

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1
35 Belle Mead-Griggstown Road, P.O. Box 130
Belle Mead, N.J. 08502**

Meeting Minutes of May 12, 2026

Call to Order – The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order at the firehouse at 7:30 p.m. by Commissioner Spohn, following proof of publication in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. The Annual Meeting Notice was published in the Courier News (official newspaper of the district) and provided to the Montgomery News and Packet Publications, filed with the municipal clerk, posted at the Montgomery Township municipal building, the Board's website, offices and provided to any person requesting same prior to the meeting.

Roll Call – Upon Roll Call the following commissioners were present: Commissioners Phil Adams, William Hyncik and William Spohn. Absent: Commissioners Michael Parise and Ricky Puleio Jr.

Also present: Chief Rich Kennedy, Bookkeeper Lynn Franchino and Attorney Eric Perkins. Absent Engineer Frank Wendling III

Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the April 14th 2026 meeting were presented.

Motion to approve the minutes of the April 14th board meeting was made by Commissioner Hyncik; 2nd by Commissioner Adams. Motion passed without objection.

Public Comment – None

Meeting Updates –

Emergency Services –No meeting last month.

Fire Prevention – No meeting.

Rescue Task Force- No report.

Financial Disclosure Reporting Chairman Spohn noted that the township clerk sent each commissioner a thank you note for promptly filing the annual required State financial disclosure forms with the DCA by the April 30th deadline.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Monthly Bills/ Financial Statement Review – A copy of the Treasurer's report, attached hereto and incorporated as part of these minutes, was made available to each Commissioner with a listing and description of bills to be paid.

Administration: Elections: \$1,328.62; Office Expense-Other: \$398.00.

TOTAL ADMINISTRATION: \$1,726.62.

Operations: General Operating Expenses: \$980.70; Rental Charges/Apparatus Housing: \$13,619.00; General Operating Expenses/Maintenance and Repairs: \$3,459.97; Training and Education: \$7,887.64; Utilities: \$4,620.67.

TOTAL OPERATIONS: \$30,567.98.

TOTAL ADMINISTRATION and OPERATIONS: \$32,294.60.

(Additional detail regarding accounts charged and vendors is contained in the Treasurers Report)

RESOLUTION 2026-17 Payment of Bills

Upon certification that there are sufficient encumbered and unencumbered funds in the FY 2026 budget to pay the bills as presented and having designated the accounts to which each should be charged, authorization is granted to pay the bills as set forth in the Treasurer's report and FY2026 Encumbered Check Detail, allocated to the various administration, operating and capital accounts. Total bills to be paid in the amount of \$32,294.60.

Motion to approve accept the Treasurer's report and approve payment of the bills by Commissioner Hyncik, 2nd by Commissioner Adams. Resolution Ayes: Hyncik, Adams, and Spohn. Nays: None

Chairman Spohn moved the transfer of \$50,000.00 from the investment account to the checking account. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Adams and approved by a unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Training Facility: No update was available on construction progress in the absence of Commissioner Puleio. Chairman Spohn circulated a draft lease with a rental of \$400.00 per month with the fire company for the use of the training center. The proposed lease term is six years, commencing on June 1, 2026 and ending on May 31, 2032. Commissioner Hyncik moved a resolution approving the lease and

authorizing the Chairman to sign it on behalf of the BOFC. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion and it was adopted by a vote of 3-0.

LOSAP : No report was available in the absence of Commissioner Parise. Letters have not yet been sent to the eighteen account holders who did not vest and are no longer responding to calls. Efforts will continue to issue the letters in the next month.

New Apparatus: No update.

Generator Replacement: No update

Brush Truck: No update.

Response Incentive Program: Chairman Spohn reviewed the proposed revamped program which is designed to improve member call response. Under the revised program, members who respond to at least 50 calls will receive \$5.00 per call for each subsequent call. Members who participate in the duty night program will receive credit for \$5.00 for each duty night. The program will have a cap of \$1,500.00 per member. Members who participate in the program shall not be considered employees. The proposed program will continue to be reviewed.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Kennedy reported that there were 26 calls for service in the month of April. The calls were of diverse nature and included a structure fire, a car into a house, brush fires and a gas leak.

Drills included the monthly meeting truck checks, a fire critique, pump training, a rolling response drill and an extrication refresher session.

The Chief provided an update on the issue of the township fuel pumps being out of service due to construction. The limits on access while tight have not been an issue and the apparatus have continued to fuel at the pumps.

Chief Kennedy noted that the FDIC annual convention was a huge success with six members attending the meetings/training sessions last week.

The Somerset County upgrade of its radio resources will likely take place this August or September and will require some reprogramming of company radios over the coming months. The cost of the reprogramming of the BOFC radios is unknown. Chairman Spohn asked if there were any grant monies available to cover these costs. Chief Kennedy will look into the remaining grant monies.

Car 45-1 is still waiting for parts so that it can be outfitted by East Coast.

The By-laws have been fully revised and adopted. New policies and procedures are under review. This review was suggested by the insurance carrier.

The Chief requested approval to purchase three pair of fire gloves from Fire Penny in the amount of \$118.95 each for a total of \$356.85. This quote was lower than the quotes received from the Fire Store and Fire and Safety. Commissioner Adams moved approval. Second by Commissioner Hyncik and unanimously approved.

In reviewing future purchase requests Chief Kennedy provided updated information on the SCBA bottles. The bottles need to be replaced every 15 years. They cannot be recertified after that date. The present bottles will all need to be replaced in 2029. The present cost of a bottle is \$1,800 each. The total number of bottles to be replaced was not available at the meeting. The SCBA pack units are on a different replacement schedule. No certain date for replacement of the packs is known at this time however the Chief suggested that the BOFC plan for replacement in 2033/2034.

Engineers Report

Engineer Frank Wendling electronically submitted a written report to the Board.

45-3 - F&SS replaced the battery and cleaned the charging terminals for the deluge gun remote. It now functions normally. F&SS also looked at the rear discharge which was reported to be leaking. They found no leak, just residual water in the plumbing.

T45 - F&SS diagnosed the hydraulic leak as a leaking bleed cap on the lift cylinder. The cap was repaired.

R45 - A problem was reported with the front jaws rewind button. No issue could be found.

U45 - Oil change completed.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, June 9th, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.