

McConnellsville Fire District

Commissioners Meeting

February 24, 2025

Attendees: Secretary: Peggy Darling

Treasurer: Katrina Reed

Commissioners: Peggy Darling, Karen Edwards, Trisha Finen, Martin Handler

Representatives from Fire Department: Chief Finen

Absent:

Public Attendees:

Guest:

Meeting: called to order at 18:30 by Chairman of the Board

Treasurer: Treasurer made monthly report and presented bills/invoices to be signed. The end of the year financial report has been completed and submitted.

1. Motion made by Commissioner Handler to accept treasurer report- 2nd by Commissioner Finen. Commissioners polled-Commissioner Handler-Aye, Commissioner Finen-Aye, Commissioner Edward-Aye, Commissioner Darling-recused

Correspondence:

OLD BUSINESS:

1. A bid request will be submitted to the Queen Central to have the exterior of the Department painted.

- i. **This will be tabled until a treasurer is hired.**
- ii. **This will be tabled until Spring of 2025**

2. Discussion of physicals coming due in November 2024.

Secretary Darling will reach out to Access and obtain some dates. An EKG will be completed on all interior, exterior, personnel over the age of 70 years, and anyone who Access recommends.

- i. **Physicals have been completed and a letter has been mailed to those who failed to attend scheduled sessions. The letter informed the individuals on what needs to be completed in order for them to remain an active member.**
- ii. **One of the members completed their physicals**
- iii. **Other two members are still inactive**

3. Discussion that a generator is needed to power the building when service is interrupted as the Department is a shelter in place. Motion made by Commissioner Edwards to advertise bid in paper in regard to specs and cost. Commissioner Handler 2nd the motion. Commissioners polled- Commissioner -Aye, Commissioner Edwards-Aye, Commissioner Handler-Aye. All in favor motion carried.

- i. **Clarification was needed on this bid. It will run in the paper for two weeks and bids will be opened at the next meeting**
- ii. **Secretary reached out to two dealers who provided a bid**
- iii. **Generator has been installed and paid for**

4. Chief presented a new member Rob Sankey. Rob is a lifetime member that has been out of the area for quite a while. The Department has approved his reinstatement pending a LENS clearance and background check.

- i. **LENS report needs to be obtained**
- ii. **Rob has out of state license and needs to obtain a NY State one**

5. The draft of the Whistle Blower policy was reviewed. Motion made by Commissioner Finen to accept the policy as is. 2nd by Commissioner Edwards. Board polled: Commissioners polled: Commissioner Finen-Aye, Commissioner Edwards-Aye, Commissioner Darling-Aye, Commissioner Handler-Aye. All in favor -motion carried. The finalized copy incorporated into the Districts Policy format will be presented at next meeting to have signatures obtained.

- i. **The policy will be distributed to fire department members at the next Fire Department meeting and members will sign in receipt of it.**
- ii. **Members that were present at the meeting received and signed for the policy.**

6. The draft of the Rules of Behavior at Meetings of the McConnellsville Board of Fire Commissioners was reviewed. Motion made by Commissioner Finen to accept the policy, with corrections. 2nd by Commissioner Edwards. Board polled: Commissioners polled: Commissioner Finen-Aye, Commissioner Edwards-Aye, Commissioner Darling-Aye, Commissioner Handler-Aye. All in favor -motion carried. The finalized copy incorporated into the Districts Policy format will be presented at next meeting to have signatures obtained.

- i. **Finalized copy accepted and signatures obtained.**

7. Motion was made by the Chief to purchase three Unication pagers. Motion was made by Commissioner Handler to purchase three pagers with the cost not exceeding \$1200.00 Motion was second by Commissioner Edwards. Board polled: Commissioners polled: Commissioner

Finen-Aye, Commissioner Edwards-Aye, Commissioner Darling-Aye, Commissioner Handler-Aye. All in favor -motion carried.

i. Pagers received

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Motion was made by Commissioner Edwards to accept the November 7, 2024 minutes with stated corrections. Commissioner Handler 2nd the motion. Commissioners polled: Commissioner Edwards-Aye, Commissioner Finen- recused(absent from mtg) , Commissioner Handler-Aye, Commissioner Darling-Aye. Motion carried.
2. Motion was made by Commissioner Edward to accept the January 20th, 2025 minutes. Commissioner Finen second the motion. Commissioners polled:Commissioner Finen-Aye, Commissioner Edwards-Aye, Commissioner Darling-Aye, Commissioner Handler-Aye. All in favor -motion carried.
3. Discussion in regards to recent theft of monies by other local department/districts. Secretary phoned Bill Cole in regards to District's protection. Bill states that District/Department is insured up to \$200,000.00 Commissioner Darling made a motion to increase this to \$500,000.00. Motion was second by Commissioner Handler. Board polled: Commissioner Finen-Aye, Commissioner Edwards-Aye, Commissioner Darling-Aye, Commissioner Handler-Aye. All in favor -motion carried. Secretary will reach out to Bill Cole to get this adjusted.
4. After reviewing the end of the year report a motion was made by Commissioner Darling to transfer money from the operating account into the truck reserve account. Second by Commissioner Finen. Board polled: Commissioner Finen-Aye, Commissioner Edwards-Aye, Commissioner Darling-Aye, Commissioner Handler-Aye. All in favor -motion carried.
5. Discussion of purchasing a pump for tanker 717. Chief will have quotes available at next meeting.
6. Motion made by Commissioner Darling to purchase a wifi extender for the generator to use the app. Second by Commissioner Finen. Board polled: Commissioner Finen-Aye, Commissioner Edwards-Aye, Commissioner Darling-Aye, Commissioner Handler-Aye. All in favor -motion carried.
7. It has come to the attention of the Board that several Line Officers are not responding to calls. After discussion it was determined that line officers are the leaders of the Department. There education and experience are vital but does no one any good if they are not on scene to teach and mentor. A policy will be drafted and voted on in the March 2025 Commissioner meeting that Line Officers need to attend at least 30% of calls in order to be voted into that position. For the year 2025 30 % of the calls will range from 4/1/2025 to 11/1/2025. Going forward 30% of calls will range from January 1st to November 1st of that calendar year.

8. Chief Finen presented an application for a new member-Brett Snell. Background check has been completed. Lens report will be obtained when Mr. Snell's license has been issued in NY State. Motion to accept pending LENS made by Commissioner Edwards-2nd by Commissioner Finen. Board polled: Commissioner Finen-Aye, Commissioner Edwards-Aye, Commissioner Darling-Aye, Commissioner Handler-Aye. All in favor -motion carried.

Adjournment: Motion by Commissioner Edwards to adjourn at 19:03

Minutes Submitted

Peggy Darling

Secretary

February 24,2025