

**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 April 14, 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, Ricky Puleio Jr., Michael Parise and William Spohn.

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

Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the March 10th 2026 meeting were presented.

Motion to approve the minutes of the March 10th 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 each commissioner is required to file the State financial disclosure form with the DCA by April 30. Each commissioner should receive a reminder from the township clerk. If anyone has any difficulty, please notify attorney Perkins. Chair Spohn and Commissioner Hyncik have already filed.

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: \$5,000.00; Banking: \$20.00; Office Expense-Other: \$60.36.

TOTAL ADMINISTRATION: \$5,080.36.

Operations: General Operating Expenses: \$1,265.23; Insurance: \$31,234.00; Rental Charges/Apparatus Housing: \$13,619.00; General Operating Expenses/Maintenance and Repairs: \$316.49; Supplies: \$1,382.08; Training and Education: \$575.00; Turn-out Gear: \$320.00; Utilities: \$3,763.69.

TOTAL OPERATIONS: \$57,555.85.

TOTAL ADMINISTRATION and OPERATIONS: \$57,555.85.

PRIOR YEAR (FY25) ENCUMBERANCE PAYMENTS: \$10,029.12 (\$940.00 Capital/ Training Center; \$6054.78 Turn-out gear; General Operating 3 and 4 qtr fuel: \$3,034.34)

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

RESOLUTION 2026-15 Payment of Bills

Upon certification that there are sufficient encumbered and unencumbered funds in the FY 2025 and FY 2026 budgets 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 FY2025 and FY2026 Encumbered Check Details, allocated to the various administration, operating and capital accounts. Total bills to be paid in the amount of \$57,555.85 (FY 26) and \$10,029.12 FY25).

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

Chairman Spohn moved the transfer of \$100,000.00 from the investment account to the checking account. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Adams and approved by a unanimous vote. The transfer amount includes the listed bills and the FY 25 LOSAP payment.

Commissioner Hyncik reported that he had renewed a T-bill with RVC for a 6-month term at an interest rate of 3.9%.

OLD BUSINESS

Training Facility: Commissioner Puleio reported on the on-going discussions with the fire company for the completion of the improvements to the training center. The BOFC will enter a contract with the contractor to re-roof the structure in the amount of \$17,000. The fire company will cover the cost of other improvements not to exceed \$25,000.00. The BOFC will execute a six-year lease for \$400 a month with the fire company for the use of the training center.

LOSAP : Commissioner Parise read through the list of former members who have dormant accounts and may not have vested. There are 24 accounts in question, six of whom may have vested elsewhere. Letters will be sent to the eighteen account holders who did not vest and are no longer responding to calls.

Commissioner Parise made a motion to pay the 2025 LOSAP assessments in the amount of \$48,576.00 to the individual member accounts. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hyncik and unanimously approved.

Workers Compensation Site Audit: The audit has been completed with a representative of the insurance company. The audit report has not yet been received.

New Apparatus: No update.

Generator Replacement: The existing approved capital appropriation of \$75,000 is likely not sufficient to complete the project. Efforts to develop bid specifications will be initiated. Commissioner Hyncik may be able to provide a source contact.

NEW BUSINESS

Brush Truck: Chairman Spohn reported that he signed the contract pursuant to the BOFC resolution of last month.

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.

Election Costs: The BOFC reviewed the increase in election/referendum costs. The main cause of the increase was the number of mail-in ballots. Once a person requests a mail-in ballot he/she will receive a mail-in ballot for all subsequent elections unless he/she advises that county Board of Elections to stop sending ballots. This likely means that the cost of mail-in ballots will continue to increase

over the coming years. The BOFC also discussed the use of information campaigns for future budget cycles to educate citizens on the value received for the fire tax.

CHIEF'S REPORT

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

Drills included the monthly meeting truck checks, pump/ladder drills, pump training, hose/ladder rescue competition and a pump hose drill and apparatus refresher sessions.

The Chief noted that the township fuel pumps will be out of service from April 20 to the 27th. Trucks will be fueled at the local stations for this brief period.

Six members will attend the FDIC meeting/training session next week.

The Chief and his officers have agreed to a new program where they will each cover 12 hour weekend shifts beginning Friday nights to ensure appropriate call supervision over the weekend periods.

Somerset County is continuing to upgrade its radio resources and this will require some reprogramming of company radios over the coming months.

The shoe guides and dolly for the snow plow have been ordered through Advantage Motors.

Car 45-1 will be outfitted by East Coast during the next five or six weeks.

The Chief requested approval to purchase replacement medical supplies/ kits in the amount of \$1,600.00 and AED batteries and equipment in the amount of \$1,900.00. Commissioner Hyncik made a motion to approve the purchases. Commissioner Puleio seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Engineers Report

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

45-2- The foam controller is not working.

45-3- The remote-control deck gun is inoperable; the apparatus is otherwise in service.

R45- a leaking drain pipe has been repaired.

T45- The dump valve has been repaired.

Engineer Wendling is attempting to obtain quotes and schedule the annual PM's for the apparatus from the appropriate vendors.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, May 12th, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.