



*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*  
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**January 17, 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, Commissioner von Uffel. Commissioner Lechner, and Commissioner McManus-Keyes.

Also present were Accountants Joe Marcucci and Pavin Rajput.

On behalf of the Commissioners, Chair Caromosino extended thier sympathies to the Sloane family during this time of grief.

He is starting the meeting with the Chief's report and then a time for public comment before proceeding with the meeting. A second public comment time will also be at the end of the meeting.

**CHIEFS REPORT**

Chief Barlow reported there were 17 calls in December and 321 for 2022.

He also extended his sympathies to the family. The fire was an accident, and the outcome would have been the same regardless. He then read the CAD report from Hunterdon Dispatch, and it is attached. From time of dispatch to fire being under control was 27 min and 45 seconds. Ninety percent of the fire was put out with dry chem and didn't extend past the original space. He then went onto say that the rumors around town need to stop and he doesn't want to spend any more time defending his firefighters actions. They did their job and did it well. He is again asking the Commissioners to look at the budget to find money for 24 hr coverage.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Gary Breuer, 5 year Lambertville Firefighter, asked why this hasn't been addressed. For the past three years 24 hr coverage has been asked for and has always been cut. Why? When will it be addressed?

Chair Carmosino said he has only been Chair for 28 days and is addressing it as best he can.

Don Hart, resident of Lambertville, appreciated the job the firefighters did that night. He also said he appreciates the immediate actions the Commissioners are taking and they need to ask for help. He and his family will help promote it.

### **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 January 17, 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 Vice Chair Waldron, and with a voice vote, MOTION PASSES. The Commissioners entered into closed session at 7:14 p.m.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Waldron to come out of closed session, seconded by Chair Carmsino, and with a voice vote, MOTION PASSES. The Commissioners came out of closed session at 8:04 p.m

### **MEETING MINUTES**

A motion was made by Vice Chair Waldron to approve the minutes from the December 20, 2022 meeting, Chair Carmosino seconded, with a voice vote, MOTION PASSES.

### **COMMISSIONER ITEMS**

- Joe Marcucci presented the Treasurers Report. There is \$443,639.63 in the checking account and \$29,902.20 in savings. The total bills for the evening are \$45,012.52. Vice Chair Waldron made a motion to approve the Treasurers Report and Commissioner Lechner seconded. A voice vote was taken, MOTION PASSES.
- Joe Marcucci presented the 2023 budget. The state cap law is 2%. The budget will be raised by 3.7% which is within limits of the law because of exceptions. There are two new items. A grant from Elizabeth Town Gas for \$5,000 for a new gas meter and a grant from the state of \$39,000 for a new washer and dryer for turn out gear. Commissioner Lechner made a motion to accept the budget for 2023, Chair Carmosino seconded, with a voice vote, MOTION PASSES.
- There is not an update with the Squad.
- Commissioner Lechner had no update from the DCA, but explained to the audience that the DCA was gathering information from Lambertville and surrounding departments for possible shared services.

### **2023 BUDGET HEARING**

A motion was made by Commissioner McManus-Keyes to open the budget hearing, it was seconded by Commissioner Lechner, a voice vote was taken, MOTION PASSES.

Joe Marcucci presented the budget. The 2023 budget is \$1,334,569.00 which is a 4.9% increase over 2022. It is still within the 2% budget cap increase. There was an increase in pensions and health benefits. For the taxpayer, it isn't even a penny more than 2022.

The budget will be amended to show the \$5,000 grant from Elizabeth Town Gas for new gas meters and a \$39,000 grant from the state for a washer/dryer for turn out gear.

Seeing no further discussion or public comment, a motion was made by Vice Chair Waldron to close the budget hearing, seconded by Chair Carmosino, a voice vote was taken, MOTION PASSES.

A motion was made by Chair Caromosino to adopt the budget resolution, seconded by Commissioner Lechner, a voice vote was taken, MOTION PASSES.

Joe Marcucci will electronically file the budget to the State.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The Chief asked the Commissioners for \$2,000.00 to spend on beds and bedding for the over shift. The Commissioners agreed to this.

Additionally, the Chief asked the Commissioners for the grant money that has been designated for new gas meters and the grant money designated for the new washer/dryer for the turnout gear to begin the bids from the state. The Commissioners granted this.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Waldron for the Tower Ladder to get new tires, this was seconded by Commissioner McManus-Keyes, a voice vote was taken, MOTION PASSES.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Waldron to increase the per diem salary range to \$16.00-\$21.00 based on the tier level set up by the Chief, this was seconded by Commissioner McManus-Keyes, a voice vote was taken, MOTION PASSES.

### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Tex Huggins asked why closed session can't be done before the start of the meeting at 7:00pm. It is very unfair to go into closed session at the beginning of a meeting and make people wait around not knowing how long that will be.

Dave Bird suggested that if a closed session is needed, do like the city council, and do it before the open meeting or at the end of the meeting after public comment is made.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 8:25p.m.

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