

LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
April 14, 2009  
FH #3 7:30 PM

4622

The 899<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the LaGrange Fire District was held on April 14, 2009 at 7:30 PM at Firehouse #3. Present were Commissioners Lantzky, Hines, Canero, Ziedan, and Smith; Deputy Chief Barry Ward; EMS Administrator Michael Benenati; Secretary Holzberger and firefighters.

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 Commissioners in public and not a public meeting. There will be an opportunity for public comment at least once, and if time permits, twice during the meeting.

Hines dispensed with the normal order of business to present a letter of commendation to Mary Wiley, Janet Canero and Barbara Trier of the Ladies Auxiliary. This letter is to recognize your efforts supporting the LaGrange Fire Department during the recent brush fire at James Baird Park. Lantzky read the letter and thanked them for their service. Hines thanked the Ladies for their support. (Applause)

**Public Comment**-Ed Mulford, member St.3, stated that he understands that the Board is entertaining making the Ladies Auxiliary members to obtain insurance coverage. Ed Mulford stated that the legislation does not allow for this and this action is demeaning to firefighters who have lost their lives. Ed Mulford stated that firefighters die every year and this demeans them as the ladies do not perform the same duties as a firefighter. Hines stated that you have made your point and that this Board is not attempting to circumvent the law; this Board has inquired as to how we could incorporate the Ladies Auxiliary into the department to insure coverage in the event one of them is injured or killed at the scene-this is an effort to protect them. Ed Mulford stated that if they are incorporated into the department then they would need to make the same requirements as any other active member-drills, training, etc. Ed Mulford stated that this would give the Ladies the same level of protection as the firefighter who has died in the line of duty; it demeans them and equates their service to that of the firefighter. Hines asked where do you draw the line-interior, exterior, fire police. Ed Mulford stated that they are all risking their lives. Hines stated that these ladies are risking their lives as well. Ed Mulford stated they have coverage. Ed Mulford stated that there are committees looking at this and upon investigation of an incident it would be revealed that they are providing food and that would not qualify. Hines stated that he has too much respect to argue with him (Ed Mulford), but he is wrong and no decision has been made and the only consideration that this Board has given was the result of a request and we have sought advice and legal counsel; we have not acted on the issue. Hines stated that the information that was given to Ed was wrong. Ed Mulford stated that just entertaining this is demeaning to him. Hines apologized if he took it that way but it is not demeaning. Ed Mulford stated that it is demeaning to Bill Smith's death. Hines stated that he is not comparing the Ladies to Bill Smith's death. Ed Mulford stated it is demeaning and the VFBL was not designed for that. Hines stated that we will get the necessary information to make a decision on this issue in accordance with the law. Ed Mulford stated that he does not know why this would be entertained by Company 2 other than it is a veiled attempt to increase the 2% funds. Hines asked if Company 1 and Company 3 have an opportunity to create a Ladies Auxiliary. Ed Mulford explained that it was decided upon several years ago to combine the Auxiliary. Hines stated that doesn't answer the question -can Company 1 or 3 create their own auxiliary. Ed Mulford stated that he cannot speak for Company 3; this is a veiled

attempt to glom the 2% money. Hines stated that he is not going to entertain that; it is a cheap shot. Hines stated that he finds the remark demeaning to the Ladies Auxiliary and demeaning to this Board. Hines stated that we have heard your comment and will take it into consideration and we will move on now.

Ed Mulford stated that he had one more comment regarding the vacant Chief's position. Ed Mulford stated that he hopes that there will be an election. Hines stated that the Board will review that. Ed Mulford stated that he feels that with the vacancy of the Chief's position and the Deputy Chief is the Chief in de facto, a referendum would be necessary as now you have a paid chief. Hines stated that he has respect for Ed Mulford, however, he is wrong. Ed Mulford stated that as volunteers we deserve a Chief who will oversee things both on the fire and EMS side. Hines stated that no decision has been made; the vacancy of the Chief's position has only been for a week and a half. Hines stated that this Board will review the requirements and several options may be considered; please give us the opportunity to act. Hines stated that he is premature with his comments. Hines thanked him for his comments; however we need to move on. Hines asked if there is any further comment.

Bob Cross, Company 1, stated that Company 1 is requested an ice machine for rehab and we have a quote from Dutchess Restaurant Supply. Hines stated that this will be given to Lantzky to work with Bob Cross.

**Minutes**-Lantzky moved to approve the minutes of March 24, 2009, seconded by Smith. Ziedan stated that he had one thing to note that he had received a letter requesting his resignation from the Board. Lantzky amended his motion to state the Minutes of March 24, 2009 be approved as amended as requested by Commissioner Ziedan, seconded by Canero and carried unan.

**Correspondence**-Secretary Holzberger reported the following was received:

Meeting notice-Assoc. of Fire Districts April 28, 2009

Rose & Kiernan-\$25 credit; check forthcoming

NYS Dept of Tax-\$155 Fuel tax Refund. Lantzky moved to allocate to the 2009 Gas Budget, seconded by Canero and carried unan.

Fire Inspection Letters-from Town Fire Inspector. Lantzky, Canero and Smith to review for completed items.

VFIS-information regarding annuity. No action required.

Dutchess Overhead Doors-maintenance proposal. Canero to review with Dutchess Overhead.

**Chiefs Report**-Deputy Chief Barry Ward reported minor damage to ambulance due to backing up at the hospital, indicates the need for back-up cameras.

**New Member**-Robert Myers, Co.2. Lantzky moved to approve membership, seconded by Canero and carried unan.

Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that he had two items for executive session.

**Rescue Jack Class**-Deputy Chief Barry Ward requests approval for up to 4 to attend a class in Elmira. Cost is \$100 per night plus meals; total \$580-600. This course is a more comprehensive course than the two hour class. Canero moved to approve, seconded by Smith and carried unan.

**Back up Cameras**-Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that cost of back up camera is about \$350; this has back up and GPS. Deputy Chief Barry Ward that that he requests up to \$700. Backing up at the hospital

does not allow for personnel to get out and direct the driver as the patient would be unattended. Smith moved to approve, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan.

**Ground Monitors**-Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that to pre-connect the cost is \$450.

**IT**-Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that it is time for renewal of our software support. Cost is \$2150 for 20 hours; we have previously used 10 hours. Deputy Chief Barry Ward recommends 20 hours. Smith moved to approve, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan.

**Computer** -Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that a new computer is needed in the career staff office; power supply went bad and it is old and in need of upgrading. Cost is \$800 on State Bid for CPU and display. Lantzky moved to approve purchase, seconded by Smith and carried unan.

**47-11**-Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that it has split rims and is in need of replacement. Cost is \$1800 for 4 rims. Smith stated that it is a safety issue and moved to approve, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan.

**Vehicle Inspections**-Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that we are behind and we are trying to catch up. We need to have Bob Olivet on to be with Jeff Frazier so that he can remain at the mechanic's facility; second call in the District requires Jeff Frazier to respond. Smith stated that for safety reasons he moves to increase the manning to 8 with the assistance of part timer Bob Olivet to enable us to catch up on the vehicle inspections, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan. Smith asked how long this will take. Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that we should review in two weeks to assess.

**Petzel**-Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that he has question regarding the bid. Hines stated that we will ask legal counsel.

**Tanker Bid**-Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that the committee has reviewed the spec and proposal; a list of exceptions has been received. A question has arisen regarding the warranty issue-the bidder does not want to comply with the \$250 per day penalty. Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that the length of the vehicle means that the longer length will fit at St.1; we cannot put 88 behind it at St. 2 and unsure about fitting at St.3. Hines asked to discuss the penalty. Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that the Bidder wishes to waive that. Hines asked if that nullifies the bid-we need to review with legal counsel. Lantzky stated that we did not the clause when we ordered 47-55 and he is not comfortable with removing that. Hines stated that perhaps changing the time frame-three days to a longer period of time. Ed Mulford stated that the Board should check with Rod MacLeod as you would be changing the bid. Hines stated that we should table until the next meeting and asked the Deputy Chief to discuss with legal counsel.

**Driver Training Markings**-Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that he contacted Paul Schneck and is awaiting response.

**Hose Test**-Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that Lt. Lopes offered to schedule and that he (Deputy Chief) would get an answer by the next meeting.

**Bills**-The following bills were submitted for payment, page 4626 . Lantzky moved to approve the bills, seconded by Smith and carried unan. Hines asked the Board members to please voice their vote.

Old Business-

**Bank Rec**-Secretary Holzberger reported that we need to do February 2009 and March 2009. Lantzky stated that he and Canero did the previous rec. Ziedan stated that he would do the next with Canero. (Feb and March)

**Snowplowing**-Hines stated that this was tabled. Smith stated that we should table it until the appropriate time. Lantzky stated that we should not let this go until December.

**Photo ID**-Canero reported that he is waiting for information from the supplier; there was a problem with sizing.

**Ladies-Auxiliary**-Secretary Holzberger read the email from Todd McNutt regarding that worker compensation does not cover them and he is researching the coverage as far as Provident Accident and Health. The ladies are considered the insured under our umbrella and general liability insurance. Secretary Holzberger was instructed to send the copy of the law to the Board members.

**Doors FH2**-Smith reported that the doors at FH2 have been repaired; some additional caulking is needed but doors seem to be functioning.

**Generators**-Canero stated that we did not get anything as yet; switches need to be completed and Tim Moot is working on it. Ed Mulford stated that the two annunciator panels never were wired. Hines asked the Secretary to remind him to contact Tim Moot.

**Public Official Bond**-Secretary Holzberger reported that the quote for \$6.4 million is \$7800. Secretary Holzberger explained that we currently have \$1 million in coverage at a cost of approximately \$3000. At the Chairman's request, we have requested a quote for \$5.4 million. The Board agreed to table and discuss with legal counsel .

**Grant Writer**-Secretary Holzberger reported that Sam Doncel has called regarding submitting future grants. He would like to come in and discuss the grant status with us. Hines stated that we retained Mr. Doncel at a cost of approx. \$4800 and to date we have not had any success with grants; do we agree to have him come in to discuss and update the grants that are available to us. Secretary Holzberger stated that Mr. Doncel did state something about pursuing grants at no cost to the District but clarification is needed as to what no cost means. Hines asked the Board if we want Mr. Doncel to come in on April 28, 2009. The Board agreed to invite him to the meeting.

**ST.2 Improvements**-Canero stated that is on hold at this time as Company 2 is working on it.

**St 3 Insulation**-Smith stated that it is being looked into; there are some cracks in the bay floors.

**Windows**- Smith reported that the replacement windows for upstairs at St.2 could be done with vinyl parts to fit the existing window frame; prices are forthcoming for that option and whether we use vinyl or wood.

**2009 Vendor List**-Canero stated that he wanted to add other vendors to the list. Once established will send to all commissioners.

**Eyewash St. 1**-Lantzky reported that a valve was needed; need to call a plumber. Hines asked him to contact Bob Olivet to look at this. Lt Jason Lopes reported that the eyewash is fixed.

**St. 1 Outside lights**- Smith reported that the lights on the front and side of the building are flickering and go out. Hines asked Lantzky to contact Bragg Electric.

**Letters**-Lantzky reported that he drafted letters for the former Chief and Chairman. Hines to review with Lantzky.

**Flags**- Lantzky reported that new flags have been purchased for all three stations and have been installed; we have three spares.

**Part Time Clerk**-Hines explained that due to the increased work load as a result of compliance with discovery as it pertains to the federal lawsuit, we have a need to increase the part time clerk's hours to up to 40 hours per week for up to 90 days beginning April 3, 2009. Lantzky moved to increase the part time clerk's hours to up to 40 hours per week for a period of up to 90 days, beginning April 3, 2009 as per Dutchess County Department of Personnel, seconded by Smith and carried unan.

**Parking Lot St.3**-Smith stated that he looked at it and discussed with Ed Mulford. There is no issue that requires action at this time.

**Town Website**-Ziedan reported that the Town of Lagrange's website is under construction . Hines asked the Secretary to send a letter to Mr. Wagner with the updated information for the District.

**Drug & Alcohol Policy**-Hines reported that it is complete and would like to discuss in executive session as it pertains to contract negotiations.

**Workshop**-Hines suggested a workshop next Tuesday April 21, 2009 to discuss the status of the contract with other members of the Board. There was discussion of availability of commissioners and it was decided to meet on April 23, 2009 at 5:30 Pm , tentatively; commissioners to confirm and get back to the Chairman.

**Planner**-Ziedan reported that the survey has been mailed; planner to present a draft report in May 2009.

**NYSHIP**-Hines reported that the NYSHIP representative has stated that she is available to do a telephone conference to review the plan and answer questions, as they do not have the staff to come down and do this in person at this time. Information packets will be sent down ahead of time. Smith stated that he feels that it should be done in person. Hines stated he will get back to them, but his concern is that it could take two months and this will delay negotiations . Hines stated he will honor what we decide to collectively, and will contact NYSHIP to see if things could be expedited.

**Department Picnic**-Hines stated that we should check with Scott Price to confirm that there is a picnic scheduled.

**Floor waxing**-Lantzky reported that the Camp Beacon personnel will be waxing the floors out at St.1 beginning next week.

**Floor**-Ed Mulford thanked the Board for hearing him out regarding the VFBL issue, and stated that he just had on other comment regarding the Deputy Chief; he stated that the deputy Chief (Barry) is being referred to as "Chief"-is he the Chief or Deputy Chief? Hines stated that he is the Deputy chief and it is common practice to refer to the Deputy Chief as Chief and until we have a chief, the Deputy Chief is the acting Chief. Ed Mulford stated that the Board should check with Rod.

Bruce Popp, Hopewell Fire Apparatus stated that he would like to discuss with the Board the penalty clause of the warranty for the Tanker. Bruce Popp explained that with the new emissions the motors have become more complex. A truck that was delivered three months ago had a problem with the exhaust system and it was out of service for three weeks due to the fact that it took three weeks for the parts to be delivered; we (Hopewell Fire Apparatus) do not have any control over that and with a penalty clause described in your bid spec's, we would be sticking our neck out. Hines stated that he understands and empathizes, however, this Board has a responsibility to the taxpayer. We had a bad experience with a Rescue Truck and we learned that we need to protect the district. Hines stated that we will take Mr. Popp's comments into consideration.

Greg Spaun, member St.3, stated that Governor Paterson passed legislation to permit volunteers to purchase Health Insurance through the District. Greg Spaun stated that he is curious as to whether the volunteers can this and what the benefits are and open enrollment. Hines stated that we are currently looking at the cost of administration and who would administer this.; we are drowning in administrative work and we need to look at this carefully Greg Spaun stated that he understands that the Board was presented with a proposal to do this. Hines stated that we will do some homework on this and to give us a couple of weeks to get an answer.

Smith moved to go to executive session at 9 PM, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan. Hines requested a five minute break before going to executive session.

At 10 Pm, Smith moved to return to the regular session, seconded by Canero and carried unan.

There being no further business, Smith moved to adjourn at 10 Pm, seconded by Canero and carried unan.

Respectfully submitted,  
Denise A. Holzberger, Secretary/Treasurer

