

**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 August 12, 2025

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 Philip Adams, William Hyncik, Michael Parise, Ricky Puleio Jr. and William Spohn.

Also present: Deputy Chief Eric Lemon, Bookkeeper Lynn Franchino, Engineer Frank Wendling III, Attorney Eric Perkins and Rich Kennedy. Absent: Chief Kevin Schroeck

Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the July 8th 2025 meeting were presented.

Motion to approve the minutes of the July 8th board meeting was made by Chairman Spohn; 2nd by Commissioner Adams. Motion passed without objection.

Public Comment – None

Meeting Updates –

Emergency Services –No meeting last month.

Fire Prevention – No meeting last month.

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: \$322.13.

TOTAL ADMINISTRATION: \$322.13.

Operations: General Operating Expenses: \$7,532.23; Rental Charges/Apparatus Housing: \$13,352.00; General Operating Expenses/Maintenance and Repairs: \$3,023.88; Supplies: \$469.87; Utilities: \$3,103.36.

TOTAL OPERATIONS: \$27,481.34.

IDA Insurance Claim Fund: \$5,323.08. (SS-45)

TOTAL ADMINISTRATION, OPERATIONS AND ENCUMBERED EXPENSES: \$33,126.55

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

RESOLUTION 2025-15 Payment of Bills

*Upon certification that there are sufficient encumbered and unencumbered funds in the FY 2025 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 the FY 2025 Encumbered Check Details, allocated to the various administration, operating and capital accounts. Total bills to be paid in the amount of **\$33,126.55.***

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

There are adequate funds in the checking account to cover this month's bills so no transfer is necessary.

Ms. Franchino noted that the BOFC has received a check in the amount of \$1,000. reflecting the sale of 2007 Suburban. The BOFC received a second check of the insurance proceeds for the loss of the 2009 Tahoe in the amount of \$60,000.00.

It was noted that Montgomery Township has extended the deadline for third quarter tax payments until the end of the month of September. It is expected that the BOFC will receive its first installment of tax monies in October and the balance at the end of the year.

Chairman Spohn indicated that he would seek reimbursement from the fire company for its share of the insurance premium.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Spohn noted that a citizen had made negative public comments about the operations of the fire company during the open public comment session of a recent Township Committee meeting. The comments repeated statements that have previously been investigated and found to be entirely false. After an extended discussion it was agreed that the BOFC will respond to the comments to ensure that the Township Committee is aware of the correct information regarding what occurred. Chairman Spohn will prepare a letter and copy the BOFC.

OLD BUSINESS

VFIS Insurance Audit: The review of fire company policies and procedures is on-going.

New Apparatus: No update on delivery date.

Generator Replacement: No update.

Gym Equipment – Discussions continue on the type of equipment to be purchased.

Gym Waivers - It may be necessary to obtain waivers from family members.

Brush Truck – The committee is scheduling visits with other companies that have recently purchased apparatus. Chairman Spohn emphasized the need to keep everyone informed and involved in the process. He noted that a referendum will be required in the fall to approved placing the purchase in the 2026 budget.

Foam Replacement – Contract has been issued to Veolia after approval at last month's meeting. No date for performance has been established.

Radio Equipment – Joe Olenick will provide the serial numbers and other identifiers for the new radios and pagers which will then be added to the equipment inventory. Chairman Spohn reported that no trade-in credit was available for the old radios from Wireless Solutions.

NJ Division of Fire Safety – Awaiting fire official review to prepare signs for maximum occupancy to be posted in lounge.

Training Facility – Commissioner Puleio will work to develop plans for future improvements and discuss them with the trustees of the fire department.

Verizon Review – Commissioner Adams indicated that he was unable to locate all of the phone lines for which the BOFC is being billed. It was determined that one unknown line was located on the exterior of the firehouse for emergent citizen use. The review will continue.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Schroeck's written report indicated that there were 19 calls for service in the month of July. On two occasions the firehouse was staffed in anticipation of high-water weather events. Drills included monthly truck checks, a tanker shuttle drill and a pump drill.

The Chief's report requested approval for the purchase of 21 helmets at a cost of \$405.25 each for a total amount of \$8,510.25 from Fire and Safety Services. It was noted that these helmets will replace helmets that are over ten years old. The purchase of two pairs of boots at \$598.00 per pair for a total of \$1,196.00 was also requested. The boots will replace gear that is over the ten-year requirement. All of the equipment will be purchased under State contract from Safe-T/Skylands Area Fire Equipment.

The Chief's request noted that he may also need to order additional water rescue gear.

Commissioner Puleio made a motion to approve the purchase of the gear. Commissioner Parise seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Items approved for purchase at prior meetings have now been delivered including the equipment dryer and the First Tactical men's Tactic Series softshell jacket with a high visibility parka. Redline Fabrication has completed the installation of the nine (9) Vulcan streamlight brackets.

The three sets of fire gear previously approved remain in process awaiting a quote from NJFE.

Discussions continue for the re-purposing of the old Board meeting room.

Engineers Report

Engineer Frank Wendling electronically submitted a report to the Board.

E45-3 – The apparatus remains OOS. The front suction is not opening. F&SS determined that the problem is a bad solenoid. The repair parts have been received and F&SS will make the repair next week. The rear LDH discharge is leaking. F&SS will diagnose the issue next week.

The new brakes, new muffler and repair of an oil leak at the input shaft seal for the transfer case and other repairs authorized at July's meeting will be scheduled with F&SS.

Tanker 45: The apparatus failed a pump test. Attempting to diagnose the problem.

Tower 45: Passed its five-year certification.
SS 45: Additional storm repairs have been completed.

Hose and appliance testing is scheduled for August 20th.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, September 9th, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.