

**Montauk Fire District  
November 19, 2024**

**MINUTES**

**Commissioners Workshop Meeting 18:30 hours**

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

**Also Present:** Chief Glogg, 2<sup>nd</sup> Asst. Chief John McDonald and Secretary-Treasurer Dawn E Lucas.

**Call Meeting to Order:**

Chairman Schoen called the meeting to order at 16:30 hours and asked everyone to stand 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 November 12, 2024 Regular Commissioner Meeting, seconded by Vice-Chairman Wright; motioned/passed/carried.

**Purchase Requisitions:**

- A purchase requisition for work clothes for Brent and Rex totaling \$1,200, Vice-Chairman Wright motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried.

**Audit of Bills:**

- Treasurer's Report- September- Commissioner Mirras wanted to first state there is about \$350,000 left to spend, no big expenditures left and he believes there is enough to make it through the end of the year. But probably nothing will be left to increase the fund balance. Commissioner Mirras read the Building Reserve account balance is \$582,685.70 and we put quite a bit in for this coming year's budget. Vice-Chairman Wright stated he has two projects right now he is trying to get through, the Re-Pointing and Kitchen Projects, nothing new. Apparatus and Equipment Reserve account balance is \$2,222,605.37 and about \$500,000 for next year's budget. Commissioner Mirras also noted the apparatuses have been delayed. Overall Commissioner Mirras feels we are in good shape. Chairman Schoen noted don't expect the ambulance till April and the engines till October or November, tanker not sure of delivery date. We will have to purchase other equipment with extreme caution in the upcoming years. Commissioner Mirras motioned to accept Treasurer's report, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried. Commissioner Mirras also noted the Treasurer that was just hired, he is not doing the bank reconciliations, PIPS does them. Commissioner Mirras reviews them, he takes the 5 largest checks and checks them and then takes 5 random ones to check.

Vice-Chairman Wright also noted that he took a workshop on grants and feels we may be missing out on some opportunities and leaving money on the table. There are certain areas we may be able to snag like fireman's gear. Vice-Chairman Wright would like Ms. Lucas to look into the grant process. Chairman Schoen also noted to Ms. Lucas's responsibilities, in the past it seems that Brent has been doing a lot of research to items that have been approved by the board and that is not really his job, he is the head custodian, takes care of the building, the vehicles and everything else. Chairman Schoen does not want him doing that anymore. Commissioner Mirras was going to discuss that in executive session, so since it was brought up now that should be Dawn's job, Purchasing Agent not Brent, Board agreed.

- Ms. Lucas presented the bills totaling \$5,948.23, Commissioner McLean motioned to approve bills totaling \$5,948.23, seconded by Vice-Chairman Wright; motioned/passed/carried. Ms. Lucas added another bill for hood cleaning totaling \$425.00, Commissioner McLean motioned to approve, seconded by Vice-Chairman Wright; motioned/passed/carried.

**Workshop Topics:**

***Rough Draft Board Oversight Report- Discussion/Letter-*** discussed in Executive Session.

**Miscellaneous items:**

- Chairman Schoen asked Ms. Lucas if the ad went into the paper for an Auditing firm and LOSAP. Ms. Lucas said NO because it was already put into the paper and we had no responses.
- Chairman Schoen also stated we have an ongoing issue that both Vice-Chairman Wright and Commissioner Marino are aware of. We for some reason failed to get a CO for the back garage and are now pursuing that. Commissioner McLean asked how this came to our knowledge. He thought it was general knowledge that we never got a CO for that. General knowledge or not we still have to get a CO for it as per Chairman Schoen. Discussion arose about this and the board was talking all at once but heard through the chatter that Brent brought it to Chairman Schoen's attention that we need to get it.
- Chairman Schoen stated at last meeting we have an ongoing situation with one of our ALS people who have been suspended and it was suggested we send a letter to Dr. Ameres. However when Chairman Schoen spoke with our attorney, he suggested he call Dr. Ameres. He called numerous times and finally spoke with him on Saturday night. Dr. Ameres advised Chairman Schoen that he would not be inclined to reinstate him because Dr. Winslow who is the medical director for all of Suffolk County has advised him to maintain the suspension until the investigation is completed. Chairman Schoen then stated we will not be writing a letter to Dr. Ameres. Commissioner McLean asked for a point of clarification with Dr. Winslow, was Dr. Ameres ordered by Dr. Winslow, or recommended or suggested. Chairman Schoen stated Dr. Winslow advised Dr. Ameres to maintain suspension.
- Chairman Schoen asked Ms. Lucas if the information requested in an email from Bob Hauser was completed. Ms. Lucas stating she is working on it with him.
- Chairman Schoen put in three phone calls to Terri-Ann Santana-Farrugia, Auditor, Office of the State Comptroller and spoke with Joe Frank about extensions. He was told by Joe Frank to give Ira McCracken, Chief Of Muncial Audits, Office of the State Comptroller a call. Chairman Schoen also had a few more questions for Terri and she told him that extensions are not normal as did Joe Frank. Terri also told Chairman Schoen that if you wanted to request an extension you probably could but not normally the way it's done. The board will go into Executive Session to discuss this further later on in the meeting.

- Chairman Schoen noted next District Officer's Dinner is November 26<sup>th</sup> in Sag Harbor. All Commissioners will be away except for Commissioner Mirras and Chairman Schoen, they both plan on attending.
- Chairman Schoen presented a proposal for a new Appraisal Company for doing and upgrading ours. Our current appraisal Company Industrial Appraisal can not provide the information needed as per Bob Hauser. Bob Hauser contacted another company that he has dealt with for years and that quote came in half as much as our current company, who can't give us what we need. We need a motion to approve this company, Appraisal Affiliate. Vice-Chairman Wright motioned to approve Appraisal Affiliate as our appraisal company at a cost of \$2,250.00, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried. Commissioner McLean asked if we could add in the name of the appraisal company and cost. Ms. Lucas added in the information for the record.

**Chiefs Report:**

- Chief Glogg noted it was just brought to his attention that the ambulance company needs new turnout gear. No pricing information yet. Chairman Schoen stated to bring it up at next meeting then.
- Chief Glogg asked if Commissioner Mirras or Vice-Chairman Wright was in charge of department personal, answer was Commissioner Mirras. Chief Glogg noted he is hearing different chatter about certain individuals going to Commissioners to put a complaint in, which is out of the chain of command. Also the chief is hearing that you can FOIL any body cam footage you want. This discussion continued in Executive Session.

Vice-Chairman Wright motioned to go into Executive Session @ 18:43 hrs to discuss personnel seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried.

Chairman Schoen motioned to go back into Regular Session @ 19:05 hrs, seconded by Commissioner Marino; motioned/passed/carried.

Chairman Schoen motioned to go back into Executive Session @ 19:14 hrs to discuss legal issues, seconded by Vice-Chairman Wright; motioned/passed/carried.

Commissioner Mirras motioned to go back into Regular Session @ 20:22 hours, seconded by Commissioner Marino, motioned/passed/carried. Commissioner Mirras noted he did not have a chance to go over the Statutory Spending Limitation, the auditors never did this and the state auditors never asked specifically for anything like this. Commissioner Mirras will review, ask the state if this is required and get back to the board.

Commissioner Marino motioned to adjourn meeting @ 20:26 hrs, seconded by Vice Chairman Wright; motioned/passed/carried.

**Adjourned 20:26 hours**