



# *City of Lambertville Board of Fire Commissioners District #1*

*230 North Main Street  
Lambertville, N.J. 08530*



*Aladar Komjathy, Chairman  
Sarah Lechner, Vice Chair  
Erin McManus-Keyes, Commissioner  
Jack Ludwig, Commissioner  
Noelle Zappacosta Romano, Commissioner*

*Fire Headquarters – 609-397-2084  
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## **OCTOBER 20, 2020 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

A regularly scheduled videoconference meeting was called to order by Chairman Komjathy at 6:05 p.m. with a statement of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, noticing The Trenton Times, The Hunterdon County Democrat, City Hall Bulletin Board, and various individuals.

### **ROLL CALL**

In attendance, via videoconference, were Chairman Komjathy, Vice Chair Lechner, Commissioner Ludwig, Commissioner McManus-Keyes, and Commissioner Zappacosta-Romano.

Also present were Board Attorney Richard Braslow and Neil Braslow and Accountant Joe Marcucci.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Komjathy.

### **RESOLUTION Closing of Meeting Pursuant to Open Public Meetings Act**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, the Commissioners are allowed to engage in executive session during any particular meeting when it becomes necessary to discuss matters which the statute allows to be discussed in executive session; and

WHEREAS, it was necessary for the Commissioners to discuss various matters of personnel, and accordingly, the Commissioners met in executive session to discuss same.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED by the Commissioners of Fire District No. 1 in the City of Lambertville, County of Hunterdon, as follows:

- (1) The meeting of October 20, 2020 is closed and will be reopened at such time as the discussion in executive session has been completed.
- (2) The minutes will be revealed to the public at such time as the matters discussed have been resolved.

A motion was made by Commission Zappacosta-Romano to enter into closed session, seconded by Vice Chair Lechner, MOTION PASSED. The Commissioners entered into closed session at 6:08 p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zappacosta-Romano to come out of closed session, seconded by Commissioner McManus-Keyes, and with a unanimous voice vote, MOTION PASSED. The Commissioners came out of closed session at 6:57 p.m.

**RESOLUTION #20-14**  
**Authorizing Appointment of Robin Schutts**  
**To Position of Board Secretary**

WHEREAS, the Fire District previously created the position of Board Secretary; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to appoint an individual to said position.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED by the Commissioners of Fire District No. 1 in the City of Lambertville, County of Hunterdon, as follows:

- (1) Robin Schutts is hereby appointed to the position of Board Secretary.
- (2) The duties and responsibilities of the position are as set forth in the job description promulgated and adopted by the Fire District which may be modified or amended as deemed necessary by the Fire District.
- (3) The compensation relative to the position shall be \$17.50 per hour.
- (4) The individual shall be deemed an “at will” employee.

A motion by Vice Chair Lechner to pass Resolution #20-14, seconded by Commissioner Zappacosta-Romano, and with a unanimous voice vote, MOTION PASSED.

Chief Barlow reported that the snow-plow contract from Professional Landscaping was the lowest and consistent with last year’s contract. A motion was made by Vice Chair Lechner, seconded by Commissioner Zappacosta-Romano, and with a unanimous voice vote, MOTION PASSED.

**MEETING MINUTES**

A motion was made by Vice Chair Lechner to approve the regular minutes and special minutes of September 15, 2020, seconded by Commissioner Zappacosta-Romano, and with unanimous voice vote, MOTION PASSED.

**BILLS**

A motion was made by Vice Chair Lechner to approve the bills for the evening, seconded by Commissioner Zappacosta-Romano, and with unanimous voice vote, MOTION PASSED.

## **REQUISITIONS**

A motion was made by Vice Chair Lechner to approve the requisitions presented for the evening, seconded by Commissioner Zappacosta-Romano, and with unanimous voice vote, MOTION PASSED.

## **COMMISSION ITEMS**

Chairman Komjathy had recently witnessed Chief Barlow and some firefighters at the scene of an accident and wanted to commend them for a job well-done. Chief Barlow was very professional. The firefighter crew worked well together and were very professional. This has not gone un-noticed with other agencies in the City. Chief Barlow has a good rapport with everyone and is able to work with all agencies in the City.

## **CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Barlow addressed the Board regarding his report, which was provided to the Board.

There have been 42 alarms in the past month. The Hibernia apartment elevator will be going out of service on November 13, 2020 for replacement and will be unavailable for approximately 7 weeks. There is no emergency plan in place as-of-yet from the building's owner. Chief Barlow is expecting a rise in calls. The Chief's car is older and keeps having issues. A replacement should be looked at instead of continuing to repair the existing one. The squirt has a leak in the tank. Will possibly be taken out of service soon. A possible replacement is a heavy engine. Depending on the replacement will dictate the ISO rating. A pumper would do it and make up the ISO points. With rates low, a lease to buy may be a better option. Chief Barlow to research for next meeting. Due to expected increase in visitors to the City for Halloween, there will be extra staff from 4pm-midnight in the station. Chief Barlow is also proposing to stop cost for call at the end of 2020. Since Chief Barlow moved, there is a gap of coverage from midnight to 8am. He would like to have a per diem duty person for this. The person would need to live in town or close to be able to come out for coverage. It would rotate. In regards to the budget, Chief Barlow will continue to purchase turn out gear. No major equipment is needed for 2021. Chief Barlow would like to hire a grant writer. The grant would be for a new radio system and new cascade system. The grant application(s) are due the end of March 2021. The company he is looking at has a high success rate and if the district doesn't receive approval in 2021, they will re-submit in 2022 for free.

A brief general conversation was held about replacing the Chief's Car not coming from capital. Al was going to talk to the DCA regarding this.

## **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There were no public audience at this meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Commissioner McManus-Keyes to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Zappacosta-Romano, and with a unanimous voice vote, MOTION PASSED.

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The Commission adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

The next regular monthly meeting will take place on October 20, 2020.

*Regular Meeting Minutes prepared and submitted by  
Robin Schutts, Board Secretary*