



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
Headquarters Fax – 609-397-4465*

January 19, 2021 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

A regularly scheduled videoconference meeting was called to order by Chairman Komjathy at 6:06 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. Commissioner Zappacosta-Romano joined at 6:12pm.

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.

CLOSED MEETING

There was not a necessity for a closed meeting session this month.

MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Vice Chair Lechner to approve the regular and closed meeting minutes from the November 17 and December 15, 2020 meetings. Commissioner Ludwig seconded. A voice vote was taken, MOTION PASSED. Absent from voting was Commissioner Erin McManus-Keyes.

BILLS

A motion was made by Commissioner Ludwig to approve the bills for the evening, seconded by Commissioner Zappacosta-Romano. A voice vote was taken, MOTION PASSED. Absent from voting was Commissioner McManus-Keyes.

REQUISITIONS

A motion was made by Commissioner Ludwig to approve the requisitions presented for the evening, seconded by Commissioner Zappacosta-Romano. A voice vote was taken, MOTION PASSED. Absent from voting was Commissioner McManus-Keyes.

Commissioner McManus-Keyes joined at 6:12pm

2021 BUDGET

Joe Marcucci reported the State approved the budget. The budget total is \$1,213,953.00 – a 2/3% increase over 2020. There is \$30,000.00 set aside to pay for the 12(midnight) – 8:00am shift. Chairman Komjathy asked what was new for 2021. There is an increase for maintenance and supplies for COVID. Chief Barlow reported that the application has been filed with FEMA for COVID supplies. No payments from FEMA will be made until the pandemic is over. Chief Barlow has ongoing conference calls with FEMA regarding updates and when to expect a payout. As of now, \$20,000.00 has been spent for supplies for COVID. Vice Chair Lechner does not understand why nothing is being paid out because her employer has been receiving payments for additional supplies since April. Chief Barlow said if she knew who could help speed up the process, please let him know. Chairman Komjathy will reach out to the City for help too.

A motion was made by Commissioner McManus-Keyes to open the public hearing on the 2021 budget. Commissioner Zappacosta-Romano seconded. The hearing is now open to the public. Chairman Komjathy thanked everyone who worked so hard to stabilize spending and for all who worked on the budget. No further public comment was made.

A motion was made by Commissioner McManus-Keyes and seconded by Commissioner Zappacosta-Romano to close the hearing. A unanimous vote was made, MOTION PASSED.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ludwig and Seconded by Commissioner Zappacosta-Romano to adopt the 2021 Budget. A unanimous voice vote was made, MOTION PASSED.

COMMISSION ITEMS

Chairman Komjathy asked for Chief Barlow's report on a replacement truck. Chief Barlow presented a 2009 Pumper to replace the Squirt. The truck has low miles and maintenance should be relatively low. Commissioner Ludwig said he would not support this purchase.

A discussion took place to work with neighboring towns to "pitch in" their resources. Chairman Komjathy was to speak to surrounding towns for buy-in. Chief Barlow explained this may have an impact on the City's ISO rating which could mean an increase in people's homeowners insurance premium. Mr. Braslow said if they leased or purchased a vehicle a referendum would be needed and could be done after April. Chairman Komjathy said the Chief's car needs to be replaced and still working with the DCA on this.

Commissioner Ludwig said the appraiser came out and the report should be available in about a week.

Robin Schutts asked for clarification on what email should be used for communication. Mr. Braslow advised that District emails should be used for this. All Commissioners have a District email and this will be the main place for future communication.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Barlow provided his report to the Board.

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 Vice Chair Lechner, and with a unanimous voice vote, MOTION PASSED.

The Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

The next regular monthly meeting will take place on February 16, 2021.

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