Schoen asked what is the shelf life on the Epi Pens and we should look into this other option. Ms. Lucas will ask Chris Boccabella how often we use, shelf life and training involved for next meeting. Then we will have to run it by the ambulance company and get their feelings on it. Commissioner Wright motioned to approve; seconded by Commissioner Mark; motioned/passed/carried.

- A purchase requisition for Mercury Medical for medical supplies totaling \$394.00, Commissioner Wright motioned to approve; seconded by Commissioner Dess; motioned/passed/carried.
- A purchase requisition for a new couch for the paramedic room totaling \$1,546.00, Commissioner Wright motioned to approves, seconded by Commissioner McLean; motioned/passed/carried.

***Time off Requests:*** Brent Becker is requesting 3 days off 5/11, 5/12, 5/13 and may need the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Days will be covered. Commissioner McLean motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried. Rex Martin is requesting 2 days off 4/27 and 4/28/23. Days will be covered. Commissioner Dess motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried.

***Treasurer's Report:*** Commissioner Mark has reviewed, but would like to further review and table till next meeting.

***Audit of Bills:*** Ms. Lucas presented the invoices for payment totaling: \$35,189.95. Commissioner Dess motioned to approve the invoices totaling \$35,189.95 seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried.

**Committee Reports:**

***Apparatus:*** Commissioner McLean gave his report;

- 9-3-16- Has a fade issue with the front end, it pulls to the right. It will need further evaluation. John from Fully Involved has that on the list and will be out this week.
- 9-3-1- One of the gauges have been found and still checking on the second one as per John from Fully Involved.
- 9-3-14- John from Coastal will be out next week regarding the valves in the bucket so we can use onboard air with the new Scott Packs. There are two options we have; put a reducing valve on the bucket so that any pack with a hose can plug in. The other option is to put reducing valves on certain packs, plug in and work that way. Chairman Schoen suggested putting the reducing valve on the bucket and the Chief's agreed.

***Equipment:*** Commissioner Dess gave his report;

- LifePacks were serviced under warranty.
- A fan and saw were fixed and put back on 9-3-14. Still waiting on parts for the second chainsaw for 9-3-14.

***Buildings & Grounds:***

- **Walter Infiltration Project-** As per Commissioner Wright notification was put in paper.
- A meeting is scheduled with John Tanzi for April 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss the kitchen plans. Then will have meeting with kitchen committee to discuss.
- **House report-** was reviewed, busy with parade and stuff.
- As per Chairman Schoen gave Dennis O'Rielly permission to get a rack to store the ice-sled away when not in use.
- Chief Joyce asked if the housemen could fix the door chock on the bathroom in the hallway upstairs, Commissioner Wright said no problem.

- Commissioner Wright has noticed over the years the sign on the building has gotten tarnished. He feels it should be cleaned up. Maybe get Eddie Eurell to pressure wash, make it look more presentable. He will take care of getting it cleaned. Commissioner Wright also suggested we should get the sign re-powder coated or something. He will look into that and get back to the board.

***Budget and Capital Reserves:***

- Tabled till next meeting as stated before by Commissioner Mark.

***Insurance:***

- As per Commissioner McLean nothing at this time.

***Communications:***

- As per Commissioner Dess, the one radio in the back of 9-3-1 is now working.
- Chairman Schoen stated since the District Officers Meeting was postponed, he asked Eddie Schnell about a backup system if communications should go down. His response is there is nothing unless you go to VHF, handheld radios. Commissioner Mark thought that was part of the discussion when we decided to take down the tower behind the firehouse. He thought that the antenna was going to be a secondary means of communication. Chairman Schoen stated taking down the tower had nothing to do with the backup. The antenna was a means for the low band to communicate and it was going to be placed on the roof of the building. Chairman Schoen feels there is not enough low band equipment available. Commissioner Wright believes Eddie Schnell stated the low band will become obsolete in 1-2 years. Chief Joyce stated that there are vehicles currently that still have low band radios. If we needed to communicate with each other we could utilize the low band system if the current system went down. The back up communication question came up because other districts do not have any vehicles with low band capabilities. At this time there is no viable secondary source for communication. The chief was told that the system we have in place now should never really go down.

***Paid Personal:***

- nothing at this time and will schedule another meeting to discuss any possible issues.
- Chief Joyce mentioned at the last Town Chief's meeting it was requested to make sure the paid staff only use the signals that were provided on the list previously given. Chief Joyce will tell Chris Boccabella about. Chairman asked what signal confirms a crew, Chief stated there is no actual signal number to confirm a crew. But if you know you have members going to seen and firehouse, you can use signal 2, en route. If you are a driver use signal 9 standing by.

***Department Personal:***

- No report

***Law:***

- Turnout Gear- Chairman Schoen reached out to Joe Frank regarding the purchase of turnout gear. NFPA, only makes suggestions or recommendations on replacing turnout gear. It is not law and NYS has not adopted this. Code 15.11 states turnout gear has to be replaced 10 years from date of manufacturer. The state says you replace turnout gear individually assessed not by date of manufacturer. We replace gear when we deem it is necessary.

### Old Business:

- **Truck Ordering (Engines & Tanker)-** Chairman Schoen asked for confirmation from the Chief's that the tanker (9-3-7) needs to be replaced. Answer was YES. Captain Robert Gosman spoke about the new tanker. This truck will be able to carry water, be adaptable to pools and have side dump valves, with added cabinet space. The tanker will be no longer than 9-3-7 and fit next to 9-3-3. It will be able to carry 3,500 gal of water which is less than 9-3-5 but 500 gal more than 9-3-7. Captain Gosman did speak with three other chief's from New Jersey, Wisconsin, and Minnesota and deemed the Kenworth Chassis is the way to go. After a discussion, Chairman Schoen asked if this bid was on Sourcewell. Captain Gosman was not sure. First we will need to find out and if not then this will need to go out to bid. Captain Gosman did find out from Ray Mueller that since this is a commercial chassis this can be built at the plant in Yaphank after chassis is received. We will not see anything till fall but with it being built in Yaphank it can cut down delivery time by months. Chairman Schoen asked if we are under any time constraints or emissions issues for this truck. Captain Gosman stated, NO. It's a commercial chassis so no restrictions or time constraints for this truck. A permissive referendum was already put in the paper to spend the money but the board never approved actually placing the order. Commissioner Wright motioned to approve placing order of new tanker, seconded by Commissioner Dess; motioned/passed/carried.
- **Engines-** Chairman Schoen mentioned the board is in agreement to place the order for the two engines and that it is on Sourcewell. It has already been in the paper for 2 weeks now, he feels we should not wait. There is only a two week time frame to put these on order or it could potentially cost us an additional \$400,000.00. Chairamn Schoen motioned to purchase the two engines and get contract signed with the understanding that if an objection arose we could cancel said contract, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/ carried.
- Chairman Schoen asked if there was any talk about trade-in of old tanker. The engines we were given two options, have them try and sell it for us to get the best possible price, or take the current market value for the trade in. Captain Gosman has no idea about this, it was never addressed. Another note from Chairman Schoen regarding payment for the trucks is if you pay them 120 days before it's due they will take \$80,000 off the cost of the engines. When that time comes we should consider it.
- Commissioner Mark discussed an email and phone call from Pete Caliendo regarding the Ford E-350 ambulance and seeing if we have a decision on it. Chairman Schoen stated there will be no decision tonight. Pete also noted he has chassis on order so re-mounts are still an option too as per Commissioner Mark. Commissioner McLean asked what do we have to do, wait to hear from the ambulance committee and see after they convene. Chairman Schoen said absolutely. Commissioner Mark advised the board this is on Sourcewell as per Pete Caliendo and Pete stated we should really work with Sourcewell. Commissioner Mark asked if someone is going to reach out to the ambulance committee to get the ball rolling because there are time constraints. Chairman Schoen explained we do not reach out to the ambulance committee to pressure them into purchasing a new ambulance. The need comes to us and then we make that decision.
- **Training Center-** At last meeting they were requesting \$3,000 to upgrade the building. The board decided to hold off until the next Fire District Officers meeting.
- **Turnout Gear-** Previously discussed
- **9-3-9-** It was discussed putting back in paper and held off until this meeting because last time we put a request for bids we put a minimum bid in the paper and never received any bids. Chairman Schoen motioned we put the bid request in the paper and solve the minimum bid

price with, We reserve the right to refuse any and all bids, seconded by Commissioner McLean; motioned/passed/carried.

- **Dodge Ram Truck-** Commissioner Dess stated we are going back out to bid. Commissioner Mark asked if this is available through Sourcewell. At the time Commissioner Dess stated there was no state bid for Dodge trucks, he is not sure about Sourcewell. Commissioner Dess motioned to put the Dodge Ram back out to bid, seconded by Chairman Schoen, motioned/passed/carried. Chief Joyce mentioned the committee for the Dodge Ram truck after seeing the perspective price tag were moving toward rescinding the request for the Dodge and move toward a secondary UTV. After discussing, the committee is not rescinding the request just suspending for right now, per Captain McDonald. Commissioner Dess was asked to find out about the Kubota which is on state contract from the committee the other night. He was also asked about the skid packs for the back. Which are all Kimtechs just different models. Commissioner Dess is waiting on proposals for the Kubota with the added winch and two different Kimtech models of skid packs. The lead time is probably 6- 8 months instead of 3-4 months like in the winter. Commissioner Dess also asked about the 4 seat Kubota, was told it will not hold the model skid pack we want and utilize the four seats. Captain McDonald stated as long as it wasn't under a certain gallon size the 4 door would be preferred. Chairman Schoen clarified the Dodge Ram Truck is put on hold pending Kubota pricing and information on skid packs, Commissioner Dess said YES. Commissioner McLean asked does the Kubota/Polaris need to be trailered to an incident? Yes, but you could drive it in certain emergencies. Commissioner McLean feels this would be painting a scenario of a completely different response. Chief Joyce stated realistically we have never been in a position that both brush trucks we have in service could exceed 50 mile per hour at any given time. So regarding delayed response, that would be minimal and be no more in any other scenario going to the far end of the district. Commissioner McLean just doesn't want to see us cut our nose off where we chew and limit our resources. Chief Joyce feels that would not happen. We are the only district in the 9<sup>th</sup> division to have two brush trucks, the rest only have a stump jumper.
- **Paid ALS-** Ms. Lucas is clarifying the starting pay that was agreed upon, \$35.50 per hour, Chairman Schoen stated YES.

### **New Business**

- Chairman Schoen advised how we all know we have considerable amount of money sitting in bank accounts earning next to nothing. Ms. Lucas presented email information from Chris Starr about an Investment Market out there that a whole bunch of villages, Fire Entities, School Districts, etc belong to. We can put money in there and have available on a daily basis and is currently paying \$4.59%. An example, from 2/23- 3/23 of this year a million dollar investment paid \$3,554.00. Triple A rated by S&P, all investments made are collateralized in accordance with the NYS Municipal Law. Commissioner Mark suggested maybe CD's, the banks are offering \$4% or more right now, which is guaranteed on short term CD's (6months- 1year). Chairman Schoen feels we should consider this investment market. We can invite Chris Starr out to discuss with us. Ms. Lucas will contact him to set up the meeting. Commissioner McLean asked the exact name and company of the person that is going to come and speak to us. Ms. Lucas stated Chris Starr from NY Class and will forward the email that she was given to the rest of the Commissioners.
- Next meeting date was requested to be changed from Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday April 25<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Mark would have to leave by 7:15, all other Commissioner's are good with that date.

- Commissioner McLean stated at a previous meeting Chief McDonald noted Collateral Agreements should be looked at each year. Ms. Lucas is waiting to hear back, from the bank.

**Chiefs Report:**

- Chief Joyce presented a purchase requisition for MES (Coastal) for 2 RIT (Rapid Intervention) packs that consist of the RIT packs and 4 bottles totaling \$10,183.86. Chairman asked the reason for two, Chief Joyce stated one for 9-3-1 and one for 9-3-14 because if I have a down firefighter the only way I can help him is to get him snapped into as fresh bottle of air via a RIT pack. Another reason is to carry them on the three respected trucks that carry our interior firemen. Right now we only have one RIT pack, which is on 9-3-4 the designated RIT truck. It will help us and calls for mutual aid. Commissioner Wright motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner McLean; motioned/passed/carried.
- A purchase requisition for MES (Coastal) for 4 Gas multi-meters, two for captain and lieutenant of company 3 and one for 9-3-1, about \$700 or so per meter, Commissioner Wright motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Dess; motioned/passed/carried
- Chief Joyce and Chief McDonald were able to sit in on a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce, Business owners, Town Board members, Fire Marshall and Chief of Police discussing what the businesses can not do and gaining permit information. Chief Joyce did take the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Chiefs to explain what their roll is with a chief investigation and reminding everyone that we are all volunteer so please be considerate of our time and give us some respect. Chief also handed out forms that has much needed information in case of emergency that will not only help us but dispatch too. They can even help with our fundraising efforts.
- Chief Joyce also mentioned at the last department meeting they voted to change the deposit amount for the use of the kitchen to now be \$250 regardless who you are. If it is cleaned to the departments (chief or kitchen committee members) satisfaction they can get that money back. Chairman Schoen motioned to approve the change, seconded by Commissioner McLean; motioned/passed/carried.
- Yaphank drill scheduled for tomorrow night will be rescheduled to May 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Chief also asked about the hose testing, he asked Commissioner McLean to check on that. He thinks we might have to do it ourselves but will inquire again.

Commissioner McLean would like to note that it's National Public Safety Communicator Week, April 9- April 15<sup>th</sup>. He would like to do like we did last year send baskets Thursday and Saturday to the EHT Police dispatch and to EH Village dispatch. He thought \$100 a basket, Commissioner Wright suggested \$200 and motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Dess; motioned/passed/carried.

Commissioner Dess mentioned a Pancake breakfast is scheduled for April 23, 2023, sponsored by the Montauk Fire Department and Lion's Club.

Commissioner Dess also wanted to let us know there is a website out there for NY Class, and Chris Starr is their new regional director of Marketing.

Commissioner Dess motioned to adjourn @ 20:05 hours, seconded by Commissioner Wright; motioned/passed/carried.

**Adjourned 20:05 hours**