

Montauk Fire District

May 7, 2024

Commissioners Regular Meeting 18:30 hours

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Richard Schoen
James Wright
Charles “Chip” McLean
Thomas Dess
Michael Mirras

Also Present: Chief Kenneth Glogg, 2nd Asst. Chief John McDonald and Secretary-Treasurer Dawn E. Lucas.

Call Meeting to Order:

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

Chairman Schoen then welcomed Michael Mirras and swore him in as a new Commissioner.

Secretary's Report:

Approval of Minutes: Vice-Chairman Wright motioned to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2024 Workshop Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Dess; motioned/passed/carried.

Audit of Bills: Ms. Lucas presented the invoices for payment totaling: \$33,365.03, Commissioner McLean questioned the water bill and the delivery charge of \$12. He thought maybe we could get more bottles to offset that delivery charge. Ms. Lucas will look into. Vice-Chairman Wright motioned to approve payment of bills totaling \$33,365.03, seconded by Commissioner Dess; motioned/passed/carried. Ms. Lucas presented more bills that need to be paid totaling \$30,693.86, they came in late. Chairman Schoen noted these would have been presented originally if we did not move our meeting. Vice-Chairman Wright motioned to pay, seconded by Commissioner McLean; motioned/passed/carried.

Committee Reports:

Apparatus: Commissioner McLean gave his report;

- 9-3-14- The plumbing was replaced which stopped the leak from underneath. The ladders were serviced too, John from Fully Involved was also able to replace the Pike pole holders. He also replaced some miscellaneous items, light bulbs, bars, etc. The rig was PM'd, came back and is now ready to go.
- 9-3-5- Replaced the rear air brake valve and installed new compressor. It seems to be working in peak operating condition.

- 9-3-18- John from Fully Involved came here to do the inspection and PM , found it needed 4 new tires, went out next day to Southampton Tire.
- 9-3-17- had issue with glow plug, thought it could be fixed in house but found corrosion and brought back to Fully Involved. While there the annual inspection was completed.
- 9-3-16- was PM'd in house and annual inspection was completed. Found front brakes should be replaced. 9-3-16 went to Fully Involved so brakes could be replaced.
- 9-3-3- 5" discharge fitting issue which is causing a minor leak, it will be addressed, lubricated and tightened.
- 9-3-80- transmission issue, was brought to Buzz Chew, trouble shot and was able to download a software update which corrected the problem. The vehicle also had it's annual inspection and an oil change done. It is now back at headquarters and in service.
- The district van was also PM'D and back in service.

Equipment: Commissioner Dess gave his report;

- The CO meter for the chief's car went out for re-calibration.
- Still waiting on the battery charger to come in, which is back-ordered till June.
- Chainsaw in office and everything else should be OK.

Buildings & Grounds: Vice-Chairman Wright gave his report;

- Told John Tanzi we are moving forward on Re-pointing project.
- Still waiting on information for Kitchen project.
- Waiting to see if the drain issue was resolved.
- No new projects on the horizon.
- Chairman Schoen did note that in the communication room the other day you could not see out the the windows and he told Brent. Brent cleaned it up but was also reaching out to the boiler people because we seem be going through fuel faster. Ms. Lucas did note the boiler company came today, she said they did some adjustments of sort.

Budget and Capital Reserves:

- Chairman Schoen read the balances for the Equipment Reserve Fund which is \$2,180,973.26 and the Building Reserve is \$570,876.85. As of April 17th the interest earned between both accounts is \$59,939.27

Insurance:

- As per Commissioner McLean nothing to report.

Communications:

- Active911, still getting that set up; Ms. Lucas gave the spreadsheets to the Chief so he can distribute to the officers.

Paid Personnel:

- Vice-Chairman Wright noted there is a meeting set up for May 24th.
- He also noted Chris Boccabella has a new hire and the resume is available if anyone wants to see. Background check will done and he will start training.
- Chairman Schoen asked how are we doing with filling spots? Vice-Chairman Wright stated it could be better, some mishaps but totally manageable. Another questions was asked how are we looking for the summer? Everyone seems to be staying and one might be let go due to inactivity. Vice Chairman Wright to follow up with Chris Boccabella.
- Ms. Lucas gave all Commissioner's the finger reader report for April for the paramedics.

Department Personnel:

- no report

Law:

- no report, but Vice-Chairman Wright asked about the OSHA stuff. We were asked to send letter, sign petitions, etc. Chairman Schoen said we did send letters out on our letterhead and he believes there is another webinar tomorrow night.

Old Business:

- ***Camera's-*** Chairman Schoen noted we did receive an updated proposal with a list of 20 different cameras, does not state where they will go. Vice Chairman Wright stated this was discussed 2-3 years ago and agreed on same thing so went to Tanzi, it went out to bid, got proposals that were twice as much as the company we are using, went back to them and they finally gave us a price we can work with. We can either accept their bid maybe ask them to come down a bit more or go with Tanzi and have him wright it up exactly the way we want, go out to bid and take the lowest bid. It was asked if our current camera people are on state bid, answer was YES. A discussion arose again about placement of cameras. Vice-Chairman Wright noted they have been here numerous times explaining things. A lot of the equipment is not just cameras, it's racks, hardware,etc. Commissioner McLean remembers when Jeff was here he discussed they could replace some camera views with one camera so we can reduce the number of camera's needed. He explained we will have the same camera views and we added the supply room. Vice Chairman Wright noted we also wanted a camera on the back building, since it never had one. Chairman Schoen asked Vice Chairman Wright if he is comfortable with the proposal. Vice chairman Wright did feel if we went with Tanzi we would get a proposal that is higher. They deal with other equipment and they do our key FOB system so it makes sense for service to keep them as our camera company and feels we should move forward on that proposal. Commissioner McLean agrees. Vice Chairman Wright motioned to accept proposal and move forward on the camera system, seconded by Commissioner McLean; motioned/passed/carried. Ms. Lucas will put a referendum in the paper for \$130,000 to be spent out of the Building Capital Reserve account.
- Chairman Schoen noted the next District Officer's Meeting is May 28, 2024 in Bridgehampton.
- Chairman Schoen also asked the Chief to find out about the HAM radios in the paramedic room, maybe ask Eddie Schnell. He is the HAM operator for emergency equipment.
- May 16th is EMS night at the firehouse and Chairman Schoen wanted to know if it was posted at the library. Chief Glogg said NO only in front of town.
- A discussion arose about 30 batteries that were ordered and 8 were no good, trying to get a credit on them. The others were sent to Town Police. There was a shortage at the time, they were backordred so we borrowed from Eddie Schnell with the Town Police and when ours came in we sent them back to the Town Police. Chairman Schoen thought if we are having problems with 8 batteries maybe someone should contact the Police to see if they are having issues with theirs. Chief Glogg will reach out to Eddie Schnell to see.
- Chairman Schoen asked Commissioner McLean about a banner that was approved, it's in the works and should be on schedule.

New Business:

- ***East End Financial Presentation-*** Annmarie Zilnick, President, Jeffrey Connolly, CFA and Ernest Vorpahl, Senior Wealth Advisor of East End Financial Group discussed our investments for the Length of Service Award Program. Jeff Connolly explained the total account balance as of May 3, 2024 was \$6.4 million. The year to date gain was about 3.59% or \$220,878. The S&P index (stock Market) is up 8% but the Bond Market is down around 2% during same period. Remember the portfolio is half stocks, half bonds. It is up 3.5 % . The LOSAP had a total return of little over 11% in 2023. The assumed rate of return for the plan is 5.25%. Since East End Financial Group started managing the LOSAP assets back in 2016, the portfolio has had an average annual return of 5.80%. The fund ratio was 76% as of January 1, 2023. Once Penflex updates the annual reports the funded ratio as of January 1, 2024, should improve based on the investment returns in 2023. As a reminder the funded ratio is if you had to close out the plan and pay out all the benefits with the percentage of assets we have. We are in a healthy spot.

Portfolio Observations-

- The portfolio is being managed with a target allocation of 50% equities to 50% fixed income as a guideline by the Board of Fire Commissioners. The current asset allocation is 47% stocks to 53% bonds.
- The equity holdings are 73% large cap stocks, 22% mid cap stocks, and 5% small cap stocks.
- International equities are 12% of total portfolio.
- The Beta or risk of the portfolio is .49 or approximately 49% of the volatility experienced by S&P 500 index, which has a Beta of 1.00.
- The average credit quality of the bond holdings is investment grade with an average maturity of 5.7 years and an average duration of 3.7 years.
- Cash Holdings totaled \$311,277 as of April 30, 2024, consisting of \$35,256 in cash and \$276,021 in the Vanguard Federal Money Market Fund, which has a current yield of 5.28%

Portfolio Review-

Jeff Connolly noted the Presidential elections usually do not have an effect on the stock market. Historically, Presidential Election years are usually pretty profitable for the stock market.

Service Award Program Contributions-

Annmarie Discussed the 2024 program contribution from Penflex's calculations was \$381,497 and it was deposited to the Pershing account on January 16, 2024. The 2025 program contribution will be included in Penflex's annual report for 2024.

Service Award Program Benefit Payments-

Monthly benefit payments are transferred to Comerica Bank from EEFG(East End Financial Group) about \$30,000 a month, year to date payments totaled \$134,774, which includes two lump sum death benefit payments in March. Ms. Lucas works with Penflex on this.

Coordination of Plan Assets with Emerging Liabilities-

Annmarie explained that their firm always attempts to match the LOSAP's emerging liabilities with the maturities of the plan's bond portfolio. EEFG (East End Financial Group) has structured the bond maturities to coincide with projected award benefits. Because of the “laddering” of these maturities, the account has been able to stay fully invested and not be forced to sell securities to meet current obligations. Discussion arose about the market and projections. Chairman Schoen asked about next year's contributions, if they might know the amount at this time. Annmarie stated it depends on service credits from previous year, but Jeff

Connolly said it's about \$416,000, will not know exact amount until Penflex is done with the 2023 LOSAP package. \

EFG Scholarship Program-

Last year Colin Tyrell from Montauk Fire District came in 2nd place. Last night the scholarship winners came in. The process is that each district submits the best from the applications they receive and then they get sent out to an advisory board made up of clients, professionals, attorneys, etc. and they rank the winners. Annmaried stated this year Montauk came in first with Sara Stuckart so she won \$1,000.00. Commissioner Mirras asked about the fund ratio and where the percentage has been. Jeff said yes it has gone up and should be at around 80% this year because of your return last year. It was at about 90% in 2022 and then the stock market was down 18% and the bond market 13% so it bought it down and last year was 76% . There are only two ways to significantly increase that, either by over contributing on top of your required contribution and investment on your return. Jeff Connolly did find the last 5 years based on last year's report is as follows; 2019- 72%, 2020-82%, 2021- 88% then the assumed interest rate was lowered so that works against the fund ratio., 2022- 90% and 2023- 76%.

- **Exercise Room-** We have an alarm on the wall so if you fell you could pull to alert the need for help. But it is not working so Chairman Schoen asked Brent to call Briscoe our security company and he was coming out at 10:30 today to see what could be done. Chairman Schoen was on an ambulance call at the time so the gentleman met with Brent and is coming up with a proposal to replace what we have. Vice Chairman Wright noted we discussed this before and because it was a monthly payment we said no due to everyone having cell phones these days. Chairman Schoen noted with more people utilizing the room if anyone was to fall who would know, do we want to put a camera in there? His thought was to prevent members from falsely claiming they hurt themselves when they weren't even there. The rest of the board wasn't sure if that was allowed.
- Commissioner Dess handed in his letter of resignation and it reads; To the Montauk Board of Fire Commissioners, "This is to advise that I am resigning my position as Commissioner as of May 8, 2024 due to my re-location out of state and will be unable to perform my duties. It was a privilege and an honor to work with you and serve our community of Montauk. Thomas Dess." Chairman Schoen wanted to congratulate Mr. Dess on a fabulous job he did for the last 2- 3 years. Your experience and past experience was most appreciated, we wish him well.

Chiefs Report:

- Chief Glogg presented a purchase request for a new Honda Portable suitcase generator totaling \$1,407.76. Commissioner Dess motioned to approve, seconded by Vice Chairman Wright; motioned/passed/carried.
- Chief Glogg presented purchase requisitions for equipment for the Kubota.
 - 1- Mighty Tite Quick Release Trailer tie down (bracket where the wheels would lock in totaling \$699.99. Commissioner Dess motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried.
 - 2- Junkin Break Away Stretcher totaling \$1,098.99. Commissioner McLean is concerned about this type of stretcher, where is going to be secured, how do we secure and transport a patient? Commissioner Dess motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mirras, Commissioner McLean opposed, wants to know how are we going to secure a patient on the

back of the Kubota, how will they be monitored and transported out of a situation; it was then motioned/passed/carried.

3- An over-head rack totaling \$452.09, Commissioner Dess motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried.

4- Pac Tool 1004-handheld adjustable mounting bracket totaling \$44.95, Commissioner Dess motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried.

5- ATV-UTV recovery Kit totaling \$96.00, Commissioner Dess motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried.

6- NOCO Genius 2D Direct Mount car battery charger totaling \$39.95, Commissioner Dess motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried.

7- Plastic Gas Can totaling \$29.00, Commissioner Dess motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried.

- Chief Glogg discussed 9-3-2 and a compressor and installing the bottles and thought we were moving forward on this. Chairman Schoen asked if we got the specifications and dollar amount on this. It was discussed back in November and we were waiting for the results of the hydro testing which has since been done and both tanks passed. The total cost to have this done was \$3,291.75. Commissioner McLean would like to table this discussion pending a proposal He requested from Fully Involved regarding an alternative to this system. To utilize the tanks that were hydro tested still limits the amount of air that can be used. The purpose of adding these tanks was to be able to use the air powered tools, air bags, etc After discussing with John Tepindino from Fully Involved he has another option of installing an air compressor and hose reel which would allow you to utilize the air tools remotely from the rig. The point is that the compressor would now give you an infinite amount of air. Chairman Schoen thought there there was a compressor already on 9-3-2. Commissioner Mirras said there is but it's not strong enough and the air depletes very quickly for the tools that are utilizing it. Commissioner McLean stated the proposal being worked on is for a compressor that is strong enough to power the air powered tools in a remote location and to operate them for a longer period of time. Chief will let Joey know the district is waiting on a proposal from Fully Involved.
- Chief Glogg presented a request form Company 4 for Don Hudson to come out and give two classes for CME, May 19th and June 23rd 2024. The total cost for both classes is \$1,600.00. The time would be from 8-4pm. Commissioner McLean motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried. Commissioner Mirras asked if it's open o all departments, Chief believes it is.
- 2nd Asst. Chief McDonald is requesting a pair of turn out boots, some suspenders, smoked out SCBA mask covers and blacked out SCBA mask covers totaling \$1047.74. Commissioner Mirras motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner McLean; motioned/passed/carried.
- Ms. Lucas discussed the hose jumpers that she was asked to look into at previous meeting. She spoke with salesman and he explained his set of hose jumpers are two pieces. So it seems the department will need another set. Chief did ask to keep the other set that is cracked until the new set comes and then throw out. Commissioner McLean motioned to purchase, seconded by Vice Chairman Wright; motioned/passed/carried.

Chairman Schoen motioned to go into Executive Session regarding Personnel @ 19:51 hours, seconded by Vice Chairman Wright; motioned/passed/carried.

Chairman Schoen motioned to go back into Regular Session @ 20:32 hours, seconded by Vice Chairman Wright; motioned/passed/carried. Chief Glogg updated us on members of the department,

Deb Choron and John Papaleo both passed their EMT course. Luke Stein and Terrence Curly both passed their Firefighter 1 course. Terrence Curly has been assigned to company 3 and Luke Stein to company 5. Chairman Schoen asked about George Hear, are we requiring him to take firefighter 1? As per Chief Glogg, YES. According to all the research Chief McDonald has done, he has no firefighter certificate from New York City. He was told he has 2 years to get it. Chief Glogg also noted two members did not make their points for two consecutive years, Robert Mautschke and John Mautschke and he is asking they be dropped from the roles of the Montauk Fire Department. Commissioner Dess asked if there has been communication about this, YES, asked if letters were sent out, YES. Robert Mautschke stated he did not receive any communication that he was not in good standing. He also noted he has been in the department over 10 yrs and answered over 2,000 calls which gives him 200 calls a year which is more than the 10% that is required. Chairman Schoen asked if Robert was in agreement that he did not make his points for two consecutive years, his answer was YES. Chairman Schoen stated the Chief is not required to send out a letter, he does that as a courtesy and more than one occasion at every meeting that he attended people were told about their points, to check their points, brought up at officer meetings passed down by chain of command. Chairman Schoen stated the Chief is recommending you be dismissed because you didn't make your points for two consecutive years. Commissioner McLean is proposing a question, per the by-laws is there any discretion by the chief to overlook or delay this proceeding. Is there a provision in the by-laws for dismissal by the chief. Chief Glogg said it is cut and dry that if you do not make your points for two consecutive years, you are dismissed from the roles of the Montauk Fire Department such as if you do not get your physical the Board of Fire Commissioner's can drop you from the rolls of the Montauk Fire Department. Robert Mautschke is asking if there is any discretion whatsoever in all he has given to this department and community because it's his home, responded to over 2,000 calls, helped with pandemic stuff and a pending potential litigation on a previous call. Chairman Schoen stated the By-Laws speak for themselves and you acknowledged, agreed you did not have two consecutive years of good standing points. Robert is just making sure he will get legal representation from the department for a potential deposition . Chairman Schoen said he will look into with the attorney. Chairman Schoen stated there is a recommendation from the Chief that two individuals that failed to make two consecutive years of points be dropped from the rolls of the Montauk fire Department. Vice Chairman Wright motioned to accept, seconded by Chairman Schoen; motioned/passed/carried. Commissioner McLean opposed, reflecting on the extensive record of these two members, their service to the community and the Montauk Fire Department. If there is any leeway for an ex-captain and young father it be granted. Vice Chairman Wright noted they can reapply in a year. Commissioner Dess also noted the other members that were told about there points, resigned and two were dismissed for no physicals.

Chief Glogg wanted to thank Tom Dess for coming back and helping out,. Chairman Schoen stated he will be greatly missed.

Vice Chairman Wright motioned to adjourn @ 20:50 hours, seconded by Commissioner McLean; motioned/passed/carried.

Adjourned 20:50 hours