

**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 February 10, 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, Ricky Puleio Jr., Phil Adams and William Spohn.
Absent: Commissioner Michael Parise

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

Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the January 13th, 2026 meeting were presented.

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 13th board meeting was made by Commissioner Adams; 2nd by Commissioner Spohn. Motion passed without objection.

Public Comment – None

Meeting Updates –

Emergency Services –An informal meeting was held in advance of the snowstorm on January 24th.

Fire Prevention – No meeting.

Rescue Task Force- No 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: \$600.00 (FY26)

TOTAL ADMINISTRATION: \$600.00

Operations: Apparatus Housing: \$13,619.00 (FY26); General Operating: \$2,064.67 (FY26); Maintenance and Repairs: \$2,018.49 (FY26); Training and Education: \$6,864.68 (FY26); Utilities: \$5,995.61(FY26)

TOTAL OPERATIONS: \$30,562.45

ENCUMBERED EXPENDITURES: Training \$2069.73 (FY25); Training \$6,000.00 (FY24); Contingency\$3,378.16 (FY25); General Operating \$255.00 (FY25); Turn Out Gear \$1,196.00 (FY25).

CAPITAL OUTLAYS: \$280.00 (Chief and Deputy Chief command vehicles)

TOTAL ADMINISTRATION, OPERATIONS, ENCUMBERED EXPENDITURES and CAPITAL OUTLAYS: \$44,341.34.

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

RESOLUTION 2026-09 Payment of Bills

Upon certification that there are sufficient encumbered and unencumbered funds in the FY2025, proposed 2026 budgets and Capital funds 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 FY 2025 and FY2026 Encumbered Check Detail, allocated to the various administration, operating and capital accounts. Total bills to be paid in the amount of \$44,341.34.

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

A refund in the amount of \$705.00 was received from Viola for the foam removal overpayment. A refund was received from Witmer in the amount of \$59.49. This amount will be reimbursed to the fire company.

ICS 402 Class: Chair Spohn noted that all BOFC members are registered to take the required to take an ICS 610-402 class either on February 18th or on March 5th.

OLD BUSINESS

Training Facility: Commissioner Puleio reported that discussions with the fire company leadership are on-going. No work can proceed at this time due to the weather.

New Apparatus: No update.

Generator Replacement: No update.

LOSAP – The list of the responders who qualified and proposed payments pursuant to the program and has been posted. Payments will be approved at the March meeting.

Gym Equipment – The new equipment has been delivered and installed.

Snow Removal – Chairman Spohn noted that the BOFC has received an invoice for snow removal. The BOFC is not responsible for snow removal under the terms of the lease with the fire company. The invoice will be forwarded to the fire company for payment.

NEW BUSINESS

FY 2026 Commissioner Election:

Commissioner Puleio is the only person who has filed a petition. Commissioner Hyncik will open the polls. Chairman Spohn will obtain the voter registration lists from the county. Mr. Perkins will prepare the ballots and they will then be printed by Chairman Spohn. Artie and Anna Marie Crawford will serve as poll watchers at the election. Each poll worker will be paid \$300.00 for their service. Commissioner Parise and Commissioner Hyncik will close the polls and tally the ballots. It was noted that the final results will not be available until Friday, February 28th to allow for the receipt of mail-in ballots.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Kennedy noted that there were 22 calls for service in the month of January. The company held an overnight snow standby on January 25th with a full crew. Training activities included the monthly business meeting, truck checks, an extrication drill, an air management drill, a firefighter challenge and search/air bag drill.

The Chief reported that Captain Joe Olenick is working on getting a quote for the new brush apparatus and should be able to provide it to the BOFC for the March meeting.

Chief Kennedy noted that he is continuing to work on getting the KNOX Box account transferred from the fire marshal into the name of the BOFC. Commissioner Hyncik made a motion to approved changing the contract into the name of the BOFC. Commissioner Puleio seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

The lettering was completed on the new command vehicles and payment for this work was included in this month's invoices. The lift kits have also been installed. The Knox boxes have been received but not yet installed. East Coast Lighting has provided a quote in the amount of \$24,895.45 for the installation of the lights, sirens and rear boxes in the vehicles. This is a State contract price. The cost of radio installation is not included in this quote. Chairman Spohn moved approval of the East Coast quote. Second by Commissioner Puleio and adopted by unanimous consent.

Chief Kennedy noted that the early registration and flights were completed for the FDIC convention for four persons. Payment was included in this month's bills. Two additional registrations were paid for. Two additional flights are outstanding.

A crew inspected the Hamlet tank and found it to be full and operational. There is no easy way to equip the tank with a signal to warn if it is malfunctioning. Going forward it is intended that the tank will be inspected twice a year.

All turn-out gear has been received from N.J. Fire Equipment. The swift water gear has not been received.

Engineer's Report

Engineer Frank Wendling III reported that the starting system on engine 45-3 was repaired and that the apparatus was back in service.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, February 9th, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.