



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



Nate Waldron, Vice Chair
Julia von Uffel, Commissioner
Robert Hayes, Commissioner
Sarah Lechner, Commissioner

Fire Headquarters – 609-397-2084
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September 19, 2023
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

A regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Waldron at 7:08 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

All Commissioners were in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chair Waldron.

MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Hayes to approve the minutes from the July 18, 2023 meeting, Commissioner Lechner seconded, with a voice vote, MOTION PASSES. Commissioner von Uffel didn't vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hayes to approve the minutes from the Aug. 15, 2023 special meeting, Commissioner Lechner seconded, with a voice vote, MOTION PASSES.

CHIEFS REPORT

- Chief Barlow reported there were 29 calls in July.
- A conversation was held with Mayor to bring the fire official responsibilities to the District. The Mayor was told he needed to come the Commissioners with a proposal. It wouldn't happen until 2024. The City would pay the District for this.
- Hibernia Fire is liquidating assets and want to donate and asked what they could donate to the District. The Chief said a cascade unit. Commissioner Lechner said they couldn't liquidate assets. Lambertville Fire District is a not for profit and if they don't use the money for an agency relating to fire, then the money should be turned over to the District. She suggests sending a cease and assist letter. Vice Chair Waldron said he would reach out to the attorney for guidance on this.
- Woodcrest water tank is going down for maintenance. Due to this, the water company wants to make a vehicle donation to the District. At this time, there is nothing on the market so the Chief will be searching for one.
- A check will be coming for the radio grant.
- Brooke Richardson has electronically submitted her application for per diem. Her background is complete. She has the required training. Once her physical application has been received, it will be sent to all Commissioners.
- Tower Ladder 17 has had mechanical issues and has been taken out of service periodically while the mechanic looks at it. Also, Rescue 17 was out of service due to mechanical issues. At one point, both trucks were down.
- The City Council will be holding an open forum on October 12 regarding Hurricane Ida and the Chief will be attending.

COMMISSIONER ITEMS

- Jackie DePietto of DePietto & DePietto, LLC presented the 2022 Audit. She found nothing of concern, and everything was in order. A motion was made by Commissioner Lechner to pass the attached Resolution 23-113, and seconded by Commissioner Hayes, a voice vote was taken, MOTION PASSES.
- Joe Marcucci presented the Treasurers Report. The total in checking account is \$454,264.18 and savings is \$29,958.36. Commissioner Hayes made a motion to approve the Treasurers Report and Vice Chair Waldron seconded. A voice vote was taken, MOTION PASSES.
- Joe Marcucci from Lear & Pannepacker presented the 2024 budget. There will be an increase of 2% which is the maximum of the State of NJ allows.
- One bid has come in for the accounting opening that was posted.
- The Commissioners will continue to work with the Union Fire on renting with the option to buy.
- Commissioner Lechner made a motion to pass Resolution 23-114 hiring Brooke Richardson upon the receipt of her physical application. Her background has been done and she has proper training. Commissioner Hayes seconded, with a voice vote, MOTION PASSES.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

- There was a request for Tower 17 to attend Tulleytown, PA fire open house. The Commissioners decided against this due to the truck having issues and the distance.
- Upper Makefield will be holding a critique session, and the Chief will advise when it is.
- Commissioner Lechner made a motion to lower the hiring age from 21 years of age to 18 years of age for per diems. This will open the pool of candidates to choose from. Commissioner Hayes seconded. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSES.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

David Burd asked what the insurance ramifications were due to lowering the age and the Chief said he researched it and there isn't any.

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 September 19, 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 Vice Chair Waldron to enter into closed session, seconded by Commissioner Hayes, MOTION PASSED. The Commissioners entered into closed session at 8:05 p.m.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Waldron to come out of closed session, seconded by Commissioner Lechner, MOTION PASSED. The Commissioners came out of closed session at 8:12 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

The next regular monthly meeting will take place on October 17, 2023.