

**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 October 13, 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 Puleio, 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 and R. Puleio. Commissioner W. Spohn was absent.

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

**Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the September 13, 2022 meeting were presented.

*Motion to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2022 board meeting was made by Commissioner Lemon; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Parise. Motion passed unanimously.*

**Public Comment** – None

**Meeting Updates** –

Emergency Services – No meeting last month

Fire Prevention – A meeting is scheduled for October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Rescue Task Force- A joint RTF drill was held in early October. Chief Schroeck expects the RTF to be activated within the next 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: Office Expenses: \$390.00.

TOTAL ADMINISTRATION: \$390.00.

Operations: General Operating- Other: \$324.04; General Operating-Maintenance & Repairs: \$6,113.99; Rental Charges/Apparatus Housing: \$12,500.00; Supplies: \$409.50; Training and Education: \$800.00; Utilities: \$2,463.14.

TOTAL OPERATIONS: \$22,610.67.

TOTAL OPERATIONS and ADMINISTRATION: \$23,000.67

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

### **RESOLUTION 2022-22 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 FY22 Encumbered Check Detail in the total amount of \$23,000.67 allocated to the various administration and operating accounts.*

*Motion to approve accept the Treasurer's report and approve payment of the bills by Commissioner Lemon, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Parise. Resolution Ayes: 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**

Mr. Newberry indicated that he is working with the Chief regarding the sizing for the turnout gear approved at last months meeting. A purchase order will be issued once the sizing is confirmed.

The two 2022 Chevy Tahoe command vehicles remain at the dealership. All of the equipment for upgrading the vehicles has been delivered. The dealership indicates that the upgrade equipment will be installed, and vehicles will delivered within one month. It was noted that the boxes for the vehicles should be delivered shortly.

Mr. Newberry continues to work with Ron Gerschel from Montgomery EMS to purchase the pulse oxygen machines. He is waiting for confirmation from Ron before placing the order.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Pumper Committee:** Commissioner Lemon reported that he was unable to obtain an estimated price for the proposed vehicle. The committee is recommending that the new apparatus be equipped with a SAMS (Scene A Management System) and a Hale Q-Max pump. In the view of the committee, the SAMS system has many advanced technological features and represents the future of the fire service. The system will not allow the pump to cavitate, will draw its own prime and permits a firefighter to draw and regulate water flow from the nozzle without the involvement of the pump operator. It is anticipated that the apparatus manufacturer will charge extra for the installation of the SAMS system. At the present time Pierce is in the process of building its first two apparatus with the SAMS system. The system has been installed in approximately 99 trucks since it was introduced in 2018.

After extended discussion it was agreed to place the purchase of the apparatus on the ballot for voter approval in the amount of \$1.3 million dollars. It was noted that if the apparatus is approved in February 2023, it will not be delivered until the end of 2024.

**Training Facility Improvements:** Commissioner Puleio reported the contractor will provide a revised quote. The project will be delayed into the first months of 2023. It was suggested that the improvements be considered a capital project and placed on the ballot with the new pumper. It was agreed that the sum of \$100,000 be requested to fund the entire project.

**Fire Company Agreement:** Discussions continue. It was noted that the agreement does not expire until December 31, 2023.

**FY2021 Audit:** The auditor reports that the audit she has not started on the work. It is possible a special meeting will be required to formally accept the audit.

**Generator Replacement:** No report

**Tablet Purchase:** Awaiting purchase of three tablets by the township to be paid for the from fine money receipts.

**Fire District Election Date:** A meeting on the subject will take place in the coming months.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**FIRE PREVENTION OPEN HOUSE:** Commissioner Puleio reminded the board that an open house has been scheduled at Station 45 for the hours of 6 to 9 p.m. on October 20<sup>th</sup> in connection with Fire Prevention Month.

**FY 23 Budget:** Commissioner Puleio led the board in a review of the draft document that Chair Spohn had distributed to the BOFC. The budget contains a 2% increase in apparatus housing. It was noted that the election expense needs to be increased to \$8,000.00 as actual costs in FY 22 were \$6,584.00. The insurance premiums were increased by \$5,000.00. The turnout gear line item was reduced by \$15,000.00. The Chief indicated that this could be problematic given the increasing cost of PPE. He also suggested that the board consider including funding for per diem firefighters. The budget review will continue at the November meeting.

### **CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Schroeck reported that there were 25 calls in the month of September. In addition to the normal business meeting and truck cleaning, the company conducted standpipe and extrication drills.

There is no update on the utility truck delivery.

The Chief is working with the washer/dryer vendor to schedule time to go over the instructions for the operation of the new machines.

Chief Schroeck requested the purchase of two additional sets of fire gear in the amount of \$5,695.00 per set. He also requested the purchase of radio accessories, body litter and tactical backpacks for the RTF in the amount of \$574.96. Additionally, he requested the purchase of a rescue raft (\$3,220.63) and five pagers (\$2,505.00). Commissioner Puleio moved a resolution approving the purchase of the fire gear, radio accessories, body litter and tactical backpacks. Commissioner Lemon seconded the motion which was then approved by a unanimous vote. The purchase of the raft and pagers was tabled for reconsideration at the November meeting.

### **Engineers Report**

Tanker 45: F&SS completed the annual PM on September 30<sup>th</sup>. A list of repairs has been provided and will be addressed.

Engine 45-2: The annual PM for the apparatus will be scheduled with Absolute Fire Protection during October.

Engine 45-3: The master intakes and anodes have been delivered and will be installed the week of October 17th by F&SS.

Rescue 45: Red-Line Fabrication is waiting for the new airbags to be delivered so that the holding brackets can be installed.

SS45: The parts required for the transmission rebuild have been delivered. Raritan Repair indicates that the rebuild should begin this week.

Tablets: Redline Fabrication has been contacted to install the bracket holders.

Apparatus Weather Protection: MILSPRAY applied the underbody protection spray to all apparatus on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

Hydraulic Tool P/M: TASC performed the annual hydraulic inspection and service on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Parise moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 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, November 8th, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.