



City of Lambertville Board of Fire Commissioners District #1
230 North Main Street
Lambertville, N.J. 08530



Rick Carmosino, Chair
Nate Waldron, Vice Chair
Julia von Uffel, Commissioner
Erin McManus-Keyes, Commissioner
Sarah Lechner, Commissioner

Fire Headquarters – 609-397-2084
Headquarters Fax – 609-397-4465

February 21, 2023
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

A regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by Chair Carmosino at 7:00 p.m. with a statement of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice to The Trenton Times, The Hunterdon County Democrat, City Hall Bulletin Board, and various individuals.

ROLL CALL

In attendance, Chair Carmosino, Vice Chair Waldron, and Commissioner Lechner. Absent, Commissioner von Uffel

Commissioner McManus-Keyes submitted her resignation.

Vice Chair Waldron started the meeting by apologizing to everyone for not attending the City Council meeting where Firefighter/EMT Andrew Camp was honored for rescuing a victim trapped in a second-floor apartment fire in January. He was not aware of this taking place.

MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Vice Chair Waldron to approve the minutes from the January 17, 2023, meeting, Commissioner Lechner seconded with this amendment: The Commissioners engaged with the DCA to explore the needs of the Lambertville Fire District for the City of Lambertville, with a voice vote, MOTION PASSES.

CHIEFS REPORT

Chief Barlow reported there were 25 calls in January.

He received a visit from the DCA along with the attached letter. This is not the attention the District was looking for from them. They will monitor the situation and the District needs to show progress.

He received an Award Letter from FEMA for Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for \$148K to be used for new radios.

A Safer Grant was submitted to adequately staff the firehouse. The minimum you can hire is 14 for the program.

A request was received from Riverside Symphonia to hang a banner. While it is good public relations, is it really the best use of the equipment. After a discussion was had, it was decided that a policy needs to be drafted regarding this and the District would no longer be hanging banners.

COMMISSIONER ITEMS

- Joe Marcucci presented the Treasurers Report. There was \$ 594,966.99 in the checking account and \$ 29,920.64 in savings. The total bills for the evening are \$ 30,813.50. Vice Chair Waldron made a motion to approve the Treasurers Report and Commissioner Lechner seconded. A voice vote was taken, MOTION PASSES.
- A proposal was received from Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, LLC. Since all Commissioners weren't aware that bids were being asked for it was decided that an advertisement would be placed for bids for an attorney that is licensed and has Title 40 experience in the State of NJ. An advertisement would also be placed to fill the open Commissioner spot. All bids and interested parties for the Commissioners spot are due to the District office by 3:30pm March 17, 2023. Attorney Braslow would help the District during this transition.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Correspondence was received and read from:

- Marc Currie, President, Niece Lumber
- Union Fire re: Using Meeting Room as sleeping quarters
- Union Fire re: Notice and Order of Penalty from the City of Lambertville

Commissioner Lechner made a motion to pass the following resolution:

Resolution #23 - 112 - Authorizing Matthew Tindall, Charles Maclellan, Thomas Steiner, Ryan Duffell, Brian Clarke, Michael Wilder, William Wallace, Benjamin Crane, Michael Blog, Nicholas Magos, Brendan Ryan, Shaun Dlabik, Jonathan Ness, Lucas Rosenthal as per diem firefighter's. Chair Caromosino seconded, and with a voice vote, MOTION PASSES (full resolution is attached).

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Rich Roy asked is if bids are being sought for an attorney are they are also being sought for an accountant.

Dave Bird said the ad for the attorney should have a scope of work and asked if there was a current contract.

Don Hart asked if all the Commissioners had received all the correspondence from Union Fire of the work that was being done to accommodate the overnight shift. All Commissioners had not received this. He stated according to the contract, sleeping in the firehouse overnight was permitted and that 60 days were given to cure. As of March 28, 2023 overnight shifts wouldn't be permitted without substantial work being done. He went on to say that scrubbing the budget wasn't the answer. This term of Commissioners has to get the courage to go to the tax payers for help. He further stated that counterparts complaining about each other has to stop because he hears about it all – stop complaining and come up with options.

Greg Siwy stated that moving forward the full-time firefighters a full contract, not amendments to certain sections. Chair Carmosino was going to call Attorney Braslow on this.

RESOLUTION **Closing of Meeting Pursuant to** **Open Public Meetings Act**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, the Commissioners are allowed to engage in executive session during any particular meeting when it becomes necessary to discuss matters which the statute allows to be discussed in executive session; and

WHEREAS, it was necessary for the Commissioners to discuss various matters of personnel, and accordingly, the Commissioners met in executive session to discuss same.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED by the Commissioners of Fire District No. 1 in the City of Lambertville, County of Hunterdon, as follows:

(1) The meeting of February 21, 2023 is closed and will be reopened at such time as the discussion in executive session has been completed.

(2) The minutes will be revealed to the public at such time as the matters discussed have been resolved.

A motion was made by Chair Carmosino to enter into closed session, seconded by Commissioner Lechner, and with a voice vote, MOTION PASSES. The Commissioners entered into closed session at 7:52 p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lechner to come out of closed session, seconded by Chair Carmosino, and with a voice vote, MOTION PASSES. The Commissioners came out of closed session at 8:23 p.m.

Chief Barlow had one more ask. There is an upcoming Rescue Challenge, which is advanced training, in VA. He has a team of firefighters that would like to attend. In the past, the District has paid for the registration and hotel that is about \$3,500.00. Will the Commissioners do the same this year? Unfortunately, the Commissioners said no for this year.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Lechner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vice Chair Waldron, a voice vote was taken, MOTION PASSED.

The Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 8:28p.m.

The next regular monthly meeting will take place on March 21, 2023.