

LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT  
SPECIAL/WORKSHOP SESSION  
MAY 27, 2008  
MINUTES

4670

The 875th meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was held on May 27, 2008 Present were Commissioners Hines, Smith, Zeidan, Mulford; Chief Jim Dawson; Assistant Chief Barry Ward; Secretary Holzberger; Rod MacLeod, legal counsel and firefighters. Commissioner Lantzky was absent.

Mulford called the meeting to order and led the salute to the flag. Mulford opened the meeting up to the floor for public comment.

Public Comment-Bob Cross, member of St.1 stated that he contacted Rose & Kiernan regarding the Boot Drive and insurance coverage and they do not have a problem. Mulford explained that he also did research and, upon recommendation of legal counsel we should table it. Cross asked if a vote of the Board should be taken. Zeidan asked where the boot drive is set up. Cross explained that it has been done on Route 55 in the vicinity of McDonalds. Mulford stated that he would like to discuss this further with legal counsel tonight. Cross stated that he will wait for the response after the Board has discussed it. James Broderick, member St.1, stated that the Pancake Breakfasts are very labor intensive for the amount that is actually made and the boot drive is more effective.

Minutes-Zeidan moved to accept the minutes of May 13, 2008 as submitted, seconded by Hines and carried unan.

Correspondence: Secretary Holzberger reported the following received:

Letter received from Christopher Keith Barber and \$50 donation received payable to the Lagrange Fire House. Hines moved to turn over the check over to the LaGrange Fire Department, seconded by Smith and carried unan.

April 2008 financial report sent via email to Board

April 2008 Bank Rec/Audit completed by Zeidan and Lantzky

Letter from DSN (Grant Writer) requesting a change in the agreement. Board approval and signature of Chairman required.

Mulford explained that the grant writer sent an amendment to the original agreement. Time and travel requirement cost have increased due to fuel costs. Billing will be monthly. Mulford stated that he feels that legal counsel should review. Hines asked what the hourly rate was originally. Mulford stated that there was not an hourly fee originally. Hines stated that he voted to retain this grant writer, however now he is changing the original agreement. Mulford stated that he wants to use the retainer we have already paid. Mulford stated that Sam Doncel (Grant writer) is trying to go after several grants for us. Mulford asked if the Board should vote. Hines and Smith stated that they know what they are going to say. Mulford stated that he would like to refer to legal counsel first.

Chiefs Report- 47-89 was damaged when 47-55 backed into it. The estimate is \$625 for body work and \$850 for decals. Mulford stated that accidents are to be reported within 24 hours. Chief Jim Dawson stated that he is following up on this. Assistant Chief Barry Ward stated that the \$850 is for gold leaf; that is why we have changed to scotch light for new vehicles. Mulford asked why we don't go to scotch light now. Hines stated that this process of notification needs to be reviewed. Mulford stated that there seems to be a breakdown in the system. Smith stated that there needs to be a memorandum regarding notification. Mulford stated that we already have a policy. Hines stated that the communication policy he drafted for review tonight may solve this problem.

Conference- Chief Jim Dawson stated that there is a Difficult Airways conference for medics being held in Stony Brook, Long Island; 4 medics have requested to go. Mulford stated that sending four would be a hit on our resources; two would be fine. Hines asked who does the training for the medics here; Chief Jim Dawson stated that EMS Administrator Michael Benenati does, however this training is highly specialized and not offered locally. Mulford stated that the medics that attend should return and train the other medics, as well as report to the Board as to what they learn.

Hines moved that one medic as chosen by the Chief, be permitted to attend this conference at Stony Brook, seconded by Smith and when the Board was polled the vote was as follows:

Hines Aye Mulford Aye Zeidan Aye Smith Aye Lantzky absent

The motion was carried unan.

Uniform Policy- Chief Jim Dawson asked if this policy has been approved. Mulford stated yes. Chief Jim Dawson asked if there is a policy regarding disseminating information. Mulford stated that will be reviewed tonight.

Knights of Columbus- Chief Jim Dawson stated that a request was received for an ambulance for the Knights of Columbus carnival 7/16-7/19/08. Mulford stated that they have not asked us for permission to use the grounds as yet, how can we authorize an ambulance.

Vehicle Donation- Chief Jim Dawson stated that a member asked if we would like a vehicle for training; Smith stated that we get vehicles from Redl's. The Board declined the donation.

Blue light- Chief Jim Dawson asked if the blue light may be used outside of the district. Rod MacLeod stated that the law is not specific, however it would be out of your jurisdiction; the Chief and Board would direct that blue lights may only be used within the Town.

Company Suspension: Chief Jim Dawson asked legal counsel if the President of a company may suspend a member. Rod MacLeod stated that they may as long as the bylaws are followed.

Hose test-Chief Jim Dawson reported that the hose test is scheduled for the week of 6/24/08.

Mechanic's Facility-Smith stated that he taking care of the no hot water problem, door problem and ramp.

St.2 Parking Lot-Mulford stated that this is a safety issue. Smith stated that Scott Price has been contacted; Mulford stated that the extension cord is a safety hazard; it has been there for over a month. Hines asked if we have an on-call excavator.

Hines moved that we retain Sun-Up, as it is a safety issue, seconded by Zeidan and when the Board was polled the vote was as follows:

Smith Nay Mulford Aye Zeidan Aye Hines Aye

The motion was carried.

FH2 kitchen fan broke-Smith stated that he will look into.

Drains clogged at FH1-Secretary reported that career staff notified her. Zeidan suggested that reports of problems may be submitted in writing to the Board.

Smith asked for assistance for the building maintenance; Zeidan stated that he would help out.

Training Building- Secretary Holzberger reported that the electrician was to work with Lt Schroeder. Smith stated that he feels that there should be one commissioner in charge of each building to keep things under control.

Mulford stated that the boiler at St.2 is cracked and a contractor and rep from Burnham will be there at 8:30 PM on Thursday. Zeidan stated that he would be there as well. Mulford stated that the AC needs to be serviced in all three firehouses. Rick Bohlinger stated the filters should be cleaned and coils need to be checked; a plugged filter can blow a unit.

Generator Status-Letter from HO Penn was received and faxed regarding the transfer switch.

Hines stated that he would like to retract his earlier motion regarding retaining Sun- up for the repairs to the conduit line, and allow the volunteer to continue and fix the problem, seconded by Smith and suggests tabling it to the end of the meeting.

Zeidan asked for a timetable. Mulford explained that there is a cord across the parking lot that is a hazard.

Executive Session- At 8:35 PM Smith moved to go to executive session to meet with legal counsel, seconded by Hines and carried unan.

Zeidan moved to go back to the regular session at 9:28 PM, seconded by Hines and carried unan.

Mulford stated that the Board has discussed with legal counsel the boot drive request.

Mulford feels that the boot drive would open the district up to liability. Smith stated that he is in favor of the boot drive; the area is safe; it is the Board's decision. Hines stated that legal counsel's advice is that if a member is injured or killed at this event, without the Board's approval the member will not have coverage; if the Board does not take action or denies the request to hold the boot drive, there is no workers comp or VFBL coverage, only general liability.

Hines stated that the company does have the right to conduct the boot drive, but coverage would be limited.

Hines moved to approve Company 1's request to hold the boot drive, seconded by Smith and when the Board was polled the vote was as follows:

Smith Aye

Hines Aye

Mulford Nay

Zeidan Nay

Lantzky Absent

The motion did not pass.

Request for Ice Machine Co.1-Mulford explained that it is was not factored into the budget this year.

Executive Session- At 9:35 PM Hines moved to go to executive session, seconded by Smith and carried unan.

At 10:31 PM Hines moved to go back to regular session, seconded by Smith and carried unan.

Hines reported that he and Smith met with reps from Co.2, and Co.3 regarding the code of ethics; he reported that the meeting went well and we should be able to close this issue soon.

There being no further business Hines moved to adjourn at 10:32 PM, seconded by Smith and carried unan.

Respectfully submitted,  
Denise A. Holzberger, Secretary-Treasurer

