

LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
June 9, 2009
FH2 7:30 PM

The 903rd meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Lagrange Fire District was held on June 9, 2009 at Firehouse #2 at 7:30 PM. Present were Commissioners Hines, Ziedan, Lantzky, Smith, Canero; Deputy Chief Barry Ward; EMS Administrator Michael Benenati; Assistant Chief Brian Odendahl; Legal Counsel Rod MacLeod; 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 Commissioner in public and not a public meeting. Hines stated that there will be at least one opportunity for public comment, and time permitting a second opportunity.

Hines dispensed with the normal order of business to open the PETZEL Escape System Bid. Secretary Holzberger reported that one bid was received from Fireground Technologies and read the proposal. Lantzky moved to turn the bid proposal over to the Deputy Chief for review and recommendation, seconded by Smith and carried unan.

Public Comment-Ed Meyer, resident of Lagrange and member of Lagrange Fire Company #2, stated that as firefighters are a brotherhood and support each other. Ed Meyer stated that Budd Pottenburgh recently passed away and none of Lagrange's members attended his funeral; he is disgusted that we did not go and things need to change in this department. Hines thanked him and stated that he appreciates his comments and this will be discussed further by the Board.

ED Mulford, member of Co.3 with 40 years in the District, stated that Budd Pottenburgh was a member of his wife's family and he would have liked to have sent an engine. Members were interested in driving an engine but there was no uniform available. The membership has requested uniforms; at a minimum a duty uniform would be appreciated. That would be a minimal amount of money and the uniform would be universal for all members with the same patches so that we would all look the same. St.3 will buy their own, although it doesn't make sense as the whole department would not look the same. We could not attend the funeral (of Budd Pottenburgh) representing the District as we did not have a uniform.

Hines stated that he agrees with him and Ed Meyer, he was embarrassed by this, however, as you know we had a zero percent increase in our budget this year and things are lean. We have looked into the uniforms and cost is prohibitive. We have discussed with the Companies the idea of splitting the cost, perhaps using the 2 % Funds. Hines stated that we should have unity and pride in our department; this Board does not disagree with the concept-we need to find an avenue to fund this. Hines stated that he has spoken with Bob McCord and all Companies should be dressed alike and the Board will stay active on this issue. Ed Mulford stated that the Department has suggested that they would pay for it, if the District would reimburse them. Hines stated that he had not heard that.

Marc Komorsky stated that the minutes for 2009 have not been posted on the website. Marc Komorsky asked if the referendum was voted on for the new fire trucks, and what the requirements are as far as petitioning and process. Hines stated that he will yield to legal Counsel, Rod Macleod to respond to this question. Rod Macleod explained that the Board (Fire Commissioners) passed a resolution subject to permissive referendum on May 26, 2009 and there is 30 days from May 26, 2009 to present a petition to the Board consisting of 25 % of the assessed valuation of the properties present in the District. Rod MacLeod explained that this is as per General Municipal Law. Hines asked if there are any other comments.

Janet Canero stated that the replacement of the vanes for the blinds at St.2 would cost approximately \$237.64. Hines asked Janet Canero to please submit that information to Commissioner Jeff Canero would the Board's review.

Janet Canero stated that Barbara Trier is in the hospital tonight.

George Burns stated that the vanes are falling off the blinds as stated by Janet Canero and Co.2 also would like the rug cleaned in the workout room and ready room. In addition, the ice machine has been repaired and we have been told that it is not in good shape and a new one is needed. The ice machine is used by both volunteer and career for rehab. George Burns stated that kick plates are needed for the doors.

George Burns stated that the Company and the career staff would like to upgrade the kitchen with stainless steel countertop. Hines thanked George Burns and asked him to provide a list and quotes to Jeff Canero for the review by the Board.

Correspondence-Secretary Holzberger reported the following received:

Association of Fire Districts Dutchess County meeting notice June 23, 2009

Letter from Co.3 regarding Company representation at meetings

State Insurance Funds-Loss runs

Thank you letter from D Masserone -\$300 check donation. Smith moved to allocate to the 2009 Equipment Budget, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan. Hines requested that a copy of the letter be placed in the appropriate personnel files. Deputy Chief Barry Ward to distribute.

Thank you letter from the Genuardo family -\$50.00 check donation. Secretary Holzberger stated that she forwarded this check to the Lagrange Fire Department (Scott Price).

Check \$91.61 from the Town of Lagrange-tax adjustment. Lantzky moved to allocate to the 2009 Equipment Budget, seconded by Smith and carried unan.

Check \$50.00 from Terminix-Lantzky moved to allocate to the 2009 R & S Buildings and Grounds Budget, seconded by Smith and carried unan.

Check \$20.00 from Kathleen and Alfred Thoben in memory of Doris and Edgar Anderson. Lantzky moved to allocate to the 2009 Equipment Budget, seconded by Smith and carried unan.

Check \$150.45 from NYS Tax Department-Fuel Tax Refund. Lantzky moved to allocate to the 2009 Gas Budget, seconded by Smith and carried unan.

Check for \$850 from NYS Health Central –reimbursement for EMT Certifications. Lantzky moved to allocate to the 2009 Training Budget and reimburse Denise Fecketter, seconded by Smith and carried unan.

Check for \$65.27 from SW Lagrange Co.3-refund of expenses for cablevision. Lantzky moved to allocate to the 2009 Telephone Budget, seconded by Smith and carried unan.

Dutchess Overhead Doors Maintenance proposal-no report

Manitou, Inc.-returned Town of Lagrange Comprehensive Plan; letter and invoices.

Letter from Redl's regarding cost for cars for training.

Bills-The following bills were submitted for payment, page 4648. Lantzky moved to authorize payment as submitted, seconded by Smith and when the Board was polled the vote was as follows:

Lantzky Aye Smith Aye Canero Aye Ziedan Abstain Hines Aye

The motion was carried.

Deputy Chief's Report-Deputy Chief Barry Ward reported the following:

Accidents/injuries-elbow injury 4/2/09 (Late submission of report)

47-12-drove over wheel chock and damaged wheel chock and holder

Work-related injury/illness report-Deputy Chief Barry Ward reported that effective June 1, 2009 we switched to Workers Comp form for reporting; Shift Lieutenant or Company Officer must be notified of any work related injuries. Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that he, Secretary Holzberger and Mr. Danzig (Safety Group 497) are working on this process.

EMS-Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that we need to adopt EMS Attendant Standards, (See Attached Report) and asks the Board to review.

EMT Core Recertification- Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that approval is needed to host EMT CORE Recertification class for Fall 2009. Cost is \$1747. EMS Administrator Michael Benenati explained that we receive reimbursement from New York State for these certifications and that offsets our costs. Lantzky moved to approve, seconded by Smith and there was discussion. Ziedan asked where have they been held before. EMS Administrator Michael Benenati stated that we alternate offering this class each year with Arlington Fire District; AFD pays when they offer the class, we pay when we offer the class and get reimbursed from the State. Hines stated we have a motion on the floor. All in favor and the motion was carried unan.

47-71 at St.2-Deputy Chief Barry Ward reported that there were 11 second call requests, 47-71 responded 100 % of the time, always with a mix crew, career and volunteer. We will continue to keep 47-71 at St 2 and monitor the response.

New Ambulances-Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that we discussed two new ones earlier in the year and we need to move forward with a permissive referendum now as opposed to later as if this does not get past , we do not want time wasted on developing specification if we are not going to purchase. Cost is estimated at \$190,000 each for a total of no more than \$380,000. Hines asked for a motion to adopt a resolution subject to permissive referendum for the purchase of the ambulances.

Lantzky moved that no more than \$380,000 be moved from the Apparatus Reserve for the purchase of two ambulances, seconded by Smith and when the Board was polled the vote was as follows:

Lantzky Aye Canero Aye Smith Aye Ziedan Nay Hines Aye

The motion was carried.

EMT Class for new Member-Assistant Chief Brian Odendahl stated that he met with a new member, application is in process. He is anxious to get started and has been placed on a waiting list at DCC for the EMT class.

Cost of the class is \$700; he is not officially a member as yet, however having met with the young man, he looks to be a productive member. Assistant Chief Brian Odendahl asked the Board if the District could front the cost of the EMT class. Ed Mulford stated that the District cannot pay for someone who is not a member.

Training-Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that Bryan Zittel and Lee DeWitt are to go to Training for FF1 Instructor; it is a five day class.

Spending-Hose: Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that we need a bid opening date for the replacement hose purchase.

Lantzky moved to advertise for sealed bid the purchase of hose, to be opened the first meeting in July 2009, seconded by Canero and carried unan. Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that he is presenting equipment purchase requests as needed as opposed to an Equipment List.

Forcible Entry Simulator-Deputy Chief Barry Ward would like to go forward to purchase the forcible entry simulator; three written or fax quotes are required as per our procurement policy. Deputy Chief Barry Ward explained that this allows firefighters to train for forcible entry; the only hands-on experience they have is in an actual emergency situation. The core of our business is training and this is firefighter 1 type training. Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated low bid is \$5900. (Vendor is Fire House Innovations Corporation.) Hines asked for a motion. Lantzky moved to authorize purchase of the Forcible entry Simulator, seconded by Smith. There was discussion. Ziedan asked if this is something that can be done at the Training Center. Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated no; only Arlington Fire District has a handmade one and it really isn't that great. Ziedan asked if we can share this with Arlington. Deputy Chief Barry Ward explained yes we could but this is a stationary mechanism that is very heavy; The concrete pad that we talked about would be a great place for this unit as it is bolted to the ground. Hines polled the Board: Lantzky Aye Canero Nay Ziedan Nay Smith Nay Hines Aye
The motion did not pass.

Purchasing authorization-Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that he needs authorization for purchasing of items not needing bidding or quotes. Hines asked for a motion. Lantzky moved to authorize the Deputy Chief to purchase items that do not require written quotes or competitive bidding up to \$2500, seconded by Smith and there was discussion. Ziedan asked what the purchase was for. Deputy Chief Barry Ward explained that currently the mechanic has approval to purchase up to \$1500 in the event apparatus parts are needed for example, at this time as Deputy Chief, there is a zero limit. Deputy Chief Barry Ward explained that as per our procurement policy, there are no written quotes required for purchases less than \$2500; as Deputy Chief authorization from the Board is needed to make such purchases. Ziedan stated that he does not have a problem with the purchase of office work, but if it is equipment, he would like to know about. Hines stated that there is a motion on the floor to authorize the Deputy Chief to purchase up to \$2500 when needed. Deputy Chief stated that it could involve purchasing equipment, for example scot masks which are \$400. Ziedan asked if the limit could be less than \$2500.

Hines stated that the motion on the table is for \$2500 and asked Lantzky if he would amend his motion.

Lantzky stated no. Hines asked for a vote of the Board. The vote was as follows:

Lantzky Aye Canero Aye Ziedan Nay Smith Aye

Hines stated the motion is approved.

Child-Seat Inspections- Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that we did this in the past but discontinued because of scheduling and would like to get back into this program; perhaps designate a Saturday morning once a month for bike helmets and seat inspections. This would involve recertification which is a 4 day program and involves career staff and would incur overtime; volunteers may certify as well. Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that this could be for public relations and asks the Board to think about this. Hines asked the Board if they would like to consider this now or table. Board agreed to table until next meeting.

Tanker-Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that we have an agreement that needs to be signed; language has been adjusted as per our request by legal counsel, Rod MacLeod. A letter of intent needs to be sent to the vendor as well.

Inspections- Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that we are almost complete with our vehicle inspections; electrolysis has taken a toll on the older vehicles.

SOG's-Deputy Chief Barry Ward reported that the SOG's are in the process of being completely redone and reorganized; we need to update and delete old information and add the new information.

Generators- Deputy Chief Barry Ward reported that Tim Moot is working on two items regarding the generators: the enunciator panels and manual shut off switches. The enunciator panel requires a special cable which has a 4 week lead time-once that arrives all work can be completed.

Grants- Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that he emailed the Board regarding two grants: Fire Act for personal protective gear which totals about \$375,165 and the DHS Grant for improvements which could be directed to improving the upstairs at FH2. There is also a USDA grant and NYSERDA grant. Mr. Doncel needs approval to pursue one or all of the grants and his agreement stated the charge \$75.00 /per hour plus expenses. Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that Mr. Doncel could not give an estimate of cost. Board approval is needed go forward with this. Hines asked for any discussion. Smith asked what the estimate of what he has done last year. Hines asked for a motion regarding retaining Mr. Doncel. Canero stated that we do not have information. Hines asked if there was a motion and there was none.

Deputy Chief Barry Ward added that the Fire Act Grant Total requested was \$430,265 and he and the EMS Administrator reviewed, revised and re-submitted the grant. SCBA's are in the grant as ours are old and we need to replace 35; Other items included in the grant are as follows: we are hoping this grant is successful.

IT_Deputy Chief reported that we are in Phase II; we need additional software for Firehouse: Incident Command –cost is \$10,000 and Mobile Inspection at \$8260.00. Four Toughbooks laptops at a cost of \$18,120.00.

Other Equipment-Knox Box Sentralock: 12 units at \$803 per unit-total \$9636.00
Defibrillators-Medtronic Physio-Control Life Pak 1000 AED's total \$9084.00

Boot Drop St.3- Hines asked Smith to follow up with a definite date.

Photo Id-Canero stated no report at this time. Hines asked to remove from the agenda.

Roof at Carnival Building- Smith notified a contractor; should complete in about 30 days. Hines stated that this item to be removed from the agenda.

St. 2 Windows-Smith reported that this is in progress; nothing to report as yet.

St.3 Insulation-Smith reported it is in progress.

Outside Lights St1-Lantzky reported that was removed from the agenda last meeting. Hines stated that the ST.2 Windows, St.3 insulation outside lights ST1 shall be removed from the agenda.

Inspections of Firehouses-Lantzky reported that the items that were cited in the inspection need to be reviewed and outstanding items need to be identified. Hines asked Smith to coordinate with Lantzky to get the concrete repaired and work on this.

Workshop-Hines stated that at this time we would hold off on setting a date for the workshop. NYSHIP is still pending.

Planner-Hines stated that he has authorized legal counsel Rod MacLeod to draft the motion regarding the action and status of the planner. It was noted that Mr. Jennings has terminated the agreement with us and asks for payment for services rendered.

Lantzky moved that whereas there is a potential for litigation by or against the Lagrange Fire District by Manitou, Inc. concerning the Agreement for Consultant Services dated October 21, 2008, it is hereby moved that the draft report prepared by Manitou, Inc. and delivered to the LaGrange Fire District on or about May 12, 2009 is confidential and is not to be distributed to any party other than the LaGrange Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners, the Secretary- Treasurer, the Deputy Secretary-Treasurer, the Deputy Chief, the EMS Administrator and the Fire District's legal counsel unless otherwise authorized by the LaGrange Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners, seconded by Canero and when the Board was polled the vote was as follows:

Lantzky Aye Canero Aye Smith Aye Ziedan Abstain Hines stated that the motion was carried.

Ziedan asked why we are terminating the planner's services. Hines stated that the planner terminated his services.

Hines asked the Board members if the draft report had been distributed to anyone. All Board members replied no. Hines asked if there were any additional questions. Ziedan asked what we are doing with the outstanding invoice. Legal Counsel Rod MacLeod replied that we need a detailed statement of the invoice describing the services and charges. Hines stated that he has authorized legal counsel to pursue this matter for us.

Ziedan asked what happened at the meeting with the Planner and requests the status as he was not present at that meeting. Hines stated that in a nutshell the draft lacked several things; it was the collective opinion that the information contained in the report was erroneous with no vehicle to validate his findings, no description of process and very few if any recommendations and the final draft fell short

of addressing the agreed scope of the project. Given that, Hines stated that he requested a meeting with Mr. Jennings to review those points and after the lengthy discussion he (Mr. Jennings) declared the meeting over and left the meeting. Ziedan asked why he (Ziedan) was removed from the committee. Hines stated that when he asked Ziedan to be the interface with Mr. Jennings, it was discussed that you would provide us with reports. The agreement with Mr. Jennings was that he would provide status reports to the Board every two weeks; there were no reports provided to you with the exception of a status report regarding the draft for the beginning of May. Hines stated that he would go into further detail, but you may find it embarrassing. Ziedan stated that he does not find anything embarrassing. Ziedan stated that the contract stated that it would provide the status of the report by the end of May or June. Ziedan stated that the former Chairman (Mulford) made that agreement; the planner did provide something in May and the Deputy Chief and he (Ziedan) would review it.

Hines stated that the contract called for a presentation by the Planner to the Board when the draft was completed as well as reports every two weeks; since he (Hines) has been the Chairman no periodic reports were given to the Board only the draft that has been presented in May. Ziedan asked what he would find embarrassing. Hines stated that he asked the members of this Board if the draft had been distributed beyond the names of individuals as mentioned earlier. It is obvious that it has been distributed and it is obvious who distributed it. Hines stated that is why he has removed Ziedan from the committee and the responsibility to act as the interface to the Planner. Ziedan asked if he (Hines) was trying to say he distributed the draft. Hines stated that the discussion was over and that as chairman he has the authority to appoint and remove Board members from committees. Ziedan stated that he would like to know why he has been removed. Hines stated that he has explained why and that he has the authority to remove him from the committee; Hines stated that as chairman he does not have to explain; he has that authority as chairman and Ziedan is removed from the planner committee and liaison to Mr. Jennings, he is removed from the budget committee and he is removed from the liaison to the Town.

Ziedan asked why he has been removed from the planner committee and why he would be embarrassed. Hines stated that the discussion is over and he doesn't have to embarrass him as he does that himself. Hines asked for any other comments from the Board, if not we will move on.

Public Comment-Ed Mulford stated that several members have inquired regarding the status of permitting volunteers to purchase medical insurance through the District. Hines stated that the Board is trying to collect and understand everything about this. We understand that legislation has been passed to permit this; that is, the fire district may do this. Hines stated that as found out today, legislation must be passed to allow civil service to incorporate firematic volunteers in the law. There is also an administrative expense that would be incurred by the district whether it is handled in house or not. We are considering this, and we would like to make an informed decision. Mulford asked if the Board was considering it. Hines stated yes. Mulford stated that some of the Board members were very vocal regarding the purchasing of ambulances and tankers. Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated respectfully that the opposition was for the ambulances; the tanker issue was explained at great length. Mulford stated that he understood all that; Commissioners Smith, Canero and Ziedan were very opposed. Hines echoed the comments that were made regarding the insurance; the more time that elapses allows for better understanding. Hines stated that he supports the purchase of the tankers and ambulances and previously had a different stance due to the information at that time. Hines stated that the information

he has now –he supports the purchase of the equipment. As far as the other commissioners, you can ask them now. Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that the funds are there, and the replacement schedule has been adjusted, pushing purchases out already. Marc Komorsky asked what happens if there is an emergency now, how do you pay for it. Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that we have an apparatus Repair fund and these custom vehicles have a life expectancy of 20 years. Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that the objective is to plan ahead to replace at the appropriate time before a crisis and to keep members as well as others on the road safe. Deputy Chief Barry Ward cited the situation in Boston currently, where firefighters were killed due to improper maintenance and vehicle upkeep. Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that he would spend a few minutes after the meeting to further expand on this.

SOG's-Ed Mulford stated that the SOG's should be referred to as best practices. Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that we are reviewing all those at this time.

Marc Komorsky asked what the cost of the planner was. Hines stated that the cost was in excess of \$32000. Hines stated that we have a draft that does not come close to what was expected. Smith stated that he supports re-couping the funds for this.

Lantzky moved to go to executive session at 9 PM, seconded by Canero and carried unan. Hines asked for a five minute recess before going to executive session. At this time, Ziedan stated that he was leaving the meeting.

At 9:30 PM, Hines called the meeting back to order. There being no further business, Lantzky moved to adjourn at 9:30 PM, seconded by Smith and carried unan.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise A. Holzberger, Secretary/Treasurer