



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



Nate Waldron, Chair
Robert Hayes, Vice Chair
Julie von Uffel, Treasurer
John Bregartner, Secretary

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

November 19, 2024
MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Chair Waldron at 7:03 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

Commissioner von Uffel was absent. Accountant, Matthew Rambaran, was also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Waldron.

MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Bregartner to approve the minutes from October 15, 2024 and seconded by Vice Chair Hayes. A voice vote was taken, MOTION PASSES.

COMMISSIONER ITEMS

Chair Waldren presented the Treasurers Report. The total in checking account is \$164,493.32 savings is \$124,388.34 and deposit of \$125,011.34. Commissioner Bregartner made a motion to approve the treasurers report, Vice Chair Hayes seconded. A voice vote was taken, MOTION PASSES.

Matthew Rambaran gave a 30, 60, 90 day forecast to the Commissioners.

CHIEFS REPORT

- There were 45 calls for the month. Up 31% from 2023 for the year so far.
- One bid was received for the special services.
- The Sage Grant is closed, and all money has been received.
- Still waiting for \$75,000.00 from the State Grant.
- Will be attending a class from 12/3-12/13/24. Still available to respond during the day.
- He is working on writing eight grants for the next year.
- Putting forward two probational per-diem firefighters for Commission approval. They are Caroline Welch and Daniel Stone, Jr.
- Matt Chavez from PSE&G met with him and would like to update all the light fixtures to LED at no cost to the District. He would like permission to continue talks with Mr. Chavez about this.
- December 20, 2024, is the Christmas party.
- The accountant needs checks.
- The 2025 budget is almost done. Recommends a workshop meeting to discuss and finish.
- Chief Barlow was at another meeting.
- Met with Fire Marshall Ur regarding fire bureau financials. The fire bureau needs to have two accounts separate from the Commissioners.
- The LAUM incident consumed most of the overtime budget. Used FEMA money to cover some of the cost. An invoice will be sent to LAUM.
- During the process, LAUM relied on the Chief for administrative services. They are now asking if he can write policies and an employee manual. He doesn't have the time for this. He is willing to help get them started, but nothing past that.
- He is suggesting the Commissioners take legal action on Heritage Village for the fines they owe the Fire bureau.

OLD BUSINESS

- The one sealed bid was opened from Brindel Mountain for the Special Services. It was for \$126,000.00. The Chief says it is worth \$140-150K. The Commissioners didn't accept the bid and a letter will be sent to them. They gave the Chief permission to list it on public websites.

NEW BUSINESS

- Vice Chair Hayes made a motion to pass Resolution 24-226 for the hiring of Caroline Welch and Daniel Stone, Jr. providing they clear their background checks and have proper training. Commissioner Bregartner seconded. A voice vote was taken, MOTION PASSES.
- Chair Waldron made a motion a motion to accept Preston Peck as a Jr. firefighter, Commissioner Bregartner seconded. A voice vote was taken, MOTION PASSES.
- Chair Waldron made a motion for the accountant to order checks. Commissioner Bregartner seconded, a voice was taken, MOTION PASSES.
- Chair Waldron made a motion for the Chief and Fire Marshall Ur to meet with legal counsel regarding fire bureau fines. Commissioner Bregartner seconded, a voice vote was taken, MOTION PASSES.
- A drone for the department has been received from a grant. Six personnel will be trained and certified on it so each sift has an certified operator. It should be ready by summer of 2025.
- The County is creating a drone task force. LFD will not be participating.
- On November 26, 2024, LFD will be hosting the County Tech Task Force.
- On December 17, 2024, Vice Chair Hayes and newly elected Commissioner Barna will be sworn in.
- Contract negotiation will start with the two full-time firefighters. They have submitted their proposal.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Dave Burd, a past PSE&G employee, said Lambertville is covered by JCP&L. He suggests doing your due diligence before agreeing to anything with PSE&G.

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 November 19, 2024 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 Commissioner Bregartner to enter closed session, seconded by Vice Chair Hayes, a voice vote was taken, MOTION PASSED. The Commissioners entered closed session at 7:42 p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bregartner to come out of closed session, seconded by Vice Chair Hayes, a voice vote was taken, MOTION PASSED. The Commissioners came out of closed session at 8:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

The next regular monthly meeting will take place on December 17, 2024.