

Montauk Fire District
November 12, 2024
Commissioners Regular Meeting 18:30 hours

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Richard Schoen, Chairman
James Wright, Vice-Chairman
Charles “Chip” McLean
Michael Mirras
Carmine Marino

Also Present: Chief Kenneth Glogg, 1st Asst. Peter Joyce, Jr., 2nd Asst. 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.

Secretary's Report:

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

Building Use Request: Montauk Public School requested use of the meeting room for November 26, 2024 for the First Grade Thanksgiving Feast. They do not need use of kitchen and nothing else is scheduled for that day. Commissioner Marino motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried.

Time Off Request: Brent Becker is requesting one vacation day for December 4th. Rex will cover for him. Chairman Schoen asked how is he covering if that is Rex's normal day off. Ms. Lucas explained he will probably take Thursday off then. Chairman Schoen has no problem with Brent taking off but if Rex is not switching his day off, he can not see paying overtime to him that we can get someone else to cover. Vice-Chairman Wright motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried.

Audit of Bills:

Motion to pay Bills: Commissioner Mirras wanted to note when he was up at the conference he was speaking with a representative and had a good conversation about LOSAP. He explained why it's a 1099MIS instead of a 1099R, he said he would come in and talk about financial planning. Commissioner Mirras will see if he can get a hold of him to come and talk and see if he is cheaper than who we use now. Ms. Lucas presented the bills for payment totaling \$42,328.29. Vice-Chairman Wright motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried.

Treasurer Report: Commissioner Mirras reviewed the August treasurer's report and motioned to accept, seconded by Commissioner McLean; motioned/passed/carried. September will be put on workshop agenda.

Committee Reports:

Apparatus: Commissioner McLean gave his report;

- 9-3-1- missing clearance light that got replaced and then a 2nd one was discovered and on order.
- 9-3-4- Fully Involved is still looking for windshield.
- Commissioner McLean with the help of the houseman was able to provide each apparatus a garage door opener. In the past the doors have been left open. This will help with security, cleanliness and safety. The ambulances already have them and now the rest of the trucks do too. Chairman Schoen asked if Commissioner McLean was motioning to buy these openers, his response was they are surplus door openers. Chairman Schoen clarified we have had them but they weren't assigned to vehicles, Commissioner McLean's answer YES.

Equipment: Commissioner Marino gave his report;

- He told Brent to order a CO2 handheld for one of the ambulances. Commissioner Marino asked the chief if he had any spares, they believed so. Brent would like that one but in the meantime told him to order because they have a time limit. We are not being told until it's too late. He wants to keep the monitors there so they can swap out when they do their checks.

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

- He is waiting on the Re-Pointing project information so we can put out to bid.
- The Kitchen project- there was talk about incorporating more lighting and electrical for the project. He took a look again and saw maybe one light needs to be moved and there is enough lighting and more than enough electric because we are only replacing like kind pieces of equipment. With the budget the way it is, he believes it's feasible do it the way it is within the next year. We should move forward with the way it was originally designed. Lighting plan is not needed at this time and Electrical not needed now but eventually will be needed with electric vehicles.
- Camera project- all equipment has come in and they started project today.

Budget and Capital Reserves:

- Capital Reserve- the Building Capital Reserve has \$582,675.38 and the Apparatus and Equipment Reserve has \$2,244,191.90. We do not have the last Audit to see what is being transferred over but there should be some excess.

Insurance:

- Commissioner McLean understands that Dr. Ameres response was forwarded to our insurance company. Chairman Schoen responded that yes we notified our insurance company about the potential litigation (notice of claim).

Communications:

- As per Commissioner Mirras, NOTHING TO REPORT

Paid Personnel:

- Vice-Chairman Wright wanted to note Ray Nirrengarten is down for medical reasons and it may be awhile. Chris Boccabella doesn't feel it will be a problem covering shifts. There may be some overtime at times. We may want to hire someone else but the field is not optimal. We are covering most of our shifts and if not the volunteers have been stepping up. Ray may be out for a month and Chris has said he is filling the shifts.

Department Personnel:

- Commissioner Mirras noted nothing to report.

Law:

- Vice-Chairman Wright discussed the response we have to send in regarding the Audit, We have till November 27th and he feels we should ask our lawyer if we can get that extended. They had about a year to go through our stuff and wants us to respond in less than a month. Chairman Schoen stated he can certainly ask. All the stuff they are saying is clerical errors, written errors and not necessarily correct, we need time to investigate. We will have to work under the conditions of it needs to be done by the 27th until we hear from Joe Frank.

Old Business:

- ***Pagers/Radios-*** Pagers were ordered and received already. Radios, was waiting on a proposal for the Kenwood radios. Ms. Lucas did receive two quotes one from Goosetown Communications and one from Integrated Wireless which is a dealer for Kenwood and has been for years. Kenwood is on state contract. Ms. Lucas would prefer to go with Integrated Wireless because they have supplied our radios and pagers already. She spoke with Andrew already from Integrated Wireless and found out all the specs is what is needed to be in compliance with the Town of East Hampton. Total price is \$11,178.95 and we already approved the purchase at a previous meeting on September 26, 2024 not to exceed a total of \$12,500.00 for 5 radios. Chairman Schoen asked if we have enough money in that line item or do we have to pull out of the equipment reserves. Commissioner Mirras confirmed we do not have to go out for a public referendum. Ms. Lucas will process everything and send over to Andrew. She also confirmed they are waterproof. Commissioner McLean wanted to know how many radios was that for, answer 5. They are the EMS radios that are replacing the Motorola ones that are discontinued.
- Chairman Schoen asked Ms. Lucas at a previous meeting to find out about the R7 radios because of a rebate offer. She did ask Andrew about them and was told they are not compatible with our radio system and East Hampton.
- Chairman Schoen brought this up at a previous meeting the 85 old radios/batteries/chargers and antenna's, he found a source to dispose of them and received an email from him and would like approval to try and sell them. Commissioner McLean motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried.

New Business:

- Commissioner Mirras discussed when it comes to the budget there are a few changes we have to make. When insurance payments come in to have a separate line item so it doesn't interfere with regular repairs. We have also gotten away from budget code transfers, there should not be any negative numbers on the reports. We need to get back to doing things properly with the budget code transfers. Commissioner Mirras is suggesting maybe a separate category for insurance proceeds (money coming in) and the expense for the repair. The expenses would be an offset against the insurance claim.
- Chairman Schoen received a complaint from a member that the kitchen was left a mess, the grill not properly cleaned, etc., thought it was disgusting. What do we want to do? Have Chief tell kitchen committee, have us close kitchen or keep open to certain events that we have some sort of control over or do we disregard. Vice- Chairman Wright also had a similar complaint from a different member. He remembers about 3-4 years ago we had the kitchen professionally cleaned and the district paid for it. We could get it done again but would rather put the money into the renovation. Commissioner Mirras stated first bring is to have the chief bring it up at the next department meeting and see where it goes from there. If nothing is done than we take action.

- Brent Becker and Rex Martin have both signed their contracts for next year. Now we have to give them a signed one in return. Chairman Schoen will sign off, give them a signed copy and give Ms. Lucas one to put in each of their personal folders.
- Chairman Schoen is hesitant to bring this up because it reflects on the conversation we had with the auditors and their LOSAP commentary. The department by-laws has a section of what a year of good standing is; 4 meeting, 4 drills, 4 co. meetings, 4 co. drills, 8 training, 11 miscellaneous and 10% of calls. However in the past 5 years, the chiefs in 2 years arbitrarily gave everyone good standing points. Under no criticism at all one chief at last meeting stated they are under no obligation to send out letters reminding people of their shortcomings of points and they are right. There is no requirement for it. However in the interest of all members we have removed individuals for not having 2 years of good standing points yet we have other individuals that have not had 2 years of good standing not be removed. That is not fair. Chairman Schoen is proposing and it's certainly open for discussion, the district establish it's own mirroring the departments by-laws as they are right now and put in the responsibility of informing these people of their shortcomings of points and removal of said persons for 2yrs of not having good standing. It takes that responsibility off the shoulders of the current chief and future chiefs and eliminates the possibility of what happened 3 yrs ago. The sitting chief at the time arbitrarily gave everyone good standing points which led to a lot of argument. Vice-Chairman Wright stated this happened during COVID and we didn't want people coming to meetings. We didn't want to put that many people in a room together. Chairman Schoen stated meetings were held outside. Vice-Chairman Wright noted it was done for a good solid reason. They were telling people to stay home and not get together in groups during COVID. That decision was made during the height of COVID and he believes was not a bad thing. Chairman Schoen stated the feedback from all the people that did earn their points that year were very upset because they put forth the effort and earned their good standing points and others didn't and they felt put upon. Chief Glogg noted the department did not have monthly meetings in January, February, March, April because it was too cold. There was no company meetings/drills. NO department drills either. Chief stated everyone would have been kicked out of the department for not making good standing points for 2 years. The department never met, the Commissioner's met either outside or by Zoom, LOSAP has nothing to do with good standing. Vice-Chairman Wright noted the Chief's have always made the decision about good standing, he has leeway in good standing points and feels the district should not step in. Commissioner Marino remembers before he left his term both points were very similar and the Chiefs asked them to be changed because the LOSAP points were too stringent and they wanted to have control of the membership and the board agreed to that. Where the Chief ran the good standing in the fire department and the district just does the LOSAP. Commissioner Mirras talked about not allowing the chiefs to go into the system to put points in and Chairman Schoen stated that is already in effect. Commissioner Mirras stated after looking at the points the chief is allowed to give up to 3 points per existing by-laws. Again the past is the past and now it's about moving forward. We just need to make sure it is done fairly. Chairman Schoen asked how is that going to be done? Commissioner Mirras noted since the district inputs the points and the chief after looking at the points can give up to 3 points the district will ultimately be responsible for the points in the end. Chairman Schoen wanted to clarify how this will work, he used this example; if there are members in the department who have failed to have good standing for two consecutive years and the chief fails to bring them to our attention to dismiss then the district should dismiss them? Commissioner Mirras agreed. We can not pick or choose who gets dismissed because then someone could turn around and sue.

- Chairman Schoen motioned to purchase a recording device to be used at Commissioner meetings that can be used for storage so that if we have to go back 15 months to find out exactly what was said at a meeting and not make it dependent upon the minutes and a memory. Ms. Lucas stated we have one. Chairman Schoen asked if that goes back 2 years. Ms. Lucas explained the meetings get recorded and then she downloads them onto the computer. It has a USB device attached so she can download. Chairman Schoen stated there is no need for a recording device then. Also Chairman Schoen is going to suggest instead of the minutes being typed up two days before the meeting they be available for review within 5 business days of meeting date. Ms. Lucas agreed.
- Chairman Schoen asked Commissioner Mirras about 10 hour work days, he was going to research. Commissioner Mirras stated that is what is done at his firm. He believes it is a good thing and it may stop some overtime and be less of an overlap. It can be discussed how it would work in executive session. Chairman Schoen believes it is a good idea precisely for the purpose of the overtime situation.
- Chairman Schoen noted it was suggested to him and Vice-Chairman Wright that overtime be documented on some sort of form before it is given except for emergency situations. There needs to be a written record of approval, could be in an email setting too. Overtime can not just be done by the workers. It needs to be a written approval. Email seems to be the most efficient way. Commissioner McLean noted didn't we agree to approve and initial on their time card if an instance, emergency arose. Vice-Chairman Wright again noted it has to be in writing ahead of time unless an emergency.
- Chairman Schoen wants to place an ad for the district for a new auditing firm and annual LOSAP audit. This was suggested from the state auditors and if noting else it shows a good faith effort in obtaining a new firm. This should be done every 3 years.
- We have a proposal from Industrial Appraisal, Ms. Lucas will make copies and it will be discussed after executive session.
- Chairman Schoen mentioned we do not have another meeting scheduled until December 10th and that will not work. We will be going into executive session to discuss the Rough Draft Board oversight Report. Next week we can meet either Monday, Tuesday or Friday. Everyone agreed on Tuesday November 19th. Ms. Lucas will post on door and on website.

Chiefs Report:

- Chief Glogg explained Eddie Schnell came to him about the batteries that were bad for the radios. All the batteries we have that are no good are all under warranty. We only got them like a year ago. We can put in a claim for them and get new batteries. How many are there? He thinks there are about 10 of them. He believes they are from 2023. Send them back to Integrated Wireless stating they are under warranty. Eddie Schnell received some for the PD and they were also bad and he sent them all back.
- Two new people got voted into the department at the last department meeting, Kenny Sanchez 49- yes, 1- no and Justin Terry 46- yes, 4- no. Their background check was also completed and all good. Ms. Lucas already has copies of the applications. Commissioner Mirras motioned to accept them, seconded by Vice-Chairman Wright; motioned/passed/carried.
- Chief Glogg got word from the county asking what equipment we had and possibly sending manpower to the wildfires happening in Orange County, below Peekskill. We have a crew ready to go and Chief Joyce notified the County we have 2 engines, 2 tankers and a UTV available. He spoke with Chris, Chief of Amagansett who went up today. He believes they might need a UTV and possibly an engine. Nothing has come back from county requesting anything at this time until they do it's a little radio silence at the moment. One of the main fire

coordinators up there used to be the burn boss for the live burns on Eastlake. Some guys in our department have a relationship with him from back in the day. Amagansett, East Hampton, Southampton, East Marion, Islip, Dix Hills and Greenport all sent engines and tankers already. Chief is asking if we get word from county requesting apparatus's we supply them. The shift right now is 7am -7pm, leave at 1am from firehouse meet at Dix Hills with the county representative and caravan up. They are basically asking for one piece of apparatus and 5 members. It's the fire that the 18yr boy got killed from. Vice-Chairman Wright motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried. Chairman Schoen was curious if they ask for an engine which one would you send? It depends on who can go, if 4 guys from company 1 show up then probably 9-3-1 or if guys from company 2 then 9-3-4. If you take the Kubota what are you towing it with, the department pickup.

Chairman Schoen motioned to go into Executive Session regarding legal issues @ 19:25, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried.

Commissioner McLean motioned to go back into Regular session @ 20:32, seconded by Commissioner Mirras; motioned/passed/carried. Chairman Schoen passed out quote from Industrial Appraisal Company and we started looking it over, Commissioner Mirras clarified some information for Vice-Chairman Wright about standard life schedules, codes and salvage values. Commissioner Mirras explained to Ms. Lucas why he asked for the Capital improvements for the building, it's noted on the appraisal report. The starting point should be from our last audit. But they are saying they do not hold the records any longer. Ms. Lucas stated she has one for 2019. So anything from 2020 forward should suffice. If we do have than the proposal should be modified. Thursday at 2pm Commissioner Mirras, Chairman Schoen and Ms. Lucas are meeting with Bob Hauser to discuss what we need to do to get everything immediately satisfied with the state and then after 90 days will review again what we can do internally and he can do externally.

We are meeting next Tuesday and Chairman Schoen will get a rough draft together to how we are going to respond to this and send a hard copies out and to Joe Frank. Commissioner Mirras noted not to send to him yet until we make changes. First step is to contact Joe Frank to see if we can get an extension, if not then we are under a time crunch. Then he will send out a rough draft to everyone and meet next Tuesday to put final draft together and then send that to Joe Frank for his approval so we can get this thing done. Chairman Schoen asked if we can email this over to Terri-Ann. In the report Commissioner McLean stated it gives instructions. We can also ask if we send something as a good faith effort so it shows we are working on it. Also Chairman Schoen asked if we should let Terri-Ann know about what we found about the next report. Commissioner McLean says no, wait until it is given to us, but Vice-Chairman Wright noted we should at least bring up the Ernest (Ez) thing.

Commissioner McLean had a question, in the October 24th minutes it was noted that we received a FOIL request, have we responded to that. Ms. Lucas responded back within the 5 day time frame she is suppose to and stated that she received the request and will get the information if available to them by November 13th.

Vice-Chairman Wright motioned to adjourn @ 20:44 hours, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried.

Adjourned 20:44 hours