

MINUTES
LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 10, 2008
FH 3 7:30 pm

4674

The 876th meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was held on June 10, 2008. Present were Commissioners Mulford, Lantzky, Hines, Zeidan, Smith; EMS Administrator Michael Benenati; Assistant Chief Barry Ward; Chief Jim Dawson; Secretary Holzberger, and firefighters.

Mulford called the meeting to order and led the salute to the flag. Mulford asked that a moment of silence be observed for deceased member Tom Tully, St.3. Mulford asked that cell phones be turned off and welcomed everyone. Mulford opened up the meeting to the floor for public comment. Mulford stated that those wishing to speak, to please identify themselves.

Public Comment-Bob Cross, St. 1, asked for a vote of the Board for the support of the boot drive be done this evening. Mulford stated that a vote was taken at the last Board meeting and was tied 2 to 2. Zeidan asked if this is a district event. Bob Cross stated that it is a company 1 event but it could be a department wide event. Mulford stated that it could be a department event; however, Mulford stated that he would not want three boot drives being done together. Zeidan asked if they (Co. 1) had brought it the other companies. Bob Cross stated that they do not have time as they wish to do it in two weeks. Deo Reed, Fire police ST1, asked if there were any problems that occurred. Mulford explained that the concern is a hazard on the road and does not want three boot drives. Hines explained that if the Board denies the request, that if someone is injured or killed that the insurance coverage is compromised and there is little coverage for the member. Deo Reed stated that it was discussed at a meeting and that everyone felt comfortable with doing the drive. Bob Cross stated that the insurance stated that there was coverage; and Bob Cross stated that an incident could also occur at community day. Lantzky stated that ST.2 does not do a boot drive as they do the fish fry. St.1 has been doing pancake breakfasts but it is a tedious labor intensive process. Zeidan stated that the concern is that once a boot drive is approved from one company, then the other companies can request approval as well.

Deo Reed stated that the 2% monies have a definitive way to be spent; boot drive funds may be used without restriction. Bob McCord explained that there are a lot of things that can be done with the 2% funds. Mike Macak stated that the 2% funds may be used for the membership. Zeidan asked if the Board approved the boot drive last year. Mulford stated that it was proposed and voted on and feels that it is a risk for the District. Mulford stated that he understands that volunteers would like to raise funds, however feels that he is representing the taxpayer. Zeidan asked if a policy may be enacted that would restrict the fundraisers done by each company. Mulford stated that each company

stands alone, yet is part of the department, therefore the District cannot restrict the fundraisers.

Smith moved that the boot drive be approved, seconded by Lantzky and when the Board was polled the vote was as follows:

Mulford Nay Zeidan Nay Smith Aye Hines Aye Lantzky Aye

The motion was carried.

Kelly Minard requested approval for the letter for Company 3's raffle; she presented the letter to the Board. Mulford read letter. The date of the drawing is Sept 20, 2008.

Zeidan moved to approve the Company 3 letter for the raffle, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan.

Minutes of May 27, 2008 meeting. Hines moved to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Zeidan and carried unan.

Hines moved that we record the minutes, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan. Secretary Holzberger explained that there were technical difficulties with the tape recorder this evening; the batteries have died. Mulford stated that we would get new batteries.

Correspondence-Secretary Holzberger reported that the following was received: \$904 Check received from Rose & Kiernan for credit for deletion of 1995 Ford, 1994 Chevy Pick up, and 1986 Ford. Hines moved to allocate to the 2008 Insurance budget, seconded by Zeidan and carried unan.

Letter from St. Francis Trauma-Secretary Holzberger read the letter. Lantzky stated that Steve Daly should be recognized at a higher level due to his outstanding save. Assistant Chief Barry Ward stated that the Southern Dutchess Exchange Club would be the forum for that recognition, and he can be nominated. Hines stated that a letter be sent commending all those that attended that call for their efforts, and they be invited to the meeting by the Board and presented with the letters, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan. Mulford stated that it should be presented framed.

Letter from Co. 2 received regarding 2% funds. Secretary Holzberger read the letter. Meeting Notice-Association of Fire Districts of Dutchess County next meeting June 24, 2008 at East Fishkill Headquarters.

Polling site Agreement for Firehouse #2-needs to be filled out and returned to Board of Elections.

Rose & Kiernan-Secretary Holzberger reported that there is a forthcoming credit or \$2404. for the deletion of the 1991 International Rescue.

Bills- The following bills were presented for payment; Page 4676 .

Hines moved to approve payment of the bills, seconded by Smith and carried unan.

Chiefs Report-

Chief Jim Dawson reported that all documentation for 47-89 and 47-55 accident has been completed and the communication gap has been corrected; and it was noted that a spotter was in position however not aware of the open door. Mulford asked if the Safety Committee was convened. Chief Jim Dawson stated that he met with the Safety Chairman; Mulford stated that Safety committee should be convened to review the accident and meeting quarterly does not make sense; Chief Jim Dawson stated that a written report is provided to the Chief and that convening the entire committee is difficult. Hines stated that it took three weeks before the Chief was made aware; Chief Dawson stated that the report was filled out and filed with the Lieutenant and placed in the safety committee box on the day of the incident.

Accidents/Injuries-one injury at St.1; first Aid only. The injury occurred when the cord reel was pulled from the ceiling at St.1. The mechanic will repair.

Map Lamination-Chief Jim Dawson stated that a vendor will laminate the map. Vendor quoted for a cash price; can we reimburse individual to pay cash. Chief Jim Dawson stated that he will check on cost for other payment methods.

Hydrant Gates-part of equipment bid; vendor substituted without our approval, therefore we rejected, the bid and are re-bidding the hydrant gates.

Chief Jim Dawson stated that at a previous meeting the purchase of a saw was approved; Assistant Chief Barry Ward stated that we will go with the Partner.

47-55- Chief Jim Dawson reported all items on the list are corrected except the interior paint, speedy dry hopper; check engine light and check translator light is still in diagnostics by E-one. Detroit sees not error codes. Hines asked about the paint; Chief Jim Dawson stated we still have to follow up.

Tanker-committee meeting tonight.

Ambulance-committee

47-62-will be out of service for brake service.

Mechanics facility-items still need to be fixed;

Rules and Regs-Chief Jim Dawson reported that the uniform policy was distributed and the vehicle policy from Sept 2007 was posted. Secretary Holzberger reported that the Uniform policy was posted at all three firehouses.

Use of mechanics Facility-Chief Jim Dawson stated that some of the Lt's are concerned with using the mechanics facility with less than 8 on duty; using the facility with only six could delay the response of a 2nd apparatus out of St. 2 by 2 to 3 minutes. St.1 response time and a first apparatus out of St 2 would not affect response times. Using the facility with one more person above minimum staffing would improve logistics and improve the response times of a second apparatus out of St. 2 as well as improve the

mechanic's productivity. Mulford clarified that when we met with the local, staffing was looked at and clear approval was received from them. Mulford stated that someone was moved from the night shift when Davyd Bullock went to military duty. Mulford stated that it is an option to close the mechanic's facility and move everyone back; it was important to get the mechanic in a safe working environment. Mulford stated that they (when at the mechanic's facility) are under two minutes away to come to the firehouse if an alarm goes out. Zeidan asked who made the decision to move that firefighter from shift; Chief Jim Dawson stated that he and Mike provided the commissioners with calculations showing the benefits of the move and the commissioners approved the move at a previous meeting. Mulford stated that an individual alone can do paperwork instead of working on the truck.

Hines suggested that those individuals who need clarification should address it to the Board. Mulford stated that they should address it in writing to the Board. Mulford stated to move the firefighter back to days would solve the problem; fill Bullock's nights and weekends. Hines asked regarding the Uniform Policy. Mulford stated that the policy at St. 3 was removed from the board. Mulford asked that there should be uniform shirts for all volunteers; duty uniform, shoes, shirts; they should be the same color for career and volunteers.

Uniforms for volunteers- Mulford stated that we need uniforms for the volunteers. Zeidan asked what the uniforms are for. Mulford stated that volunteers are placed on stand by and should have a uniform. Zeidan asked how many uniforms are needed for stand by. Mulford stated that the uniform will be issued to them. Mulford asked Michael Benenati what the cost is. Mike Macak stated that patches should be common. It has been two years since this was approved. Zeidan stated if it has been that long then t evidently we do not need them. Mulford stated that we would need about 36 sets at a cost of \$3600. Mulford explained that there is no continuity.

Motion to Purchase Uniforms for Volunteers:

Lantzky moved that uniforms be purchased for stand by volunteers, and there was discussion: only active members on standby would need them.

Zeidan agrees that uniforms are needed for stand by; Zeidan stated that it may be difficult to get them to be in uniform when on stand by. Chief Jim Dawson stated that the requirement for stand by is 4 hours. Mulford stated stand by is one way to earn points for Service Awards. Hines stated that there are two different stand by's: scheduled and emergency. Zeidan asked what is the guarantee that they will be used. Hines stated he would second the motion if uniform will be worn for scheduled stand by. Mulford polled the Board and the vote was as follows:

Lantzky Aye Smith Aye Ziedan Nay Hines Aye Mulford Aye.

The Motion was carried.

Generator-Mulford reported that transfer switches are to be delivered and are to be installed today; 2 ½ days work left at each station. Extension granted until June 30 2008.

Policies-Mulford stated that we would like to schedule another workshop meeting June 19 2008 at 7PM at FH 3. Lantzky moved to hold a workshop, seconded by smith and carried unan.

Audit 2007-to be completed by the deadline of June 30, 2008.

Boiler-ST2 –Mulford reported that it was a mechanical failure on Burnham’s part. Fan-heater has been broken; Mulford asked for quote for repair \$2950 from M&M Mechanical. Hines asked if this would be affected by the proposed modifications at ST 2. Mulford stated that it would not. The whole unit is broken; blower heater is in the bays in the ceiling.

Hines moved that we accept the quote from M&M Mechanical for \$2950, seconded by Lantzky. Zeidan stated that we should look at other quotes; Mulford stated that he can go out for more if he likes, it was difficult to get this one. The motion was carried unan.

Freezer ST.1- Mulford stated that the companies buy there own freezer. Smith asked for a clarification if we own any freezers. It was stated that the District does not own the freezers.

Hines asked regarding hiring a negotiator, one was David Weiss and one was Ray Koontz. Hines stated that Ray Koontz was \$175 per hour and David Weiss was \$210 per hour. Zeidan stated that we never interviewed Mr. Koontz for the specific purpose of negotiator and he has no problem interviewing him. Mulford stated that after meeting with the Local, they are demanding things. Perhaps we should take it off the table.

Hines stated that they did want to meet with a representative from NYSHIP and we should not renege. Mulford stated that we would meet with them on June 26, 2008 regarding the Drug and Alcohol Policy.

Smith stated that we have two attorneys we are considering; Mulford stated that three commissioners were present when they met with Mr. Weiss and Hines stated that he can attest to Mr. Koontz’ abilities, but it is up to the Board. Mulford stated that Mr. Koontz (in the previous interview) could not represent us due to a conflict with our meeting nights and the school boards meeting nights.

Zeidan moved to appoint Mr. Weiss, Smith stated that we selected Gellert and Klein to keep with the same law firm. Smith stated that we should interview Mr.Koontz.

Hines moved to invite Mr. Koontz on June 19, 2008, seconded by Smith and carried unan. Smith stated that common sense dictates to keep the legal services with one firm.

Executive session at 9:05 PM: Zeidan moved to go to executive session, seconded by Hines and carried unan.

Return to regular session: At 10:38 PM Mulford called the meeting back to order. Hines moved to rescind the motion regarding meeting with NYSHIP representatives and the Local and their families upon the advice of legal counsel, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan.

There being not further business, Smith moved to adjourn at 10:39 PM, seconded by Hines and carried unan.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise A. Holzberger, Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting June 19 workshop
June 24 regular meeting