

**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 June 9th, 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 William Hyncik, Michael Parise, Ricky Puleio Jr. and William Spohn. Absent: Commissioners Phil Adams.

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

Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the May 12th 2026 meeting were presented.

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 12th board meeting was made by Commissioner Hyncik; 2nd by Commissioner Puleio. Motion passed without objection.

Public Comment – None

Meeting Updates –

Emergency Services –Chairman Spohn and Chief Kennedy attended the meeting. Somerset County has indicated that it will no longer assume responsibility for the coordination of the Rescue Task Force. Each municipality/ Board of Fire Commissioners will determine if they will continue to participate in the RTF. The Montgomery Police Department stated that they would remain in the RTF. BOFC 46 appears likely to continue as well. Montgomery EMS was uncertain. Chairman Spohn noted that the BOFC has already invested in the RTF through the purchase of gear (vests/helmets) through the turn-out gear budget. Future costs will be incurred as this equipment needs to be replaced. There is no estimate as to what this may cost as it will likely be spread over a number of years. It is possible that the BOFC might be able to apply for a State grant to cover the cost of the equipment. Chief Kennedy indicated that he was in favor of continuing.

The 128-page township emergency plan was also discussed. The plan must be updated every 3 years. The plan addresses emergency water rescues among other emergencies. It was noted that the police department now has water rescue equipment and will work with the fire departments in emergencies. Joint training exercises will need to be scheduled and conducted. The water rescue suits have a life expectancy of 5 to 6 years. They need to be maintained at least twice a year. Maintenance should be scheduled with other equipment schedules.

Fire Prevention – No meeting.

Rescue Task Force- No report.

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: Bookkeeping \$2,350.00; Office Expense-Other: \$1452.67; Professional Services: \$4,475.00.

TOTAL ADMINISTRATION: \$8,277.67.

Operations: General Operating Expenses: \$110.03; Rental Charges/Apparatus Housing: \$13,619.00; General Operating Expenses/Maintenance and Repairs: \$3,464.53; Utilities: \$2,557.26.

TOTAL OPERATIONS: \$19,749.82.

TOTAL ADMINISTRATION and OPERATIONS: \$28,027.49.

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

RESOLUTION 2026-18 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 \$28,027.49.

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

Chairman Hyncik moved the transfer of \$75,000.00 from the investment account to the checking account. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Parise and approved by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Franchino noted that she has invoiced the fire company for their contribution to the insurance premiums. She will follow up with treasurer Brian Voss.

Attorney Perkins reported that the FY 2026 budget has been certified to the township tax collector. He thanked Commissioner Adams for his assistance with DCA in obtaining the certification document.

OLD BUSINESS

Training Facility: Commissioner Puleio reported that the lease has been executed by all parties. Construction should begin in July/August. Fire Company treasurer Brian Voss will invoice the BOFC for the lease payments for the balance of the year. The dumpster and concrete will be ordered and invoiced to the BOFC separately.

LOSAP: Commissioner Parise reported that he will send out an initial letter to twenty former members whose LOSAP contributions may be subject to forfeiture. Future action will await the response to the letters.

New Apparatus: No update.

Generator Replacement: No update. The Chief indicated that he will begin research on this project as time allows.

Brush Truck: No update.

Response Incentive Program: No update

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Kennedy reported that there were 24 calls for service in the month of May. Calls included a major motor vehicle accident on June 4th.

Drills included the monthly meeting truck checks, a fire critique and pump training.

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

The Chief requested approval to purchase five SEEK, hands free, thermal imaging cameras at a cost of \$1,299.00 per unit from The Fire Store which provided the low

quote. The three current TICs are assigned to the officers. The new TICs will be assigned to the lower ranking officers. He also requested approval to purchase 2 RIT SCOTT packs at a cost \$5,496.65 per unit from N.J. Fire Equipment the sole source provider. The RIT packs will be placed on the ladder truck and on an engine. The last purchase request was for three boxes of FireWrap at a cost of \$25.00 a box. Commissioner Parise moved approval of the purchases. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hyncik and unanimously approved.

Chief Kennedy provided updated information on the SCBA bottle replacement that he provided at last month's meeting. The present bottles will all need to be replaced in 2029. The present cost of a bottle is \$1,800 each and there are 60 bottles to be replaced. The replacement bottles should be on State contract.

The SCBA pack units themselves will need to be replaced in the 2033/2034 timeframe. The present replacement cost is \$10,500.00 per pack and will undoubtedly increase over the next years. At the current price replacement of all of the packs would cost \$336,000.00. This would require a capital referendum.

Engineers Report

Engineer Frank Wendling reported that Engine 45-3 had an issue with tire wear. The tires were wearing on the inside. The apparatus has been re-aligned.

The pump panel light switch was repaired on the tanker.

Warranty repairs were completed on the Tahoe command vehicles.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, July 14th, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.