

LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
AUGUST 11, 2009
7:30pm FH 2

4673

The 907th meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Lagrange Fire District was held on August 11, 2009 at 7:30 PM at Firehouse#2. Present were Commissioners Lantzky, Smith, Canero, Hines; Deputy Chief Barry Ward; Legal Counsel Rod MacLeod; EMS Administrator Michael Benenati; Secretary Holzberger and firefighters. Ziedan was absent due to family illness.

Hines called the meeting to order and led the salute to the flag. Hines asked for a motion to approve the minutes of July 28, 2009. Smith moved to approve the minutes of July 28, 2009 as submitted by the Secretary, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan.

Correspondence-Secretary Holzberger reported the following received:

\$60 donation in memory of Herbert Cole from John and Joan Simonetty

\$50 donation in memory of Herbert Cole from Walter and Alice Horton

\$25 donation in memory of Bud Cole from Lee and Tim Travis

\$25 donation in memory of Cleve Hill from David and Florence Gagliardy

\$35 donation in memory of Bud Cole from Harry and Deborah Baldwin

Smith moved to allocate the aforementioned donations to the 2009 Equipment Budget, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan.

\$66.06 from SW Co.3 for cablevision. Lantzky moved to allocate to the 2009 Telephone Budget, seconded by Canero and carried unan.

\$137.48 Fuel Tax Refund. Lantzky moved to allocate to the 2009 Gas Budget, seconded by Smith and carried unan.

\$1300 from NYS Health Central for reimbursement of certifications for J. Dawson, E. Murray, and M. Benenati. Lantzky moved to allocate to the 2009 Training Budget, seconded by Smith and carried unan.

Thank you letter from the family of Ed Duncan.

Inspection Report from CIA regarding the alarm inspection at the mechanic's facility. Lantzky requested copies of the inspection reports for all three firehouses and mechanic's facility for meeting on Friday with Town Fire Inspector.

NYS Public Entities Safety Group 497-letter regarding audit process for workers compensation

NYS Retirement-estimates for bills for 2010 Smith moved to authorize payment of the retirement bills by December 15, 2009, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan.

Association of Fire Districts –Reminder of Mid- Year Conference to be held Nov 5-8, 2009.

Training Request-Hines stated that the Chief is requesting up to 5 members be permitted to attend the VCOS conference. Smith moved to permit up to 5 attendees to the VCOS conference, seconded by Lantzky. There was discussion. Smith stated that he suggested that Commissioner Ziedan attend to gain a better understanding of the fire district and has not heard anything from him. It was noted that early booking/registering yields cost savings, therefore please let the Chief know as soon as possible if you would like to go.

Hines stated we have a motion on the floor to permit up to 5 members attend the VCOS conference and asked for a vote. All commissioners present were in favor.

Bills-The following bills were presented for payment, page 4679. Smith moved to authorize payment of the bills as submitted, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan.

Hines stated that this is a meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners in public, not a public meeting. There will be an opportunity for public comment at least once during the meeting, if not twice. Hines asked if there was any comment from the floor.

Public Comment-Janet Canero stated that she obtained estimates for blinds and the cost is \$2800; last month the Board authorized up \$2500. Hines asked for a motion to increase the amount for the purchase of blinds. Smith moved to authorize up to \$2800 for the purchase of blinds, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan.

Chiefs Report- Deputy Chief Barry Ward reported a safety issue regarding the attic stairs at FH.2. They are pull down stairs and the spring system has broken. Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that we need to review the pull down system versus replacement with something different. Smith stated that they need to be replaced if they are not safe as we have had knee injuries on these stairs.

Deputy Chief Barry Ward reported that Ward Miller has replaced Chief Brian Odendahl on the safety Committee.

Town Center-Deputy Chief Barry Ward reported that he met with Town Supervisor Jon Wagner, Joe Luna, Commissioner Lantzky and representatives of Rieger Homes on 8/6/09 regarding the proposed Town Center. Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that in general we had a good discussion; we impressed upon the developers that we are interested in successful development. We had already done a pre-environmental impact statement and we need to respond by 8/18. DC Barry Ward stated that he would like to define those things which are an exception to the way we do business. Infrastructure is covered by NYS Law and code. We can work with them but it is not worth us commenting on that which is already defined. DC Barry Ward stated that we work with them and stay with the theme we adopted when we initially gave our response; that is, how does this relate to our fire operations and how will it change our operations. Essentially, we are looking at high density area-closer housing, smaller roads which are a dramatic change to how we conduct our operation. DC Barry Ward stated that we are in a much tighter setting and that creates a higher exposure. There will be a requirement of an aerial device and perhaps locating a structure near the center of Town. DC Barry Ward stated that he would prepare a statement and forward to the Board. Hines stated that he would like to meet with the Deputy Chief before he replies to the Town, and expressed concerns regarding the width of streets, parking on both sides of the streets, cul de sacs, dead ends, streets that end in parking lots. Hines stated that he would expect the Town to comply with codes, but would like to address these other concerns. DC Barry Ward stated that he would also get Tim Sayles to attend. Smith stated that the chairman should be part of this as well.

New Membership-DC Barry Ward reported that Yousif Babiker, age 16, has successfully completed his physical and background check, and has been voted in by Company 2 and requests membership approval by the Board. Smith moved to approve membership of Yousif Babiker, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan.

Training-DC Barry Ward stated that we need to consider Diversity Training on an annual basis and suggests getting someone in to do that. EMS Administrator Michael Benenati has a recommendation. Hines stated that he would like to discuss the candidate for that with the Deputy Chief before proceeding. Smith stated that the Chairman should oversee that.

Community Relations Officer-DC Barry Ward stated that as FF Davyd Bullock will be in paramedic school, Anthony Champion would assume the role of community relations officer effective this week.

On-line OSHA-DC Barry Ward offers OSHA on-line classes at \$20 per person for non-FASNY members and \$10 per person for a FASNY member. DC Barry Ward requested approval for up to 10 members to take this as we have members who may not be able to attend the scheduled classes. Smith moved to approve, Canero seconded. There was discussion. Canero asked what the cost is for attending the class. DC Barry Ward stated that it is \$20 for non-FASNY members and \$10 for FASNY members. Canero stated that he feels that you do not learn as much on-line as you learn with a live instructor. Smith withdrew his motion. The Board agreed to table this.

Firefighter One Instructor Training-DC Barry Ward requested approval to send Bryan Zittel and Lee DeWitt to Firefighter One training class at a cost of \$50-80 per person. Class is held October 6-11 2009. This will involved 6 days of overtime. This is as a result of the NYS cut backs in the training they provide; we need additional instructors so that we can teach the class. Hines asked regarding the County and Arlington-if they have instructors. DC Barry Ward stated that Arlington does have instructors, and they shoulder the brunt of the training. Lantzky moved to authorize two be sent, seconded by Smith and when the Board was polled the vote was as follows: Smith Aye Lantzky Aye Canero Aye Hines stated the motion was carried unan.

Uniforms, Boots-DC Barry Ward reported that we have gotten quotes for Haix boots and the lowest price was from Firestore Online at a total cost of \$3914.80. These boots are part of the Labor Agreement. Hines stated that it is a contractual item and no motion is needed for them to be ordered.

Vehicles-DC Barry Ward reported that 47-61 is due for an inspection. DC Barry Ward noted that springs are needed on 47-11 both front and rear. Springs are also needed on the rear of 47-72.

Buildings & Grounds-DC Barry Ward reported that the sink hole that developed in the rear of Station 2 has been repaired by Sun Up at no cost.

EMS Administrator's Report-EMS Admin. Michael Benenati reported that NYS Department Of Health did an inspection today. This included an examination of our training records and they were found to be in excellent order. EMS Admin., Michael Benenati stated that the inspector was impressed with our record keeping; we keep records filed separately as they pertain to training, etc. Hines stated that he would like to thank EMS Administrator Michael Benenati, Secretary Holzberger and Secretary Martz for their work as it relates to the maintenance of the files. EMS Admin. Michael Benenati stated that the inspector examined our re-certification process and requested a copy of how we organize the re-certification process to use a sample. The inspector reviewed PCR's and identified some areas for us to work on regarding recording of dates and times. EMS Admin. Michael Benenati reported that the inspector reported that our PCR's overall were in good order; this is a result of our QA. Regarding our vehicle maintenance records, a process has been launched to record that data.

EMS Admin. Michael Benenati reported that our EMS policies and procedures are up to date and meet NYS Standards. EMS Admin. Michael Benenati reported that the inspector physically inspected our ambulances, reviewed our check sheets and found the ambulances to be clean. All required certifications were found on our employees' persons when requested. All our testing-hydrostatic-was current. Overall, the inspector was very pleased with our program. Hines congratulated EMS Administrator Michael Benenati. EMS Admin. Michael Benenati reported that a report would follow outlining the inspection.

Training Request- EMS Admin. Michael Benenati requested approval for up to four to attend the Pulse Check Conference, October 1 –October 4; cost is \$110 per person. Meals only are needed. So far only one person is interested. Smith moved to approve, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan. Hines asked if there is any overlap of career staff as far as any other conferences. EMS Admin. Michael Benenati stated there is none.

New Business-Hines asked if there was any new business. Smith moved that no one other than the Chairman and Deputy Chief contact legal counsel, seconded by Lantzky. There was discussion. Smith stated that other commissioners calling legal counsel costs money. Lantzky stated that in addition to the Chairman and Deputy Chief, the deputy Chairman should be included. Smith stated he would amend his motion to include the Deputy Chairman, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan.

Cell Phones-Hines stated that a quick survey of what our needs are in the district and approach Verizon. Smith moved that the Deputy Chief review the cell phone needs are, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan.

Ceiling Tiles-Hines stated that we have an estimate for the replacement of ceiling tiles in the ready room at ST.2 at a cost of \$349.38. The career staff will replace these. Smith moved to authorize the purchase of the ceiling tiles, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan.

Inspections- Lantzky stated that regarding the building inspections, he will meet with Tim Sayles on Friday to inspect the Firehouses for 2009. Smith stated that there are two items outstanding at Firehouse 3 and asked DC Barry Ward to follow up.

Concrete FH3-Hines stated that he contacted Tim Moot to review ST 1 and St 3 and advise us and get estimate for services. Hines stated that we should get a professional opinion and depending on that, proceed accordingly. Hines stated that he doesn't have that expertise regarding proper concrete, proper drainage, etc. Hines stated that he will use some other firm other than Clark Patterson if the Board so wishes; however, no matter who it is, the first question will be how much will those services cost. Smith moves that the Chairman review, the concrete and drainage repair with Clark Patterson, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan.

Smith moved to go to executive session to discuss personnel matters at 8:15 PM, with a five minute recess before, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan.

At 8:35 PM, Canero moved to return to the regular session, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan.

Credit Card Policy-Smith moved to adopt the Credit Card Policy, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan.
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Countersignature-Smith moved to authorize Chairman Hines countersign checks in the amount of \$5000 or more, with the Secretary/Treasurer, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan.

Deputy Chief Barry Ward stated that we should pursue RFQ's regarding engaging an actuary for 2010 Post Employment Benefit Liability.

Budget 2010-Hines asked the Company Liaisons to contact the Company President's to gather a wish list for 2010.

There being no further business, Smith moved to adjourn at 8:45 PM, seconded by Lantzky and carried unan.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise A. Holzberger, Secretary/Treasurer