

MINUTES  
LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT  
REORGANIZATION AND REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 8, 2008  
7:30 PM

The 867th meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the LaGrange Fire District was held on January 8, 2008 at Firehouse #3 at 7:30 PM. This was the reorganization and regular meeting. Present were commissioners Mulford, Smith, Zeidan, Hines, Lantzky; Chief Jim Dawson; Assistant Chief Barry Ward; EMS Administrator Michael Benenati; Secretary Holzberger and firefighters.

Mulford called the meeting to order and led the salute to the flag. Smith moved to appoint Ed Mulford temporary Chairman, seconded by Hines and carried unan. Secretary Holzberger reported the results of the 2007 Annual District Election as follows: Total number of ballots cast was 107; 97 for Joseph Zeidan and 13 for Ralph Francisco. Mulford welcomed Ziedan to the Board. Secretary Holzberger administered the oath of office to Joseph Zeidan and Chief Jim Dawson and Assistant Chief Barry Ward.

Smith moved to nominate Ed Mulford for the position of Chairman for 2008, seconded by Zeidan, and carried unan. Mulford thanked the Board for their support. Mulford dispensed with the normal order of business to award the generator bid. Tim Moot of Clark Patterson recommended DeLeonardis at a base bid of \$123,072. Mulford stated that the FEMA grant covers the generator only; the District will need to cover the transfer switch and pad. Tim Moot noted that the alternate was a Kohler generator which would be classified as an "or equal" however, it could become problematic when it came to servicing the generator. H.O. Penn is local and services CAT. In addition, contractors would have to supply additional information for Kohler specifications.

Smith moved that we go with the CAT generator and as recommended by Tim Moot, DeLeonardis, seconded by Hines and carried unan. Tim Moot stated that he would send a letter to DeLeonardis awarding the bid to them.

Water hook-up-St.2-Tim Moot stated that the patch of pavement can be replaced in the Spring; it is cosmetic; if the Board does not wish to replace that concrete patch with blacktop it is not necessary. Mulford stated that he has not seen the finished product. Smith stated that there is cement where the blacktop was removed. Tim Moot stated that he can press the issue and hold back 5% of the payment. Mulford stated that the next Board meeting is January 22. Mulford thanked Tim Moot for his attendance.

Mulford stated that we would resume the normal order of business and continue with the reorganization.

2008 Meeting Schedule-

January 8, 22	July 8, 22	Annual Election December 9
February 12, 26	August 12, 26	
March 11, 25	September 9, 23	
April 8, 22	October 14, 28	
May 13, 27	November 11, 25	
June 10, 24	December 2, 23	

Smith moved to approve the 2008 meeting schedule for the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Lagrange Fire District as follows, noting that the meetings will take place on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, with the exception of December when the regular meeting will be held on December 2, and the Annual Election will be held on December 9, all meetings will be held at Firehouse #3 and begin at 7:30 pm, seconded by Joe Zeidan and carried unan.

Annual Resolutions- Mulford read the following resolutions:

1. That the Secretary/Treasurer will be authorized to pay the telephone, electric and fuel oil bills as they are received provided they appear to be in order.
2. That Mahopac National Bank be designated as the Official Depository for all Lagrange Fire District funds and funds be invested at any other local commercial bank offering the best interest rates.
3. That the Poughkeepsie Journal be designated as the Official newspaper for placing legal advertisements when necessary.
4. That the Secretary/Treasurer prepare a monthly financial report and furnish a copy to each Commissioner at the regular monthly meeting.
5. That the regular monthly meetings of the Board of Fire commissioners be held at 7:30 PM and be held at Firehouse #3.
6. That the district provide a \$20,000 term life insurance policy and medical benefits for the Secretary/Treasurer.
7. That a complete report be furnished by the Chief annually to be presented to the Board no later than the March regular meeting.
8. That the annual salary for the Secretary/Treasurer will be \$40170. for 2008
9. That the hourly rate for the part time clerk will be \$16.00 per hour for 2008
10. That Rose & Kiernan will be the insurance agent for the LaGrange Fire District
11. That Denise A. Holzberger be appointed Secretary/Treasurer for 2008.
12. That mileage be reimbursed when appropriate at the current rate designated by the Internal Revenue Service.

Mulford stated that we are not appointing a legal counsel at this time as the Board has advertised a request for qualifications.

Smith moved to approve the resolutions as read by Mulford, seconded by Hines and carried unan.

Procurement and Investment Policy-

Mulford reviewed the Procurement Policy and the Investment Policy. See Page 4609  
Hines moved to approve the Procurement Policy and the Investment Policy, seconded by Smith and carried unan.

Committees-Mulford stated that we need to form committees to establish such things as policies. Mulford asked the other Board members what they would like to do; discuss this now or hold until later. The Board agreed to table that for now.

Appointment of Chief Officers-Smith moved to appoint Jim Dawson to the position of Chief, Barry Ward to the position of Assistant Chief and Brian Odendahl to the position of Assistant Chief, as elected by the membership, seconded by Hines and carried unan. Mulford congratulated the new officers. Secretary Holzberger administered the oath of office to Jim Dawson and Barry Ward. It was noted that Brian Odendahl was not present; Secretary Holzberger would arrange with Brian Odendahl to administer the oath. Smith thanked Barry Ward for his past service as Chief. Mulford seconded that.  
(Applause.)

Minutes of 12/18/07-Lantzky moved to approve the minutes of meeting of December 18, 2008, seconded by Hines and carried unan.

Correspondence-Secretary Holzberger reported the following correspondence was received:

Check for \$120.96 received from Ed Mulford for the reimbursement of cell phone expenses. Joe Zeidan moved to allocate to the 2007 Telephone Budget, seconded by Hines and carried unan.

Check for \$100 and thank you note received from R. Seils for a donation. Joe Zeidan moved to allocate to the 2008 Equipment Budget, seconded by Hines and carried unan.

Primary Day is February 5, 2008-Secretary Holzberger reported that the Company Presidents have been notified by letter and officers have been notified by email. Use of Firehouses will be needed from 11:30 am to 9:30 PM with delivery of machines the day before as with regular elections.

Response from RFQ for Legal Counsel-Secretary Holzberger distributed response to Board members. Mulford stated that we only received one response.

Audit of 2006-Secretary Holzberger distributed Findings and Recommendations to the Board members.

Generator Service-Secretary Holzberger reported that Huntington Power Equipment regarding a contract for service for the generator at Firehouse #2. Mulford stated that we have had H.O Penn service the generator.

Utica Insurance-Secretary Holzberger reported that this conditional renewal notice regarding sewer and drain coverage.

East Fishkill-Secretary Holzberger reported that a letter was received from East Fishkill Fire Department dated 11/29/07 regarding mutual aid and intercept. Mulford read the letter. Mulford explained that we need comparative services to mutual aid with ALS. Mulford asked if the Board would be in favor of approaching East Fishkill's Board to meet. Mulford explained that he would meet with them. Joe Zeidan stated he would meet with them as well. Mulford asked the Secretary to draft a letter requesting a meeting with East Fishkill in early February; first week in February. Mulford stated he is not available the first Monday. EMS Administrator Mike Benenati stated that he and Chief Jim Dawson would like to be included in that meeting. Chief Jim Dawson stated that East Fishkill has an excellent working relationship with Lagrange.

Secretary Holzberger reported receipt of Section 75 Civil Service Hearing Minutes Floor-Mulford explained that the Board needs to go to executive session shortly and will open the meeting up to the floor for comment.

Bob McCord stated that the Lagrange Fire Department Picnic is scheduled for August 24, 2008 at Freedom Park; a certificate of insurance will be needed naming the Town of LaGrange as additional insured. McCord reported that all exit lights have been replaced at Firehouse 3 and requested that additional bulbs be purchased. Mulford thanked McCord, however commented that McCord gave him the bulb, he placed it in his pants pocket and then bent over; lesson learned-do not place bulbs in your pants pocket. (Laughter)

McCord thanked the Board for the roof repair so quickly. Smith stated that a purchase order is needed for the contractor.

Frank Daniberg stated that members of Blessed Kateri Church approached St.1 membership requesting that a couple of young men be permitted to help clear tables at the pancake breakfast. Frank Daniberg explained that St. 1 approved this and these young men would not be in the kitchen; they would just clear tables and clean up. Mulford stated that that the Board is okay with that but they are not covered by our insurance.

2% Foreign Fire Tax-Mulford stated that we have received various correspondences regarding the handling of the 2% funds. Secretary Holzberger reported that she

distributed to the Board members copies of Company 1's proposed incorporation papers as delivered to her by Robert Vinson. Secretary Holzberger read the letter from Co.1 dated January 3, 2008. Mulford stated that the article described in the letter actually goes back to 1960, when this amendment was approved by the Board and membership. Mulford stated that our legal counsel has advised that we have been doing this correctly all along however, it is the membership that will decide. Mulford stated that he recommends that we table this until we can work through it and freeze the funds until the matter is resolved; each company has their own funds that they can use and they should keep their receipts so that once the matter is resolved they can request reimbursement if it is deemed appropriate. McCord stated that the contract for the Annual Dinner hinges on this; the deposit and social hour. Mulford explained that this will have to go through the membership and once that has occurred the funds can be restored in the appropriate fashion. McCord stated that a letter should be sent to inform Scott Price of this situation. Mulford stated that the committee chair will send a letter if the vote is to freeze the funds.

McCord stated that this could create a problem in the event that someone dies; the fund is used for funeral expenses. Mulford stated that the companies have funds that can be used.

Lantzky moved to freeze the LaGrange Fireman's Welfare Fund pending further review by the LaGrange Fire Department, seconded by Hines and when the Board was polled the vote was as follows:

Smith Aye      Hines Aye      Zeidan Nay      Lantzky Aye      Mulford Abstain  
The motion was carried.

Co.1 Certificate of Incorporation-Mulford stated that Company 1 is not incorporated and they would like to do that. Mulford stated he glanced at the document briefly tonight and there are some areas in question and we should refer to legal counsel. Mulford read a section of the document regarding provisions to contract mutual aid agreements; Mulford stated that he is opposed to this document. Frank Daniberg stated that the intent is to incorporate; these details can be worked out. Mulford stated that the other issue is that the name-S.W Phelps Volunteer fire Company-implies that it is all volunteer and is no longer all volunteer.

Joe Ziedan moved that we table this to review, seconded by Hines and when the Board was polled the vote was as follows:

Zeidan Aye      Smith Aye      Hines Aye      Mulford Aye      Lantzky Aye  
The motion was carried unan.

Lantzky suggested that Co. 1 check with Co. 2 regarding what their document states. Frank Daniberg asked if Co.2 changed anything when career staff came on board. Mulford stated that the District hired the career staff and that is separate from the Company.

Secretary Holzberger reported that the media confirmation regarding the legal advertisement of the Reorganization meeting is entered into the minutes.

Electrical issues- Secretary Holzberger reported that she had emailed to all commissioners the electrical issues that needed to be fixed as per the NYS Department of Labor Div. of Safety and Health Inspector. The pass through window and door to kitchen must be fire-rated. If these items are addressed when he returns in February 2008, then no citation will be issued. Also, there was a question of a missing fire extinguisher in the meeting room. Mulford stated that we will have the Secretary contact the inspector to clarify the issue.

Misc. Firematic Equipment- Various equipment that is not on State Bid must be purchased. Secretary Holzberger requested a bid opening date. Smith moved to advertise for sealed bid to be received on February 12, 2008 and opened on February 12, 2008 at 7:30 PM, seconded by Hines and carried unan.

Chiefs Report- Chief Jim Dawson reported that regarding the TB exposure we have contacted the medical director and he concurs with the members' personal physician and the member can continue to go to calls. Secretary Holzberger asked if this needed to be reported to workers compensation. Chief Jim Dawson stated that he does not know; Mulford stated that the member has been exposed but we do not know where. EMS Administrator Michael Benenati stated that he would follow up.

Membership- Chief Jim Dawson reported that there are two new members at St.2- Roger Lown is fire active and Nicole Kowalyczk, EMS Active. Smith moved to approve, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan.

Chief Jim Dawson requested membership in the NYS Association of Fire Chiefs and the IAFC. Joe Zeidan moved to authorize Chief Jim Dawson's membership in the NYSAFC and IAFC, seconded by Hines and carried unan.

Credit Card- Chief Jim Dawson requested a District Credit Card. Mulford asked if Assistant Chief Barry Ward will still retain his. Chief Jim Dawson stated that previously the Chief and Deputy Chief retained cards; since the Deputy Chief's position is vacant at this time, Assistant Chief Barry Ward should maintain the card. Mulford explained that we need to develop a credit card policy. Mulford stated that the Assistant Chief can turn his card in when we determine our policy. Joe Zeidan moved to authorize the issuing of a District credit card to Chief Jim Dawson, seconded by Hines and carried unan.

Mechanics Building- Chief Jim Dawson stated that a plan needs to be developed regarding the move to the mechanic's facility. Mulford stated that we should have a key for the building by the end of this week; we need to sign the lease agreement. Mulford stated that we have ordered the equipment needed for this facility; we need to have an air compressor there. EMS Administrator Michael Benenati stated that we are waiting for a third quote on the compressor.

Bills-Mulford stated that we need to review the bills ahead of the meeting. Lantzky stated that we also need to perform the audit of the bank statement every month. Mulford stated that we have had Bob McCord and Lantzky doing that. Lantzky stated yes, Tim Sayles has done it as well as Bob Olivet. Mulford stated that it does not have to be two commissioners. Lantzky stated that a sitting commissioner and a former commissioner would be best due to some privacy issues in the documents being audited. Secretary Holzberger stated that this audit procedure takes under 2 hours and is only needed once a month. Mulford stated that we need to look at the bills; Secretary Holzberger explained that the bills come in regularly and can be reviewed anytime prior to the meeting. Zeidan stated that he would assist Lantzky with the monthly statement audit.

Mulford apologized for interrupting the Chief's report. Chief Jim Dawson stated that he will be forming an ambulance committee. Mulford stated that he would like to serve on that committee. D.Davidson commented no more trucks. Mulford stated that would be so noted.

FOIL request-Chief Jim Dawson stated that we are in receipt of a FOIL request for information pertaining to the fatal fire. Assistant Chief Barry Ward is in contact with Legal Counsel as how to proceed.

FH2 Renovation Plan-Chief Jim Dawson requested that he and or the EMS Administrator be involved. Lantzky stated that as this time he, two volunteers, two career staff members and Assistant Chief Barry Ward are involved.

Dutchess County Chiefs Council- Chief Jim Dawson stated that the DCC Chiefs Council requests the use of FH3 for their meeting on April 17, 2008. Mulford stated that you need to go through the house committee at FH3. Chief Jim Dawson stated that they had received clearance from St.3. Chief Jim Dawson stated that the Annual meeting for the Dutchess County Chiefs Council will be held at Pleasant Valley Fire District on February 15, 2008 at a cost of \$10 per attendee and he requests approval for up to 7 members attend.

Joe Ziedan moved to authorize up to 7 members be permitted to attend at a cost of \$10 each, seconded by Hines and carried unan.

Training-Chief Jim Dawson stated that some ice rescue classes are coming up at Montour Falls; Jan 30 and Feb 1-5 attendees Bryan Zittel, Jason Ryan, Rob Wells, Paul DeMillo and Brian Odendahl.

Feb 2 and 3 3 attendees: Greg Heneka, Dale Phillips, Doug Vinson Smith moved to approve the attendance with up to three additional names as previously stated by Assistant Chief Barry Ward, seconded by Hines and carried unan.

FASNY Training-Chief Jim Dawson reported that there are three classes coming up and requests approval as follows:

3/1/08 Public Information Officer class to be held in Walden. Cost is \$20 per member of FASNY. Chief Jim Dawson requests up to 5 be permitted to attend.

Smith moved to approve up to 5 members be authorized to attend, seconded by Joe Zeidan and carried unan.

3/29/08 Hybrid Vehicles to be held in Ulster County. Chief Jim Dawson requests up to 10 members be authorized to attend.

4/17/08 Crash Scene Investigation to be held in Maybrook. Smith asked what kind of investigation. Chief Jim Dawson explained that auto accidents, crime scene preservation. Chief Jim Dawson is requesting up to 10 members.

Zeidan moved to authorize up to 10 members to attend the classes to be held on 3/29/08 and 4/17/08, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan.

FDIC Indianapolis-Chief Jim Dawson requested that up to 6 members be permitted to go to FDIC in April. Mulford stated that he would like to go. Hines stated that he would be interested in going as well; need dates. Chief Jim Dawson stated that it is at the end of April. Smith moved to authorize up to 8 to attend, seconded by Zeidan and carried unan. Chief Jim Dawson stated that blocks of rooms have been reserved. Mulford stated that whoever does attend sign up for next year for best room location. Only one pre-registration is needed.

Fire EXPO Baltimore-Chief Jim Dawson requested that up to 6 be authorized to attend. Mulford encouraged the volunteers to attend; pre-conference starts Wednesday. Mulford stated that we will need names. Smith moved to approve up to 6 may attend, seconded Zeidan and carried unan.

Driving Seminar-Chief Jim Dawson stated that this is a joint effort between us and Arlington Fire Department. We need to contribute toward the instructor fee of \$450. Instructor will be Mike Wilbur of the FDNY. Unlimited members may attend. Smith moved to approve, seconded by Joe Zeidan, and carried unan.

Nassau Coliseum Fire Exposition-Chief Jim Dawson requested that members be permitted to attend this expo; cost is \$12. per person. Zeidan stated that they could travel in one car. Mulford does not know anything about this. Zeidan moved to authorize up to 5 attend, using one car, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan.

Mike Patrimonio stated that he had just requested new Board member information.

IT Proposal-Assistant Chief Barry Ward stated that the prep work has been done and it is time to execute the work.

Bills- Mulford stated that the work has been completed on the roof at FH3. Hines moved to approve payment of \$1600 to John Hunt and Sons pending the invoice and Purchase Order, seconded by Zeidan and carried unan.

RFQ Legal Counsel-Mulford stated that at our last meeting we voted to terminate our present legal counsel. Mulford stated that we have received one response from Frank Simeone; and he has reached out to Rod McLeod and he is willing to come in for another interview. Arlington Fire District is also seeking legal counsel; Pat Rose gave Mulford a name. Mulford stated that we also need a negotiator. Another Audit is needed for 2007. Mulford asked if the Board wished another RFQ; Board agreed.

Hines moved to advertise for an RFQ for Audit 2007 to be back by February 12, 2008 meeting, seconded by Smith and carried unan.

Planner-Mulford stated that we need to do this; it is not a cheap endeavor. Mulford stated that we could wait until the FDIC conference as about 8 of these planners are usually there.

Lt Interviews-Mulford stated that we need to schedule interviews; are all responses back. Secretary Holzberger reported that there are five names on the list; only top three are reachable. Mulford suggested next Tuesday at 7 PM at St.2. (January 15, 2008)

NYSDOH-Mulford stated that we are taking care of the issues raised by the inspector.

Doors-Mulford stated that we need to address the door problem at ST. 2. Mulford stated that cost to repair doors at ST.3 is about \$60. Mulford stated that he is trying to get the work donated.

Grant writer-Mulford stated that he met with the grant writer Sam Doncel and it was productive. Mulford explained that we have several avenues to explore; March 2008 is the time for Fire and Safer grants. Mulford stated that we need to prioritize a list for the grant writer. Mulford explained that there may be private funds available to explore for Building. There are low cost loans available. Mulford stated that he, Barry And Mike met with him.

Architect-Mulford asked if we want to stay with the architect, Clark Patterson. The Board agreed to stay with them for at least now.

Maintenance Person-Lantzky stated that he and Hines will work on the tasks to define the job.

Mechanic's Facility-Mulford stated that he will continue to work with Jeff Frazier on this. Mulford stated that we need eyewash, workbenches, and containers for outside.

The key is signing the lease agreement; Mulford stated that once that is done we should have keys by end of this week. Smith asked if the door has been installed Mulford stated that he did not know. Smith stated that he would follow up. Mulford stated that we cannot sign the agreement until the door is in.

Committees-Mulford stated that last year Smith was in charge of facilities and could remain so this year. Mulford stated that in his absence, Hines could be Deputy Chairman. Zeidan moved to appoint Hines as Deputy Chairman in Mulford's absence, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan.

ST.1-Mulford stated that he would like to get the fixed thermostats out there. Smith stated that he attended the last ST.1 meeting and they had various issues that needed to be addressed. Frank Daniberg stated that the electrician has fixed the extension cord issue in the kitchen. Light at flagpole was fixed as well. Frank Daniberg stated that most things have been fixed. Smith stated that Lantzky has been helpful with buildings and asked that he be given the authority as well. Mulford stated that Joe Zeidan is also available during the day as well; Smith can be primary and any of us (Board Members) can be contacted.

Mulford stated that Lantzky has been tasked to plan the renovations; we need to develop policies. Mulford stated that perhaps we can transfer some to Joe Zeidan-policies needed include uniform, use of firehouse, credit card, and travel to name a few. We need a procedure for 207(a). Assistant Chief Barry Ward stated that we need a central depository for these policies once they are adopted. Mulford stated that he will get Joe Zeidan involved with this.

Communications-Mulford stated that we need to develop a policy for distributing information and communications.

Mulford stated that Hines would be the liaison to the Local. Mulford stated that he would be involved with equipment, and apparatus including IT. Mulford stated that he would maintain community relations with the Town Board.

Expedition to Town of Lagrange-Mulford stated that we would be transferring one of the old expeditions to the Town of Lagrange; lights must be removed. Mulford stated that we still will have one expedition left. Zeidan asked if we need this vehicle. Mulford stated that we have extra at this time; Assistant Chief Barry Ward stated that we have only two unassigned vehicles at this time. These vehicles are used for training or when other vehicles are out of service.

Agricultural Exemption-Mulford reported that the resolution is in process.

Hines asked if the role of liaison to the Local be broadened to include the volunteers as well. Mulford agreed.

Records Retention-Secretary Holzberger reported that she obtained a quote from Shred-It to dispose of records as per the Schedule MU-1. Cost is \$175 for up to eight boxes. Secretary Holzberger explained that this company comes to the firehouse, disposes of these records, and issues a certification. This company is also "green" they recycle the shredded paper and the personnel are bonded.

Hines moved to approve the use of Shred-It, seconded by Smith and carried unan.

Fish Fry-Lantzky reported that the fish fry will start early February 9, 2008 (need to verify this date) as Easter is early this year (3/23/08). Lantzky noted that the grease trap is clogged again and this is due to the fact that it is not connected to the roof vent.

At 9:27 PM Hines moved to go to executive session to discuss a personnel matter, seconded by Smith and carried unan.

At 10:06 PM Mulford called the meeting back to order.

Hines moved to file in small claims court to recoup the cost of damages to repair the parking lot at Station3, seconded by Smith and carried unan. Mulford stated that he would contact Rod McLeod regarding this.

Budget transfers-Lantzky moved to authorize the necessary budget transfers by the Treasurer, seconded by Zeidan and carried unan.

Memorandum of Understanding-Lantzky moved to send the memorandum of understanding to the attorney to revise, seconded by Zeidan and carried unan.

Bills-Zeidan moved to authorize payment of the bills including the \$256.55 bill for the court reporter, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan.

There being no further business, Zeidan moved to adjourn at 10:15 PM, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan.

Respectfully submitted,  
Denise A. Holzberger, Secretary

\*\*\*Next Meeting January 22, 2008

LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT  
 WORKSHOP/SPECIAL MEETING  
 JANUARY 22, 2008  
 7:30 pm FIREHOUSE#3

The 868th meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the LaGrange Fire District was held on January 22, 2008 at 7:30 PM at Firehouse #3. Present were Commissioners Mulford, Zeidan, Lantzky, Hines; Chief Jim Dawson; Assistant Chief Barry Ward; Secretary Holzberger and firefighters.

Mulford called the meeting to order and led the salute to the flag. Todd McNutt, Rose & Kiernan Insurance, introduced himself and stated that he will be assisting Bob Welch in servicing our account; Todd will be our main contact, although Bob will still be available to you. Todd distributed business cards to the Board members. Todd McNutt stated that the renewal is being prepared and Mulford stated that a proposal could be sent to us ahead of our next meeting February 12, 2008. Mulford stated that it could be forwarded to the Secretary. Todd McNutt stated that the dividend check was sent out in the amount of \$14723. Secretary Holzberger confirmed receipt. Mulford thanked Todd for his attendance.

Correspondence-Secretary Holzberger reported the following was received.  
 Ladies Aux. Calendar-Mulford stated that he will hold until next meeting for approval.

Mulford stated that we do not have to review all the communications tonight; the Ladies Auxiliary submitted their calendar which includes the Fish Fry on February 8, 2008 which we already authorized.

Letter from Bradley Pinsky, attorney, regarding 2 % funds. Secretary Holzberger read the letter which was addressed to the LaGrange Board of Fire Commissioners and Scott Price. Mulford stated that we should acknowledge the letter and let them know that we have legal counsel looking into it. Secretary Holzberger stated that this letter is from an attorney and our legal counsel should respond on our behalf. Mulford stated that we do not have legal counsel at this time. Smith stated that we may have legal counsel after tonight. Mulford stated that we have also received a letter from Rudy Macak regarding the issue of the 2 % funds.

Letter form R Macak, dated 1/20/08 and received tonight read aloud by Secretary Holzberger. Smith moved that the Board rescind its motion regarding freezing of the 2% funds made at the January 8, 2008 meeting, seconded by Hines and when the Board was polled the vote was as follows:

Smith Aye Hines Aye Mulford Abstain Zeidan Aye Lantzky Nay  
 The motion was carried.

Mulford stated that the welfare funds have been unfrozen. Mulford stated that we will not receive any additional funds until the end of July. McCord stated that the big expense coming up is the Annual Dinner. McCord also stated that this issue is driving a wedge in the membership. Rudy Macak stated that the two members from St.2 have never opposed the use of the funds. Smith stated that we are grandfathered in as per legal counsel. Mulford stated that right now we have two opinions that we are grandfathered in. In 1989 the career staff was put on and they have always been treated the same as the volunteers. Mulford stated that hopefully we can get this resolved within the company and department. McCord thanked the Board for addressing this issue.

Mulford stated that we need to send a letter to each company President and the President of the Department inviting them to our Board meeting February 12, 2008 regarding various issues and company needs.

Discussion of building repairs-Smith stated that the door was adjusted at FH3. Mulford stated that the pass through window at FH3 was cited; it is not used and to have a metal drop down would be costly. Mulford recommends that this pass through be closed up with sheetrock and the kitchen door needs to be fire rated as well. Mulford stated that metal sheeting can be used. Smith stated that, in the interest of moving things along, we can discuss the particulars after the meeting and he can get a contractor to look at these things. Mulford agreed. A ballast is needed and the fan in the bathroom at FH3 is not functioning.

Smith asked what the status is regarding the vehicle we are giving to the Town of LaGrange. Mulford stated that as far as he knows, according to Assistant Chief Barry Ward, the vehicle is ready to go. Smith asked regarding a second vehicle being available to the Town. Mulford explained that he approached Supervisor Wagner regarding use of our vehicle on an as needed basis; we keep the vehicle and if the Town needs to use it and it is not being used by us, they may use it. Mulford stated that we need it most of the time and that we would have the right of first refusal. This was not acceptable to the Town of LaGrange. Smith stated that he had a conversation with the Town Supervisor, and we just purchased two new vehicles why are we not divesting two vehicles. Lantzky stated we did purchase two vehicles, and we sold one and are now giving one to the Town. Mulford

Zeidan stated that we will have three Chiefs cars and a spare. Mulford stated that he is not sure how the chief has the cars assigned. Mulford stated that we did offer it to the Town but we will maintain ownership. Mulford stated that he is opposed to giving it up carte blanche. Zeidan stated that he thinks Dixon is saying if we are paying insurance, and we do not need it we should give it up. Hines asked if there was a motion to transfer the vehicle. Smith stated that he feels we do not need the extra vehicle. Mulford stated that yes we did pass a resolution to transfer the vehicle to the Town of LaGrange.

Lt Appointment- Smith moved to appoint Ed Murray the new Lieutenant effective February 11, 2008, seconded by Zeidan and carried unan. Mulford instructed the Secretary to send letters to the candidates.

Mechanic's Building Lease-Smith stated that he has the signed leased agreement. Door is being replaced. Rental begins March 1, 2008.

Dog Run-Mulford stated that Peter Huf, Town of LaGrange Recreation, contacted him regarding the construction of a dog park using our property on Stringham Road. A portion of the property is already being used by the Town for wood chippings. The Town would also like to build a parking lot for those using the dog run. Mulford stated that the Town is charging us for the water line (annual tax). Mulford stated that we need to get with Peter Huf.

Hines moved to deny the Town access to our property for this dog run. Zeidan asked if we could table this until after executive session, seconded by Hines and carried unan. Mulford stated that at this time we will table it.

Executive Session 8:05 PM.-Hines moved to go to executive session to interview legal counsel, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan.

At 9:55 PM, Lantzky moved to return to the regular session, seconded by Zeidan and carried unan.

Vehicles- Assistant Chief Barry Ward stated that we are donating one car to the Town and one car could be lent; this would be a problem to manage and the lights on the vehicle would create the perception of an emergency vehicle. EMS Administrator Michael Benenati uses whatever car is available; he does not take the medic vehicle to New Paltz. Mulford stated that we now have two Assistant Chiefs.

Assistant Chief Barry Ward stated that we have always had two spare vehicles. Mulford stated that we would revisit this issue in June to re-evaluate our usage. Smith stated that another vehicle would be Car 4; Assistant Chief Barry Ward stated that yes we have three spares including car 4. Zeidan stated that we have three extra cars. Assistant Chief Barry Ward stated that the third vehicle is vacant right now. Mulford stated that we will be down to two spares. Assistant Chief Barry Ward stated that there is an option to fill the Deputy Chief position.

Mulford stated that we are giving one to the Town and will revisit the issue. Smith stated that there are three cars that would be technically extra. Zeidan stated that with three cars, as a taxpayer, he would hate to see them not being used. Assistant Chief Barry Ward stated that the Deputy Chief is unassigned at this time making that vehicle an extra. If we give it away then we would be down to one spare. Mulford stated that we do have extra vehicles. Assist. Chief Barry Ward stated that he always assumed that we would have four Assistant Chiefs and planned accordingly to have two spares; it takes 18

months to replace something. If you did want to give one away, and you filled the position (Deputy Chief) you would be down to one. Mulford stated that we have one Chief, two Assistant chiefs and a Deputy Chief that will hopefully be filled in a couple of months-that is 4 cars. Smith stated that we would have one spare. Assistant Chief Barry Ward stated that leaves two spares. In the absence of filling the Deputy Chief position there will be three. Mulford stated that we are going to the Deputy Chief position. Assistant Chief Barry Ward stated that would leave us with two spares.

Mulford stated that we could revisit this in June. Assist. Chief Barry Ward stated that we could also look at a lower cost vehicle, such as a van for traveling and that would most probably be available on State Bid; we could get rid of one of these cars and configure it for holding gear safely. Zeidan stated that he looking at the taxpayers' side; to have two or three vehicles sitting, he has an issue. Assistant Chief Barry Ward stated that the vehicles are worth about \$1000 each and more than ten years old. Zeidan stated that is all the more reason to get rid of them. Assist. Chief Barry Ward stated that we use them for training, etc. they do serve a purpose and he sees the point, but will argue to keep them.

Mulford stated that these cars are paid for and we use them. Zeidan stated that he has an issue with surplus. Mulford stated that the Town of LaGrange would like them. Zeidan stated that perhaps we could negotiate with the Town; do they have a van we could use. Zeidan stated that he can see one spare, but not three. Smith stated that he is at the firehouse everyday and sees vehicles sitting and he spoke with Jon Wagner and he agrees with him. Smith stated that if it were up to him, he would give the Town the additional car. Mulford stated that we are giving them one and lend them one when needed. Zeidan stated that Assistant Chief Barry Ward had a point regarding the managing that.

Assist. Chief Barry stated that we could try working with one car. Mulford stated that we could try to work with just one car for two months. Secretary Holzberger stated that if we hire a maintenance person, what vehicle would be uses for picking up parts, etc.? Smith stated the mechanic's vehicle would be used. Lantzky stated that is a heavy maintenance vehicle. Mulford stated that to pick up parts in Newburgh would you take the expedition or the heavy maintenance. Zeidan stated then the spare car could be used. Lantzky stated that would be fine as long as it's available. Lantzky stated that he has picked up parts for Jeff Frazier and used his own personal vehicle because the cars were already in use up at Montour for training classes. Zeidan asked why the part wasn't delivered. Assistant Chief Barry Ward stated that parts are delivered sometimes but that is not always possible. Zeidan stated that

Hines stated that the argument that these vehicles were already paid for by the taxpayers of the Town, the fact is that the taxpayer paid for those vehicles for the fire district. Zeidan stated that we have purchased vehicles to replace them. Hines stated that he does not agree with giving them to the Town; if the Town Supervisor wants these vehicles

then he should pay for them and put that money back in our budget for firematic equipment. Zeidan stated asked if there is something we could get back from the Town. Zeidan stated that no matter what vehicle we donate to the Town, it should be placed in the newspaper that we donated that. Mulford agreed. Mulford stated that we have enough vehicles to support the Chief, Deputy Chief and two Assistant Chiefs and that will leave us spares and one will go to Town by the end of the month; and it should be documented in the newspaper. Mulford and will bring it up again next meeting.

Hines asked about the dog park. Mulford explained that the dogs may socialize with other dogs. Lantzky asked what happens when you get tow or three dogs in there that do not get along-who is responsible for the damages? Mulford stated that these dog parks have been successful and it is spreading through out the Northeast. People are not allowed in them and the dogs socialize. The Town would like to use our property for the dog park and parking lot. The road going in is on our property and yet we are paying for the annual tax on the water line. Mulford asked if we want to decide this now. Zeidan stated we should look at this at our next meeting when we have a fresh head. Mulford stated he would call the Town tomorrow and let them know we have tabled this till next meeting, February 12, 2008.

There being no further business, Lantzky moved to adjourn at 9:55 PM, seconded by Hines and carried unan.

Respectfully submitted,  
Denise A. Holzberger, Secretary

\*\*\*Next meeting Feb 12, 2008