

LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT
SPECIAL/WORKSHOP MEETING

4653

MINUTES

June 23, 2009

7:30 PM FH2

The 904th meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Lagrange Fire District was held on June 23, 2009 at 7:30 PM at Firehouse #2. Present were Commissioners Hines, Smith, Lantzky, Ziedan; Deputy Chief Barry Ward; EMS Administrator Brian Odendahl; Legal Counsel Rod Macleod; Secretary Holzberger and firefighters. Commissioner Canero was absent.

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 held in public and not a public meeting. There will be at least one opportunity for public comment, and if time permits a second opportunity. Hines dispensed with the normal order of business to permit John Gunn (Knights of Columbus) to address the Board.

Mr. Gunn introduced himself and explained that he represented the Knights of Columbus and was requesting permission from the Board of Fire Commissioners to have easement across the strip of property that belongs to the Fire District. Access would be needed from July 15 -18, 2009 which includes clean up on Sunday. Hines appreciates Mr. Gunn coming and requested that Mr. Gunn provide a certificate of insurance naming the Lagrange Fire District as additional insured. Mr. Gunn stated that he would provide it. Hines stated that could be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at 504 Freedom Plains Road.

Lantzky moved to permit the Knights of Columbus access of the LaGrange Fire District property at Stringham Road provided a certificate of insurance is provided, seconded by Smith and carried unan.

Hines asked for any additional comment. Frank Daniberg, Co.1, stated that Co.1 is hosting the Department raffle this year and he will have the approximate costs and sample letter to the Board next meeting. Hines thanked Daniberg.

Correspondence-Secretary Holzberger reported the following received:

Association of Fire Districts-minutes of 4/28/09 meeting received

Fire District Affairs Bulletin- May/June 2009 edition received and distributed to Board members.

Certificate of Workers Compensation-for Dutchess County copies received

Resume received-confidential

Minutes-Lantzky moved to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2009 and May 26, 2009 minutes as submitted, seconded by Smith and carried unan. Secretary Holzberger noted that the June 9, 2009 minutes were sent via email today to the Board. The Board agreed to table approval of the June 9 minutes until next meeting.

Deputy Chiefs Report-Deputy Chief reported the following:

Safety- DC Barry Ward reported that we had a potential rabies exposure and contacted all those that could have been affected, The Workplace and the Department of Health. The consensus was that the exposure was minimal however, there seems to be a den of foxes living under our shed in the back of FH2; we need to address by contacting a wildlife exterminator. Our current exterminator does not

handle this. Hines stated that he has no problem with following up with the exterminator and no motion is required.

Business Processes- DC Barry Ward stated that we have been working (Denise, DC Ward and Lt. Lopes) to tighten up our purchasing process and inventory. We have open PO's with MES, for example, and we are working on eliminating that to ensure better control. DC Barry Ward stated that we need to work out for Jeff Frazier so that he can purchase necessary parts for apparatus when needed.

Injury Reporting-DC Barry Ward stated that with the new requirements for workers compensation reporting, including the C-3 form that employees must file, we have developed a process. DC Barry Ward reported that all personnel when injured must notify an officer. The officer will notify the Shift Lieutenant. The C-3 form must then be completed and be filed with District Secretary and Safety Officer within 24 hours. If the injury requires transport to the hospital and /or medical leave, an officer will go to the hospital to ensure the information is obtained and the member is getting what they need. In regards to 207(a), we need to formalize the process. The Shift lieutenant will give the required claimant packet to all injured employees. The employee has thirty days to report the C-3 to the Workers Comp Board. Since we are using the C-3 for reporting, we can submit that for the employee. Hines asked if there is a plan to disseminate the information. DC Barry Ward stated yes, this will be discussed at meetings and we have attempted to minimize the number of reports to be filled out.

ISO Audit-DC Barry Ward stated that he has initiated an audit and contact the Town of Lagrange. Currently our rating is a 4 and 9. There have been a lot of changes, such as alarm assignments, that can trigger a new audit and this will benefit the taxpayer as it will improve the rating for insurance costs purposes.

Swift Water Response-DC Barry Ward stated that we have done a lot of training to Lt. Dave Schroeder's credit. We have already had three events this year that we have been called to. Effective immediately, when a 1035 is called, Rescue tech's (those that are trained) will respond automatically. The operation went well on Sunday tactically as a result of our training. Email sent out today that Arlington Fire District now has us on all water rescue calls.

Arlington FD-DC Barry Ward stated that he attends meetings with Pleasant Valley Fire Department, Arlington, Fairview, and New Hackensack on a monthly basis. We are trying to have more collaboration of our skills; for example Lagrange has skills in extrication and water rescue, Arlington is skilled in confined space. We are starting to share more services as promoted by our state government on an operational level. DC Barry Ward stated that we are also working on our Firefighter down procedures and making changes to better facilitate working together, such as using the same terminology.

Timekeeping-DC Barry Ward stated that we are attempting to set up scheduling using Firehouse Software to better facilitate the process and ultimately generate a time card for the employee to sign. This will help us to better track scheduling and control costs as well.

Town Water Department-DC Barry Ward and Lt. Jason Lopes have met with the Town Water Department and we are trying to get a handle on the hydrants; tagging them and flow testing. The Town is trying to establish what hydrants work. We hope to gather the data on these hydrants and compile so that we can access what hydrants work and the flow rates. Flow tests will begin in August.

SOG's-DC Barry Ward stated that they are in the process of being reviewed and re-done.

UL Ladder Testing-DC Barry Ward stated that testing of ladders will be done mid-July 2009.

Hose Lays-DC Barry Ward reported that we will be changing the hose lays of the engines; we will be changing to 4 different lays. We will have pre-connected Blitz fire and 300feet of 3 inch. This works out very well for use at larger homes and commercial structures; it facilitates more efficient hose attachment and enables us to stretch hose out more rapidly.

EMS-DC Barry Ward reported that there have been new REMAC protocols that we have implemented in Lagrange-new CPAP Tool which our medics have been trained and certified on –this monitors positive airway pressure. New meter (SPCO) to monitor CO levels in the bloodstream; this is useful not only for patients but for our firefighters in the rehab situation, as well. In addition, we have implemented a mucosal atomization device which permits medication to be administered as a spray.

Ambulance Specs-DC Barry Ward reported that EMS Administrator Michael Benenati has been working hard on them and they are progressing.

Training-VITAL SIGNS Conference-DC Barry Ward stated that the VITAL Signs conference is scheduled for October 14, 2009 in Rochester. EMS volunteers and career staff typically attend. DC Barry Ward requested approval for up to 10 members; Cost is approx. \$7800.

Hines asked for a motion.

Lantzky moved, Smith asked for more information. DC Barry Ward stated that this is an educational opportunity to keep skills current and learn new techniques; we have two members who are interested in doing their CORE Re-certification and five others who are interested in going. Smith asked if we have done this in the past; DC Barry Ward stated yes.

Smith seconded the motion. Hines asked if there was any further discussion or questions. Ziedan asked how this affects our EMS response if 10 people are out at this conference. DC Barry Ward stated that is a good question and yes it will impact our response regarding ambulance response; 47-71 typically responds with a mixed crew of volunteer and career. From the career side, we would arrange coverage. From the volunteer side, our depth is not all that great and it could have some effect getting 47-71 out. However, training is necessary. Hines asked if there is a strategy to maintain coverage. DC Ward stated that 71 responding out of ST 2 now with a mixed crew of volunteers and career. DC Barry Ward stated that the development and retention of EMS skills is important. Ziedan stated that it is great to go but at the same time we need to look out for the District as we are short handed. EMS Administrator Michael Benenati stated the there are pre-conferences on Friday and Saturday and conferences on Saturday and Sunday. Ziedan asked if coverage could be arranged with volunteers. EMS Administrator Michael Benenati stated that we need to make reservations as this conference sells out fast. Ziedan stated that the other option is to send less. Hines stated that the motion is to send up to 10. Ziedan stated that he would like to add the stipulation that the DC ensures adequate coverage. Lantzky stated that he made the motion and that the DC has already done that. Hines stated that falls on the operational side.

Secretary Holzberger read the motion as follows: Lantzky moved to authorize up to 10 be permitted to attend the Vital Signs Conference, providing the Deputy Chief ensures adequate coverage, seconded by Smith and carried unan.

EMS Standards-DC Barry Ward asked if the Board members have had time to review that. The Board will table at this time.

New Membership-DC Barry Ward stated that we have a new member for Fire Police, Co.1. Board approval is needed for Kelly Mozdziak. Lantzky moved to approve, seconded by Ziedan and carried unan.

Community Relations-

Child Seat Inspection Program-DC Barry Ward requested that the Board reconsider recertification of members. This is a four day program that does require overtime, and it is an expense however, it promotes tremendous good will to the community. DC Barry Ward stated that we could designate one Saturday a month for this service and have both career and volunteer members certified. DC Barry Ward stated that he will cost it out for the next meeting for the Board to consider.

PETZEL-DC Barry Ward stated that our goal this year was firefighter safety. Firefighter safety involves three areas: One is training-we have done a lot of different training as it relates to breathing, self rescue training, FAST training, RIT System and the PETZEL EXO system. DC Barry Ward explained that it is a complete system with a braking device to prevent free falling. Statistics have revealed that when bail out is best a self rescue works. This system is a whole system designed by one manufacturer and carries a warranty with training. A pieced together system assumes great risk. The system included hardware, lumbar bag, end user classes and train the trainer.

DC Barry Ward explained that NYS Labor Law does not permit training on own equipment as once a system is used it cannot be used again as the integrity of system is now compromised with use. Total Cost is \$55440 and suggests eliminating the lumbar bag and end user classes. DC Barry Ward stated that we use the train the trainer classes so that we may train our own members/staff. DC Barry Ward suggests that 5 career and 5 volunteer be trained to give us good depth. DC Barry Ward stated that the balance in the equipment balance is \$120,000, cost is \$27940.00 and we do not have any other major equipment purchases planned this year. Hines asked why we need 10. DC Barry Ward stated that includes training of the Deputy Chief and Lieutenants plus 5 volunteers which would give us a good base of trainers. The rope system once used cannot be used again. DC Barry Ward stated that by re-bidding we yielded significant savings. Currently we use a halogen bar and carabiner. If a firefighter passes out, he free falls to the ground. NYS Department of Labor requires a bail out system.

Lantzky moved to approve the purchase of the PETZEL EXO System. Smith asked what the height of the buildings in New York where the firefighters were killed. Hines stated 4 firefighters died and the building was five stories. This system has been tested and revised. DC Barry Ward stated that we have many structures in the Town of LaGrange that are 4 stories and many residential stories are over two stories. Hines stated that a case study revealed that Firefighters fell twelve feet and died. Smith stated doe we have a need. Hines asked for a second. There was no second.

Ziedan asked if mutual aid departments have this system and what if they aid us. DC Barry Ward stated that Arlington Fire District has a system but it is not this one. DC Barry Ward stated that this rope system is woefully insufficient and we have been prudent, and this is an investment in our membership. Ziedan asked if this equipment is on the firefighter going in. DC Barry Ward stated yes it is part of their gear: every interior firefighter (F4) get its and we currently have 50. The equipment cost is \$299 per person; you cannot obtain the equipment until you are trained-PETZEL will not sell it to you. Hines stated as there is no second, we will move on.

47-55-DC Barry Ward reported that the cab has been repainted
Generator-DC Barry Ward reported that the cutoff switches have been installed.

EMS Report-EMS Administrator Michael Benenati reported that his report was included with the DC's report.

Boot Drop St. 3- no report

Tanker-it was noted that the permissive referendum has expired. The vendor's contract price will lapse if the contract is not signed. Hines stated that all requirements have been met. Smith stated that he had concerns that he wished to discuss in executive session. Hines stated that in light of what legal counsel has stated regarding price lapse, he encourages a decision.

Executive Session-Lantzky moved to go to executive session at 8:25 PM to discuss personnel matters, seconded by Smith and carried unan. Hines stated that there would be a five minute recess prior to executive session. Hines requested that Secretary Holzberger not attend executive session.

9:40 PM, Hines called the meeting back to order.

Bills-The following bills were submitted for payment page 4659. Smith moved to approve payment of the bills, seconded by Lantzky and when the Board was polled the vote was as follows:
Smith Aye Lantzky Aye Ziedan Abstain Hines Aye Canero Absent
The motion was carried.

Chief Elections-Hines congratulated Brian Odendahl and Greg Heneka for being nominated for Chief and Assistant Chief, respectively. Hines stated that the Board supports their election and as discussed and agreed upon in executive session, that outstanding training requirements be completed as soon as possible. Smith moved to approve Brian Odendahl as Chief and Greg Heneka as Assistant Chief, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan.

Letter of Understanding-Hines asked for a motion to approve the letter of understanding for the position of Deputy Secretary/Treasurer. Smith moved to approve, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan.

Swift Water Rescue-Hines stated that as per the DC, there was a swift water rescue this past Sunday. DC Barry Ward stated that effective June 21, 2009 on any swift water or water related rescue call., career staff swift water rescue certified tech's can respond immediately and they will be compensated per 1035 N agreement. Hines asked for a motion for approval. Smith moved to approve, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan.

Annual Inspection Dinner 2010-Secretary Holzberger stated that the date for the 2010 Inspection Dinner is March 20, 2010.

Hines asked legal counsel Rod MacLeod to read the motion regarding the sanction of Commissioner Ziedan, Smith made the motion and it was seconded by Lantzky as follows: that LaGrange Fire District

Commissioner Joseph Ziedan be publicly reprimanded, sanctioned and censured for his inappropriate behavior in that he, as a Fire Commissioner of the Lagrange Fire District, has:

- a. Disclosed to the general public, confidential information obtained by him in the course of his official duties in violation of General Municipal Law Article 18.
- b. Disseminated to the general public, false and misleading information regarding, among other things, the purchase of fire district tankers and ambulances; and
- c. Disparaged and ridiculed, to the public, the Lagrange Fire District Board of Fire commissioner as a body and individual LaGrange Fire District Fire Commissioners.

When the Board was polled the vote was as follows:

Smith Aye Lantzky Aye Hines Aye Canero Absent Ziedan Nay

The motion was carried.

Hines asked if there was any further business. Smith stated no.

Ziedan asked legal counsel what does sanction mean. Hines stated that questions should be directed to the chairman. Ziedan stated that he wished to ask legal counsel a question. Hines asked legal counsel to respond to Mr. Ziedan's question. Legal Counsel Rod Macleod stated that it is a public reprimand of a legislative body expressing disapproval of conduct of a member. Ziedan stated that this is disapproval of my conduct; what kind of reprimand is there.

Hines stated that as he has already stated twice, as a result of your conduct releasing confidential information and making disparaging comments, Ziedan is hereby relieved of all duties and responsibilities of this Board, the only reason he may sit at this table is because you have been publicly elected. Ziedan stated that he will have a say on this board and he would like facts to back this up; what confidentiality was breached. Discussion of fire trucks in an open meeting is not confidential.

Hines stated that this was an action by the Board; he understands that Ziedan has a personal vendetta regarding certain members of this Board and you freely communicate at every opportunity. Hines stated that he also understands that you have violated the confidentiality of this Board's executive sessions and distributed confidential information that has been only discussed in executive session. This behavior will not be tolerated and therefore, Ziedan is sanctioned.

Ziedan asked for facts to support the statements made by Hines. Hines stated that this is not the forum for that discussion; Ziedan chose to not to answer the question. Ziedan stated that he will have the floor.

Floor-Hines asked for any comments. Chief Brian Odendahl asked if oaths of office are needed for him and Greg. Secretary Holzberger stated that it could be done at any time or at the next meeting. It was scheduled for 5 PM tomorrow in the Secretary/Treasurer's office.

There being no further business, Lantzky moved to adjourn at 9:50 PM, seconded by Smith and carried unan.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise A. Holzberger, Secretary/Treasurer

Bills submitted for payment:

Interstate Batteries v474	\$171.90
Medical Warehouse v475	\$270.74
Medical Warehouse v476	\$185.85
Medical Warehouse v477	\$186.25
Mes v486	\$78.48
Mes v487	\$6024.44
Mes v488	\$62.92
Mes v488	\$108.13
Mes v490	\$538.66
Mes v489	\$115.45
Mes v491	\$61.72
Milton Alley Agway v473	\$207.00
Redl's Parkway Auto Parts v478	\$500
Staples v485	\$194.00
The Workplace v484	\$2382.00
Van Kleeck's Tire v483	\$1035.24
Verizon Wireless v481	\$215.86
Verizon Wireless v482	\$203.76
Vitaid v480	\$362.50
Warex v479	\$600.84
Cornerstone Telephone	\$493.11
Total	\$\$13998.85