

LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 10, 2009
FH 2 7:30 pm

4607

The 897th meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Lagrange Fire District was held on March 10, 2009 at Firehouse #2 at 7:30 PM. Present were Commissioners Ziedan, Smith, Canero, Hines; Chief Barry Ward; Assistant Chief Brian Odendahl; Assistant Chief Dan Trier; EMS Administrator Michael Benenati; Legal Counsel Rod MacLeod; Secretary Holzberger and firefighters. Lantzky was absent due to attendance at a military funeral.

Hines called the meeting to order and led the salute to the flag. Hines welcomed everyone and stated that this is a meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioner held in public and not a public meeting. The opportunity for public comment will be offered at least once and time permitting twice, during the meeting. Hines stated that Commissioner Lantzky is absent due to attendance at a military funeral in Washington DC.

Tanker Bid-

Hines dispensed with the normal order of business to permit the opening of the bids for the Tanker. Secretary Holzberger reported that one bid were received as follows: Hopewell Fire Equipment
3000 gallon Tank, Body and Pump Assembly \$163,000
Spartan Gladiator LTD Style Chassis \$219,266.
Total Cost per unit \$382,285.00

Chief Barry Ward stated that the specs stated 45 days for a lock in price, a change in the bid states 30 days for a lock in; we will discuss that at our next workshop.

Hines asked for a motion to turn the Bid to the Chief for review and recommendation, seconded by Smith and carried unan. Hines stated that we would return to the normal order of business called the meeting back to the normal order of business.

Minutes Feb 24, 2009-Smith moved to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Canero and when the Board was polled the vote was follows:
Smith Aye Lantzky Absent Ziedan Abstain Canero Aye Hines Aye
The motion was carried.

Correspondence-Secretary Holzberger reported the following was received:
Check for \$111.86 New York State Fuel Tax refund, motion Gas 2009 –Zeidan moved to allocate to the 2009 Gas Budget, seconded by Smith and carried unan.
Check from US Treasury refund of 941 quarter ending 12/08 for \$5297.20. Smith moved to allocate 2009 Personnel Services Budget, seconded by Ziedan and carried unan.
FOIL Request for various minutes, financial reports from Bryan Zittel. Hines asked legal counsel if this request is pursuant to FOIL. Rod MacLeod stated that you must comply. Hines stated that he is uncomfortable sending this information over the Internet and would prefer sending hard copies. Hard

copies will cost 25 cents per page. Hines asked for a motion to send a hard copy at the rate of .25 per page in as timely matter as our staff can provide.

Ziedan moved to authorize sending the records as pursuant to the Freedom of Information Law, at a cost of .25 cents per page, seconded by Smith and carried unan.

Special Election March 31, 2009-notice received from Dutchess County Board of Elections for use of FH1, 2, 3 for voting 5:30 AM until 10 PM.

Association of Fire Districts, Dutchess County-meeting notice for March 24, 2009

Confidentiality Agreement-Manitou (Planner) Secretary Holzberger stated that the Chairman's signature is needed. Charles Jennings has signed the document. Hines authorized Secretary Holzberger to sign the document for him.

Dutchess Overhead Doors-Proposal for maintenance and service. Canero stated he would review and report back at the next meeting.

Foreign Fire Tax-report received from Company 3. Rod MacLeod stated that it does not matter who puts it in the envelope (to send) however the District Treasurer does not have the responsibility of reporting it.

Workers Comp-Secretary Holzberger reported that there is a meeting with Mr. Danzig (Safety Group 497) regarding the new workers comp regulations on 3/12/09 at 3 Pm.

Tax Money-Secretary Holzberger reported that a check was received for the 2009 Tax Money in the amount of \$4,945,335.00

Public Comment-Mr. Bruce Duckwith stated that he was here last month regarding his Alamo Ambulance Transport bill. Hines stated that we have not discussed the issue as a Board, but he did discuss the charge with Alamo and received a letter from Alamo regarding submission to Medicare for payment coverage. Hines presented the letter to Mr. Duckwith and asked him to read it. Mr. Duckwith read the letter. The letter stated that Alamo will accept what the insurance pays as full payment for Lagrange Residents who may be transported. Hines stated that he wishes to contact Mobile Life and Transcare as well to have them extend this courtesy to our residents. Mr. Duckwith stated that he does not believe that his insurance should have to pay for it.

Hines stated that he does not disagree with him; however, given the legislation and the responsibility this district has to respond with mutual aid when extreme circumstances exist, this may cause a paid service to respond. This is a rare occurrence, but it could happen and the Law does not permit Fire Districts to charge for this service to non-Town residents. Hines stated that the next step to change the law. The third step in the process would be to try and change the legislation with your help. EMS Administrator Michael Benenati explained that New York State does not permit fire districts to bill and at the time of Mr. Duckwith's service there were three calls in the District at the same time. Mr. Duckwith stated that theoretically, a non-resident could be using the services and a resident would be charged if service is rendered by a paid service. Bruce stated that he would like to pursue this and at

this time he feels that this bill is delinquent. Hines explained that after his discussion with Alamo, he understood that Mr. Duckwith would not receive a bill. Mr. Duckwith thanked the Board.

Parade-Ralph Francisco stated that uniforms would be needed to march in New Hackensack Fire Department's upcoming parade on May 30 2009. Ralph explained there was considerable interest at the Department meeting-approximately 30 people were interested. Of those thirty people only four had uniforms and other uniforms would be in need of inspection to determine if they could be used. Ralph stated that commissioners would be invited to march as well. The Career staff was also invited to march and as yet have not responded. Ralph explained that estimates from vendors have been obtained: 911 and Buckshollow.

Class A Dress-911 Uniforms \$205 per blouse plus additional for braiding

Hines asked the Chief regarding stressing the District (as it pertains to coverage). Chief Barry Ward stated no and as far as equipment use is concerned 47-14 could be used.

Hines asked for a motion to approve participation in the New Hackensack's parade. Canero asked if there are funds in the budget. Hines stated that would be the next point to discuss.

Canero moved to permit participation on May 30, 2009, seconded By Ziedan and carried unan.

Hines asked to review the cost. Ralph Francisco reviewed the cost as per the estimates.

911 quoted \$205 per blouse plus additional cost for braiding on the sleeves. Ralph explained that cost is determined by what is needed as far as line officers etc.

Pants are \$70 per pair Blue Bell Caps are \$28.80 White Bell caps \$32.40 Bell caps for Chief Officers are \$72.40 as per specs from Ivan (Lantzky)

Total cost is \$425-\$450 each and Ralph stated we need about 30. Bob McCord asked if all these individuals would march and could we get the uniforms in time. Ralph stated 30 will march and 911 stated they could get the uniforms in time. Buckshollow was more willing to negotiate on volume and is a little cheaper than 911. Ralph stated that the uniforms can be ordered and received by the second week in May.

Hines stated that the dollar amount suggests a bidding process is needed because of the cost: total for 35 is \$16000. Canero stated that due to the dollar amount indicates a bid process is needed. Chief Barry Ward stated that we do have funds from the leftover cash however we still need to bid this. Hines stated that if we have to go out to bid, the process would not be timely enough for May 30; we could make something happen for the summer. Ralph asked what the cut off dollar amount is for bidding. Chief Barry Ward stated that he believes it is \$5000. Chief Barry Ward stated that we discussed work uniforms for the volunteers as well; perhaps we can spec it all out. Hines asked for a brief recess to speak with Legal Counsel.

Hines stated that after discussing with legal counsel we are obliged to comply with our bidding process as well as New York State regulations regarding procurement over \$10,000. Hines stated that in light of that we could look toward summer.

Ziedan stated that perhaps we could expedite the process if the company is willing to pay some of the cost, would the company be willing to do this. Bob McCord stated that if the company has some skin in the game, they would be likely to march. Hines stated that we could waive our policy, but we would still have to comply with the State requirements. Hines suggested the District pay \$9999 and the three companies pay the rest. Bob McCord stated that would not work as the one company may only have one member participating. Bob McCord stated he agreed that if the company had some skin in the

situation, members would be more likely to participate. Bob McCord stated that we had 60 uniforms at one time; now we only have 4. Ralph stated if went to just 30 participating it would cut the cost to \$12,000.

Canero stated that he feels it is a great idea; however we should just send a truck and see the turnout we get and go from there. Ralph stated that the preparation of the truck is not the issue. Ziedan stated that he applauds everyone for doing this; his only concern is that we used to have a lot uniforms. Ralph stated that he has gotten a lot of positive feedback to do this. Ralph stated that for us to do this wholeheartedly uniforms are needed. Ziedan explained that he appreciates that, however everyone is for it now but what if interest drops off. Ralph stated that every member should be responsible for the return of the uniforms. Ziedan stated the companies could pay for half. Bob McCord stated the enthusiasm was outstanding years ago and we need this now and encourages the purchase of the uniforms. Chief Barry Ward stated that we should not rush into but pursue it for Dover. Bob McCord stated that realistically you will probably get only 20 members. Chief Barry Ward stated we need to put this out to bid.

Ziedan moved to put the uniforms out to bid to open on March 20, 2009 at 12 noon at Firehouse #2, seconded by Smith and carried unan. Bids could be awarded on March 24, 2009.

2%Funds –Bob McCord stated that in the past the report was given to the District Secretary to send to NYS. Rod MacLeod stated that the District Treasurer receives the funds and turns them over to the Department and the three companies and the career staff send their reports in on their own. Hines asked the Secretary to forward them.

Bills- The following bills were submitted for payment, page 4611. Smith moved to authorize payment of the bills with the exception of the Miracle Ford bill for \$1499 pending review, seconded by Ziedan and carried unan.

Labor Law Poster Renewal-Ziedan moved to approve the renewal at a cost of up to \$200, seconded by Smith and carried unan.

Chiefs Report-

Accidents and Injuries-Chief Barry Ward reported one minor tripping incident; no lost time
47-5- minor damage sustained; grill needs replacement

Eyewash St 1-valve needs repair; we left the valve open to allow use if needed until repaired.

Training-Chief Barry Ward requested two for FDIC and we are using the Southwest airline credit.

Baltimore Fire EXPO-cost is \$1635 each total for four is \$6540 Chief Barry ward noted that last year we sent three. Chief Barry Ward stated that this cost includes hands on sessions-auto extrication with Ron Moore. Ziedan asked if they do not participate in the hands on, does the price come down. Chief Barry Ward stated yes.

Ziedan moved to approve, seconded Smith and carried unan.

Laptop-Chief Barry Ward stated that he looked into the Jaws software needed for visually impaired. Cost is \$895 for standard and \$1095 for professional version. Chief Barry Ward stated that we would explore State Bid and get back to the Board.

Petzel-Chief Barry Wards stated that we need a bid opening date. Chief Barry Ward asked to buy 45 (\$20K out of the Budget) and he noted that Petzel will not sell it to us without the training component, includes train the trainer.

Canero moved to open the bids on March 20, 2009 at 12 noon at FH2, seconded by Smith and carried unan.

47-12-Chief Barry Ward reported the paint is bubbling; wherever there is a piano hinge and cut through the body. Estimate from Nichols is \$22000 to repaint the whole body. Chief Barry Ward is not under warranty but could lean on the service rep at E-One.

Open Forum-EMS- Chief Barry Ward stated that tomorrow will be the open session following the EMS Forum and encourages all to attend. Chief Barry Ward stated that Michael Benenati and the other EMS Lieutenants have spent a lot of time working on this.

Ambulance-EMS Administrator Michael Benenati stated that Ford is starting to make a gas engine and is unsure what is going to happen with the diesel market. With the current economy, there are concerns regarding the stability of General Motors. After speaking with Jeff Frazier regarding the use of gas engines, EMS Administrator Michael Benenati stated that he has discussed this with the Chief and in light of the situation Ford making changes in the engines, we may want to look at putting the specification preparation of our ambulances on a fast track. EMS Michael Benenati stated that we may not want to be the recipient of a newly designed engine for 2010 that has not been tested in the market. Hines asked what it would entail to place the specs on a fast track. EMS Administrator Michael Benenati stated that would mean placing other work on hold and focusing on the new ambulance spec. These would take a while to develop even though we have some of the ground work done. Hines asked the Board members what they think.

Smith stated that we probably should stay with Ford and perhaps we should look at fast tracking so that we can get the 2009 diesel engine and not a new model. Spec needs to be developed and it will take a great deal of time. Smith agrees that we should fast track this. Ziedan stated that we voted to push out the ambulances at a previous meeting. Hines stated that he doesn't think we voted on that.

Chief Barry Ward will check what we pushed out. Canero stated that Ford makes the better frame and we should at least get one otherwise we will have to go with gas engine. Hines stated that we need to look at the budget. Chief Barry Ward stated that two tankers are in 2009 and ambulances are in this year's budget as well; residual balance of \$125,000 would be left in the Apparatus Reserve. Hines stated that as he understands it, both Chief Barry Ward and EMS Michael Administrator feel we need to go with the 2009 diesel engine.

Chief Barry Ward stated that the desire is to stay with diesel and it is safer; we did have a fire in an ambulance from a gas engine years ago. Vendor visits are done. Smith asked if we are sure no diesel engines will be produced? EMS Administrator Michael Benenati stated that the current engine will sunset and for 2010 engines will be gas. Ziedan does not feel we should go with the purchase just because it will be easier to work with; we voted not to purchase and discussed this in an open meeting. Hines stated that the two ambulances purchase are considered in the 2009 Budget. Smith stated he recalled that we agreed to purchase the two ambulances in 2009

and we have the funds in the budget. Ziedan stated that we said we would push out the purchase even though we have the funds in the reserve. Hines stated that we have a disagreement. Hines asked for a recess to permit the Secretary to review the past minutes.

Secretary Holzberger read the minutes of the Oct 28, 2008, regarding the question of moving the purchase of the ambulance out. Hines asked if any one heard a motion to that effect in those minutes to move them out; Ziedan did make a motion but it was not seconded or voted upon.

Smith stated that he is leaning towards the purchase of an ambulance; clarification is needed from the mechanic regarding servicing. Hines asked for a motion to purchase the ambulances. Canero suggested that this is be tabled until the next meeting after we consult with the mechanic. Chief Barry Ward stated that we should look into spec'ing it out. Hines asked if the Board if they would like to have a motion or table it. Canero would like to table it. Smith stated he would table it. Ziedan would table it. Hines stated that he would table it until next meeting.

Hose Test-Hines asked the Chief regarding the hose test; in light of budgeting-pros and cons Chief stated that professional s have found more problems with hose than in the last fifteen years. Point system has been shifted to training. Smith moved to continue with the outside vendor, Ziedan seconded it and asked the Chief if there is volunteer interest. Chief stated that he has not had any volunteer interest. Canero stated that it is a lot of work, all in favor.

Driver training markers-Chief Barry Ward reported that he will report back to the Board with further information.

Photo ids- Canero reported that it is in process.

Ladies Aux-Canero stated regarding the Ladies Auxiliary –are they covered under the District insurance? Hines stated we will table until our nest meeting. We will check with Rose & Kiernan check regarding liability insurance.

Planner Status-Ziedan stated that he spoke with Mr. Jennings and discussed with him the invoice. No specific payment schedule was defined; we have not given him a retainer. Bill was Approx \$7000 and we need a motion to pay. Hines stated that we have no work product; Ziedan stated that we do not have a progress report as yet and Mr. Jennings is working on this. Hines asked the Board if we should continue with the planner.

Ziedan stated that this was already budgeted; and we only have another month or so as completion is set for May 2009. We have another bill coming. The original concern was that a bill was received without another report. Hines asked if we want to sever our ties. Ziedan stated that this was budgeted already. Smith stated that we should table this decision until the fifth commissioner is present. Ziedan stated wow, and Canero stated wow. Canero stated that it is an awful lot of money. Ziedan asked the attorney regarding the contract. Rod MacLeod asked to review the contract. Hines asked the Secretary to fax the agreement to Rod. Hines stated that if there is no contractual agreement, what are the Board members' feelings. Smith stated that he would like to table it. Hines stated that we will table it until next meeting.

Doors FH2-Smith reported that the second door is back ordered.

Generator-Certificates received; Commissioner Canero to review.

Public Official Bond-Secretary Holzberger reported that the application is completed and in process.

Grant Writer-Hines asked to invite Sam Doncel to our meeting.

Storage Room/Blinds-Canero reported they are in process.

Lights-Smith reported that the light at FH1 west end is not working properly; Lantzky is aware of it as well. Canero to contact Braggs regarding the lights on FH1 and FH3. Area light (Central Hudson) reported working.

2009 Vendor list-updated and distributed; need to add JP McHale, exterminators.

FH1 Boiler-Canero had another heating company look at boiler; circulator pump was loose and repaired Smith reported that John Hunt should be added to the Vendor List; Ziedan stated we should add JP McHale.

FH3 Insulation-Smith to look into insulation at FH3; needs to be reinforced.

Annual Inspection Dinner 2009- Ziedan moved to authorize payment for the Annual Inspection Dinner to be held on April 25, 2009 at Villa Borghese, alcohol cannot be paid for by the District, seconded by Smith and carried unan.

Public Officers Resolution –Smith move to adopt the Public Officers Resolution, seconded by Ziedan and carried unan.

Hines stated that he would appreciate it if when a vote is called that Board members voice their vote that it can be properly recorded.

Certificate of Insurance-Bob McCord requested that a certificate of Insurance is needed for the Department picnic to be held August 16, 2009 at Freedom Park. This must be provided to the Town. Hines asked if this is past practice. Secretary Holzberger stated yes and Hines asked her to obtain the certificate.

CDL-Chief Barry Ward stated that it is law regarding drivers possessing CDL. Rod MacLeod stated that it is law however the exposure is minimal and covered under your insurance; the bill has been passed in the house but needs to be signed. Rod MacLeod recommends no action at this time. Secretary Holzberger reported that Rose and Kiernan (Todd McNutt) provided us with information on this.

Drug & Alcohol Policy- Hines stated that we need to set the date with Rod MacLeod. Hines and Smith to meet with Rod at 4 PM at FH 2 3/12/09.

Contract Negotiations-Hines would like to propose a meeting with the Local on 3/19/09. Smith stated that there is a defensive driving class. Hines will contact Smith to get this started.

Floor-nothing

Executive Session – Ziedan moved to go to executive session at 9:50 PM to discuss a personnel matter, seconded by Smith and carried unan.

Return to Regular session-Hines called the meeting back to order at 10:01 PM.

Denise Fecketter-reimbursement request for EMT Course \$350; EMS Administrator Mike Benenati will research the reimbursement possibility with NYS.

Ziedan stated that he is not against the choice for Deputy Chief just the salary and vacation.

Hines asked to be notified when a commissioner is to be absent and that commissioner s voice their vote for the record.

There being no further business Smith moved to adjourn at 10:01 PM, seconded by Ziedan and carried unan.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise A. Holzberger, Secretary/Treasurer

