

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LAMBERTVILLE DISTRICT #1**

JUNE 8, 2010

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners City of Lambertville District #1 was called to order at 7:30 PM. Present were Chairman Ege, Vice Chairman Brown, Treasurer Komjathy and Purchasing Officer Cormier. This meeting was held at the Justice Center, 25 South Union Street. Also present were Fire Chief Myers and Purchasing Agent Hayes. Secretary Waldron arrived at 8:15 PM.

In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, Chairman Ege announced that this was a regular meeting pursuant to the Resolution adopted at the March 9, 2010 Reorganization meeting and published in the March 18, 2010 issue of The Beacon.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Ege.

Chairman Ege read the following statement: I would like to remind everyone that this is an official business meeting of the Lambertville Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire District #1. With that being said, **NO ONE** in the audience will be acknowledged unless called upon or during public participation. This commission will no longer tolerate interruptions during their regular course of business.

MINUTES of the April 13, 2010 closed meeting, May 11, 2010 regular meeting, May 11, 2010 closed meeting and May 17, 2010 special meeting were approved as presented on motion by Mr. Komjathy, second by Mr. Cormier and unanimous favorable vote.

FINANCE REPORTS as prepared by Finance Officer Luhrs as attached and hereby made part of the minutes of this meeting were reviewed and accepted for filing on motion by Mr. Komjathy, second by Mr. Brown and unanimous favorable vote.

REQUISITIONS totaling \$1,650.00 as attached and hereby made part of the minutes of this meeting were read by Purchasing Agent Hayes. After discussion, motion by Mr. Brown, second by Mr. Cormier and adopted on unanimous favorable vote that the requisition list be approved as presented.

BILL LIST totaling \$40,776.78 as attached and hereby made part of the minutes of this meeting was approved for payment on motion by Mr. Komjathy, second by Mr. Cormier and unanimous favorable vote.

CHIEF'S REPORT as attached and hereby made part of the minutes of this meeting for May noting 20 NFRIS Incidents involving 167.66 man hours was reviewed. Chief Myers reported that the annual preventative maintenance has been completed on all trucks. A list will be forthcoming of repairs that are needed. He has received complaints about over-greasing and grease on the floor which will be discussed with Fire Apparatus.

A drill has been scheduled for June 28th on May Day signals.

The ladder and Chief's vehicle will be attending the 175th anniversary parade in Somerville.

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On July 3rd, the ladder, 17-61 and the Chief's vehicle will be attending the Chatham Parade.

The vehicle rescue class has been postponed until fall.

Requisitions were submitted for repair of the front suction on 17-62 and the auto-eject on 17-64.

He requested permission to use the Deputy Chief's car as a rehab unit. All fire fighters are now required to have a place to sit, hydrate and rest. The squad will be participating in this effort also. The South County Chief's Association will be sharing the costs to equip this effort with tents and supplies.

After discussion, motion by Mr. Brown, second by Mr. Komjathy and adopted on unanimous favorable vote to authorize up to \$500.00 for misting fans, water and other supplies for the Deputy Chief's car.

He recommended that action be taken on replacing 17-64 so that it can be placed on the ballot for the February 2011 election.

Mr. Komjathy noted that this will be included in the consultant's report. It is anticipated that the consultant will attend the July 13th meeting and talk to the captains and chiefs of each company. Mr. Ege noted that the committee needs to determine the vehicle that collectively suits the needs of the department.

COMPANY REPORTS:

Station 1: Capt. Ege noted that they have requested permission to attend the Chatham parade on July 3rd.

Station 2: Lt. Skrebel noted all is in good working order.

Station 3: Capt. Gares noted all is in good working order.

Station 4: Capt. C. Strauss noted nothing to report.

COMMISSION ITEMS:

Chief Myers noted that he is waiting for the background check on one applicant.

2009 AUDIT is completed but has not been bound. There are no findings and no recommendations. Copies will be distributed next week. The synopsis will be published in The Beacon and action will be taken at the July 13th meeting. A letter will be sent to all officers summarizing the correct purchasing methods.

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Letter was received from the Lambertville-New Hope Ambulance and Rescue Squad thanking the Board for the donation of \$3,000.00 and \$250.00 toward cleaning supplies. It was noted that during 2009, the squad responded to 95 fire alarms and 1,561 emergency alerts.

Letter was received from the Fleet Wing Hook and Ladder Co. #3 expressing the company's concern over the manner in which the new chief policy is being implemented. Previously all policies were brought before the Board of Engineers for their input and guidance.

WORKERS COMPENSATION: It was agreed that the following individuals should be removed from the active list and sent to Liberty Mutual for the 2010-2011 coverage period.

Station 1	Mitchell Ege Jr. Jon P. Janyszeski Brian Snell Jr.	Moved to Phillipsburg Does not show up At college, has not passed Fire Fighter I
Station 2	Chris Gazzillo John Goccia David Schemick Eugene Venettone Ken Williamson Tara Williamson David Wintermute	Moved to Trenton, hurt at work accident Not current on certifications Suspended Does not show up Terminated from the Department In Air Force in Texas Does not show up
Station 3	Clementi Garefino Kyle Pickering	Does not show up Moved to Milford
Station 4	John Linsley Breeann Meehan Nancy Tillett	Age 97, only works at fund raiser Moved to Trenton Only works at fund raiser, retired member

The companies were encouraged to review their rolls to determine if others should be removed from the insurance coverage.

CLOSED MEETING: The following Resolution was adopted on motion by Mr. Brown, second by Mr. Komjathy and unanimous favorable vote.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS it is necessary for the Board of Fire Commissioners to discuss personnel and contract matters, and

WHEREAS the Open Public Meetings Act permits the discussion of personnel and contract matters in closed session,

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BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Fire Commissioners meet in closed session at this time to discuss personnel and contract matters with Chief Myers, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the matters under discussion will be made public when any decision is formulated.

The meeting was recessed at 8:05 PM and reconvened at 8:55 PM.

POLICY BOOK: There was discussion about the possibility of having the Administrative Policies on a disk so that everyone could have a copy.

EMPLOYEE-EMPLOYER RELATIONS: Mr. Ege suggested that to minimize the rumors that have been circulating, the Commission members are willing to attend Company meetings to disseminate information. It is hoped that this will off-set the tensions that are evident between the companies and the commission. Each company is invited to choose which Commissioner that they would like to have attend.

CHIEF'S POLICY: Mr. Ege noted that under Title 40 each company is responsible for electing a chief. So that each company has representation, the Chief's Policy will be amended so that there will be one Department Chief selected by the Commission and the four assistant Chief's selected by the individual companies.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Ronald Tillett Jr. noted that the Chief's policy does not meet Title 40. He questioned the effective date of this change.

Mr. Ege noted that this is why the policy will be amended to allow for four Company Chiefs and one Department Chief appointed by the Commission. It will be effective in May 2011.

George Gares questioned that any policy change needed two readings.

Ronald Tillett Jr. noted that this was discussed at the October 2009 Commission meeting and then rescinded. A committee was to be appointed to discuss this change. He has brought this issue up continually, but no committee meeting was held. He noted that the Department did not request a change. The Lambertville Fire Department has never been sued and are a very good and strong department. He cited an article in The Beacon where Mayor DeVecchio stated that one fire house would be closed.

Mr. Ege responded that he was surprised by the comment also and does not know why the Mayor stated such. This is not a goal of the Commission. The Chief's policy was formulated to have the best trained individual leading the Department rather than the traditional rotation policy.

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Richard Roy noted the need for the Commission and Department to work together. This is not happening.

Mr. Komjathy suggested that if the Company has a problem which they think is illegal, malfeasance or corrupt, then they should retain an attorney and file charges.

George Gares question if the Chief had the ultimate authority to run the Department.

Gary Warford noted that the Commission was formed to assist the companies to meet financial goals. Everyone should be working together. It appears that there are a lot of problems between the Department and the Commission.

Being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM on motion by Mr. Cormier, second by Mr. Komjathy and unanimous favorable vote.

Mary Elizabeth Sheppard
Business Administrator