

**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 July 12, 2022

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: William Hyncik, Eric Lemon, Michael Parise, Ricky Puleio and William Spohn.

Also present: Attorney Eric Perkins, Treasurer Lynn Franchino and Chief Kevin Schroeck. Absent: QPA Bill Newberry.

Guest: Jon Kessler

Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the June 14, 2022 meeting were presented.

Motion to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2022 board meeting was made by Commissioner Lemon; 2nd by Commissioner Puleio. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment – None

Meeting Updates –

Emergency Services – No meeting last month

Fire Prevention – No meeting last month

Rescue Task Force- No meeting last month

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: None

TOTAL ADMINISTRATION: None

Operations: General Operating: General Operating: Other \$35.96; Maintenance & Repairs: \$661.14; Rental Charges/Apparatus Housing: \$12,500.00; Utilities: \$2,288.89.

TOTAL OPERATIONS: \$15,485.95.

TOTAL OPERATIONS and ADMINISTRATION : \$15,485.95

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

RESOLUTION 2022-18 Payment of Bills

Upon certification that there are sufficient encumbered and unencumbered funds in the FY22 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 FY2022 Encumbered Check Detail in the total amount of \$15,485.95 allocated to the various administration and operating accounts.

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

Abstention noted for Chairman Spohn for items for Sunrise Office Systems pursuant to annual notice.

PURCHASING OFFICER'S REPORT

QPA Newberry submitted a written report. The two 2022 Chevy Tahoe command vehicles are at the dealership awaiting the installation of Whelen emergency equipment. There is no estimated date for completion and delivery.

The radio straps have been shipped directly to the firehouse. Mr. Newberry found an alternate vendor for the RAM mounts. They will be ordered from Wireless Communication. No delivery information is available at this time. The portable radio chargers approved at the June meeting are on backorder with no delivery date is available.

NEW BUSINESS

Tanker/Pumper Committee: Commissioner Puleio reported on the committee's deliberations. Consideration is being given to the purchase of a dedicated tanker or pumper with a larger tank. An extended discussion took place including a

discussion of the size of the prospective apparatus given the number of narrow roads and driveways in the district. It is reasonable to conclude that a significant section of the district will never be serviced by public water improvements. The size of equipment compartments is reduced if the apparatus includes a larger tank. The extended lead/build time for the construction of the apparatus must also be taken into consideration. It may be necessary to seek voter approval this year to order an apparatus in 2023. The committee will continue its deliberations and report back to the BOFC at the August meeting.

Training Facility Improvements: Jon Kessler presented the Board with a plan to modify a structure owned by the fire company on property adjacent to the fire house. The proposed modifications would create a multi-purpose training facility. The project will be completed in various stages over the coming year. The first phase will include the installation of a concrete floor. Quotes have been obtained from two vendors. Suggestions were made to investigate other possible vendors. Commissioner Puleio agreed to meet with the township building inspector to determine what permits would be required for the project.

Chairman Spohn made a motion to approve the sum of \$17,000 for the floor project. Commissioner Hyncik seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the Board. The matter will be re-visited at the August meeting after additional information is available.

OLD BUSINESS

Fire Company Agreement: Chairman Spohn noted that he had incorrectly reported the expiration date of the existing agreement. The agreement between the BOFC and the fire company will expire at the end of December 2023. Discussions with the fire company leadership to develop a successor agreement will continue.

NJ American Rescue Plan Firefighter Grant Program: The terms of the program were reviewed, and it was agreed that a grant application would be submitted in the amount of \$60,000.00 for various items of PPE.

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners, Montgomery Township Fire District No. 1 desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for approximately \$60,000.00 to carry out a project to purchase certain firefighter personal protective equipment (PPE); now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED

- 1) That the Board of Fire Commissioners, Montgomery Township Fire District No. 1 does hereby authorize the application for such grant; and
- 2) Recognizes and accepts that the Department may offer a lesser or greater amount and therefore, upon receipt of the grant agreement from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, does further authorize the execution of any such grant agreement; and also, upon receipt of the fully

executed agreement from the Department, does further authorize the expenditure of funds pursuant to the terms of the agreement between the Board of Fire Commissioners, Montgomery Township, Fire District No. 1 and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that William Spohn, Chairman and Commissioner William Hyncik are authorized to sign the application, and that they or their successors in said titles are authorized to sign the agreement, and any other documents necessary in connection therewith.

The above resolution was moved by Chairman Spohn and seconded by Commissioner Parise. The resolution was approved by a unanimous vote of the board.

FY2021 Audit: The auditor will begin work on the audit in the coming weeks.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Schroeck reported that there were 26 calls in the month of June. In addition to the normal business meeting and truck cleaning, drills included an extrication exercise and a joint medivac demonstration with Squad 47, Stations 46 and 53. The drill was held at Princeton Airport and included a landing of the Northstar helicopter and a review of emergency response practices.

The Chief noted that the utility truck was inspected at Beyer Fleet last week to discuss placement of lighting and graphics. As reported last month delivery will be delayed until November to replace the improper compartment doors.

The municipal permits have been issued for the installation of the washer and dryer. The installation plan has been revised and there is no longer a need for roof penetration.

Chief Schroeck reported that additional members have indicated an interest in swiftwater rescue training. He noted that the required gear must be fitted to the member to whom it is assigned. He requested approval to purchase five sets of gear from Firefighter One at a cost of \$1,977.67, for a total cost of \$9,088.35.

The on-going review of the rescue air bags found that the existing bags had been purchased in 2005/2006. The NFPA standard for replacement is ten years. The manufacturer recommends replacement at 15 years. After an extensive review with the line officers, the Chief recommended the purchase of two different models of Paratech Airbags from Continental Fire Service under state contract in the amount of \$19,672.60. It was noted that the final price would be reduced as credit will be applied for the trade-in of some of the existing bags.

Commissioner Hyncik moved a resolution approving purchase requisitions in the amount of \$9,088.35 for swiftwater gear and \$19,672.60 for Paratech Airbags. The resolution was seconded by Commissioner Lemon and approved by a unanimous vote of the board.

Engineers Report

Tanker 45: The new air compressor is operational, but a number of small leaks have been noted in the system. F&SS has been contacted to trouble shoot and repair the leaks.

Engine 45-3: F&SS is still waiting for the replacement Master intakes and anodes. No delivery date is known at this time. The apparatus air conditioning is not functioning; F&SS has been contacted to repair.

Rescue 45: Red-Line modification of the apparatus to fabricate and install brackets to accommodate the new rescue jacks is more than 50% complete.

SS45: The apparatus PTO seal kit awaits installation by Harlingen Garage. Assessment of the onboard battery charger and all of the lights to determine if they need to be replaced due to water damage is also pending. Redline Fabrication will provide a quote for emergency light installation after the electric system is repaired.

Commissioner Lemon continues to work to obtain a salvage title for the apparatus from DMV.

Chairman Spohn agreed to contact the township fire official to determine if the district fine money can be utilized to purchase additional tablets for assignment to apparatus.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Parise moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Commissioner Hyncik seconded the motion, and it was unanimously adopted. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, August 9th, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.