

**Board of Fire Commissioners
LINDENWOLD FIRE DISTRICT No.1
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: August 16, 2021
Meeting Place: Fire Administration Building
Meeting Called to Order: 7:30pm
Members of Board Present: **Chairman** – Clifford Ruth
Vice Chairman – Richard Paul
Treasurer – Wayne Hans
Secretary – Frank Weindel
Commissioner – Tamara DeLucca- excused
District Clerk – Tiffany Beach
Solicitor – David Capozzi

Salute the Flag

Sunshine Law – Comm. Ruth

In accordance with the NJ Sunshine Law this meeting has been properly advertised and is open to the public. The public portion will follow the regular business of the Board.

Roll Call Commissioners – Comm. Ruth

Comm.'s Ruth, Weindel, Paul & Hans are present. Commissioner DeLucca is excused.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting – Comm. Ruth

Motion made by Comm. Paul seconded by Comm. Weindel to approve the meeting on July 19, 2021 minutes as they are available to the public upon request. Any questions? (hearing none) All in favor, ayes have it.

Correspondence – Cl. Beach

Cl. Beach: Commissioner Weindel and myself had a meeting last week, I am sure he will go into more depth in his report.

Treasurer's Report – Comm. Hans

As of August 16, 2021

TD Bank General Checking	78,094.16
TD Bank Money Market Account	1,636,922.24
TD Bank Money Market Capital	2,567.29
TD Bank Payroll Checking	15,376.90
TD Bank LEA Dedicated Penalty	5,578.36
TD Bank LEA Trust Penalty	16,076.49
Petty Cash	200.00
Total Current Assets	1,754,815.44

Motion made by Comm. Weindel seconded by Comm. Paul to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. Any questions? (hearing none) Roll call vote, ayes have it.

Payment of Bills – Comm. Hans

Comm. Hans: In front of you, you have a list of 43 bills totaling \$57,259.26

Motion made by Comm. Paul seconded by Comm. Weindel to approve the payment of bills. Any questions? (hearing none) Roll call vote, ayes have it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration / Personnel – Comm. Ruth

Comm. Ruth: The State District meeting is Friday September 17th in Wildwood. Due to some personal issues I will not be able to make it so maybe if Commissioner Paul or someone else could get over there that would be great. I do know it will be on Zoom so I may be able to log on and make it there.

Office of Fire Prevention – Comm. Ruth

Comm. Ruth: The Fire Official’s report for July 20- August 16, 2021 was read aloud, a copy is attached to the minutes. Yours in Fire Safety, Fire Official Timothy Shannon.

Apparatus – Comm. Ruth

Comm. Ruth: Everything is in service. The air purifying system was installed on the remaining 2 trucks. That means all 4 front line vehicles now have the purification system installed. There was an incident with the windshield on the Ladder. I spoke with the Chief to get in contact with Mall Chevy to get the command box for the new Tahoe it is still not supposed to be completed until the end of this year the beginning of next. Also, Stonington Court, I’m guessing has an order by the state that all units are to now have self-closing doors. I’m not sure if it is like that in the other complexes.

Duty Crew – Comm. Ruth

No report.

Budget – Comm. Ruth

Comm. Ruth: Budget meetings are set up as follows: September 13th will be with the President’s and Bureau of Fire Prevention, October 4th will be the Chief’s and Training Division, and November 1st will be with the CPA.

Fire Department Equipment – Comm. Paul

Comm. Paul: Everything is okay and in service. I will be getting with the Chiefs to get a list together for the list of purchases they would like before the end of the year.

Turn-Out Gear – Comm. Paul

Comm. Paul: We are still waiting for the new gear to come in and the 5 large helmets that are still on backorder.

Recruitment / Membership – Comm. Paul

Comm. Paul: We have one Junior application out that hasn’t come back yet.

Fitness Center – Comm. Paul

Comm. Paul: All okay.

Future Projects- Comm. Paul

Comm. Paul: The survey was completed on the property behind Station 1. We are still waiting for the second reading from the Borough for the ordinance.

S.O.G.’s – Comm. Paul

No report.

Communications – Comm. DeLucca

No report.

Computers/ Social Media – Comm. Ruth

Comm. Ruth: Tammy did want me to mention she did get in contact with Donnie so we could be compliant with Tier 1 for the cyber security.

Assist Personnel – Comm. DeLucca

No report.

Building Maintenance / Grounds – Comm. Hans

Comm. Hans: Grass has been cut here at Station 3. The mulch bed was also cleaned up and the branches were trimmed.

Health & Safety – Comm. Hans

Comm. Hans: Physicals are being set up. I should have a date next month.

Fixed Assets – Comm. Hans

No report.

Hydrants / Water – Comm. Hans

Comm. Hans: I am still going back and forth with NJ American water. Once the complete everything I will let you all know.

Training Division – Comm. Weindel

No report.

Insurance – Comm. Weindel

Comm. Weindel: We had a meeting with the insurance company a few days ago. We discussed the replacement cost on the trucks and upped that and we also talked about the cyber insurance that we need to get compliant with.

Incentive Program – Comm. Weindel

No report.

Uniforms – Comm. Weindel

Comm. Weindel: I ordered some uniforms. I am still waiting for them to come in.

Fuel – Comm. Weindel

Comm. Weindel: The fuel pumps are down at the Borough; the diesel pumps are working. I will let you know when they are up and running again.

Chief's Report – Chief Beeler

Chief Beeler: The report was read aloud by Chief Beeler; a copy is attached to the minutes.

President's Report – Comm. Ruth

Comm. Ruth: The President from Station 3 is present tonight.

Borough of Lindenwold – Councilman DiDominico

Not present.

Solicitor – D. Capozzi

No report.

Resolutions – Comm. Ruth

.N/a

Old Business – Comm. Ruth

Comm. Ruth: Any old business? (hearing none)

New Business – Comm. Ruth

Comm. Ruth: Any new business? (hearing none)

Public Portion – Comm. Ruth

Motion made by Comm. Paul, seconded by Comm. Weindel to open to the public.

All in favor, ayes have it.

Frank DeLuca: I guess my question is, is the Fire Commission interested in acquiring this building?

Comm. Paul: What we talked about was having each fire company turn over their assets to the District to help offset the cost of the new building. I believe the Commission would be able to sell the property and use it towards the new building. Right now it is so early because we haven't even had it approved by the voters on building a new building. We are trying to get a feel from the companies which would fall back to the Presidents and the members of each company.

Frank DeLuca: Are you saying that your intent is to sell this building?

Comm. Paul: I believe so, yes because that money would go towards the new building.

Chief Beeler: The whole thing is, we will be building one firehouse and keep everything under one building. That is the plan. It also depends on the voters and the building. I don't know what they would do with the building if they wanted to keep it.

Frank DeLuca: I guess since the President isn't going to ask it, I will. Would the Commission entertain the concept of utilizing this facility for storage, just take ownership of it? Would that be on the table?

Chief Beeler: The way the new facility will be set up, there will be no means for us having this building.

Frank DeLuca: What about possibly for a spare Engine?

Chief Beeler: We will have enough space at the new building.

Frank DeLuca: Well that obviously will change out plan and what we are thinking. Do you have Bond Council on board?

Sol. Capozzi: We haven't gotten that far yet. It still needs to go through Referendum.

Frank DeLuca: Can I make a suggestion that you might want to talk to Bond Council ASAP. What they are going to look for is assets.

Public Portion – Cont'd.

Sol. Capozzi: They changed the law on that in 2019. The Fire District is permitted to raise money & bond based upon the overall tax assessed land. It isn't based upon how many buildings you had, or how many trucks you had. That law changed about 2 years ago. What we're permitted to do is bond up to I believe its mills, which is 500\$ for every \$100,000.00 of assessed value in town. They aren't looking for collateral like they used to do. It is based upon the entire assessed value. That statute went into effect 2 years ago.

Frank DeLucca: You have to look at your financing first so you can come up with a number. If you sell the building first, which is wiser because you have cash in hand from a sale. My guess you get \$100,000 you're doing well. You also have to remember this isn't a R-1. I'll be quite frank with you; as a member of Number 3 we strongly oppose of you selling & we would find another nonprofit if that is the intent of it. I think the building has a lot of history to it. You won't have a social hall in the new building? Is that correct?

Dep. Chief Polifrone: No.

Comm. Paul: We won't be going away of the history of the building. That is not going to happen. The history will be included with the new building. We are going to put it down in the basement or in the trash can.

Frank DeLucca: I do recall you had an even this past weekend where you used the hall. Is that correct?

Comm. Paul: Yes, that's correct.

Frank DeLucca: Where is that going to be is you don't have this building anymore?

Comm. Paul: There would be no more hall rentals.

Frank DeLucca: What about the Exempt Association?

Chief Beeler: The new building is being made for the Department. If you guys want to keep this building you can.

Frank DeLucca: We have no income.

Chief Beeler: Moving forward, you know as well as I do people volunteering is down. Hall rentals, just aren't there anymore.

We are running a 1,000 calls a year with volunteers. Our next step is to get career guys in here. We are looking towards the future not what happened years ago. I understand where you are coming from Frank. I really do.

Frank DeLucca: You are going to have to tell them, all the volunteer firemen that used No. 1 & No. 2 that there is going to no longer be a building for Old Timers Night, graduation parties.

Chief Beeler: All of the people who are active and who have gear on the racks are all on board with a new building. I know Frank has been using this building for Blood Drives. The people who are using the social hall is kind of in the past. We will have room where the Exempt Association can use for their meetings. They will have a job to get in just like every other life member.

Frank DeLucca: I think that is going to be a tough pill to swallow.

Chief Beeler: I've been going at this for about 3 years now and I know that any of the members we have active now would trade what we have now for a place to sleep, not a couch but an actual bed, a shower, make lunches. I get what you are saying Frank, I respect the way people did things in the past. You know how long my family has been around. I can't rely on what my Great Grandfather did in 1912. Is it a tough pill to swallow? Absolutely. The history will be put into the new building. I'm not trying to turn my back on the past but I'm trying to look towards the future and what is best for the department.

Frank DeLucca: I just think there is a compromise that we could make to keep everyone happy?

Chief Beeler: If we keep this building open, what am I going to tell the other guys at the other guys happy at No 2.? You're beat?

Frank DeLucca: Are any of them here tonight to look at the future?

Chief Beeler: Were you here last week to look at the future? You guys heard about assets and now you are at the meeting.

Frank DeLucca: We can offer it to the Borough or put a for sale sign on it. Let me paint a picture, it's a nonprofit, it's got plenty of money. I think you should look at bit deeper to keep it a public entity, maybe a rec facility that the Borough may be interested in.

Comm. Paul: Frank, we are talking to Craig Wells about a Community Center. What would happen if the Borough takes over? They are going to need a place to vote. We could possibly make a deal later on with the Borough.

Frank DeLucca: That is why I am here tonight is to ask these questions. And look a little bit deeper.

Comm. Paul: This is why we are discussing this to get Number 3 on board. We kind of know what No. 1 intentions since the new building is going to be on their property. We wanted to approach No. 3 to see where you guys are all at and then we are going to No. 2. We are in the early stages and until it goes to vote we can't move forward. I did discuss with the No. 3 President that I would have a meeting with the membership.

Frank DeLucca: I think what we are learning now is that your intention is to just sell. Did I hear something different?

Sol. Capozzi: We don't have the authority to do it anyway. The building doesn't belong to the Fire Commission. The overture may be that we transfer that assets. As of right now nothing has been decided. It may be to transfer one of the buildings to offset the cost.

Frank DeLucca: But you didn't say that.

Comm. Paul: Nothing has been decided. We just wanted to see where you guys were at.

Frank DeLucca: I can tell you my personal opinion. If you plan on just selling it, I am going to argue with you until the cows come in.

Comm. Paul: I understand that you don't want to lose your history.

Chief Beeler: And that is your decision. You guys can keep the building. It still belongs to the Lindenwold Fire Company No 3.

Frank DeLucca: Absolutely.

Chief Beeler: It's your decision. No one is forcing anyone to do anything. We are a company; we are a business; we are a service. We would have to sell it be we wouldn't have a need for it. If the membership of number 3 feels that that is not good, that's fine.

Frank DeLucca: I would like to learn a little bit more about the Bond Council that they don't want tangible assets.

Sol. Capozzi: It wouldn't count as a tangible asset anyway Frank because we don't own it.

Public Portion – Cont’d.

Frank DeLucca: But if in fact you do, they would count that.

Sol. Capozzi: I’ll sent you the statue, they changed it a few years ago. It is based upon ratable and the value of the property.

Frank DeLucca: And that is based upon the bonds the municipalities have out?

Sol. Capozzi: As far as I know, we are a completely different separate. As you are well aware we get tied up with the schools.

Frank DeLucca: And they are building a new school. That is out there too. Have you been in front of the Junior High?

Comm. Ruth: With all of the trailers out there.

Frank DeLucca: If I could make a recommendation, I would hire a Bond Council really quick and have them take a look at it.

Sol. Capozzi: That is something we will do down the line, we just haven’t made it that far yet.

Frank DeLucca: And my last question, do we have a lawsuit filed against us?

Sol. Capozzi: By us, do you mean the Fire Commission?

Frank DeLucca: Yes.

Sol. Capozzi: No. There has been no tort claim filed. I believe the 90 days is up the end of this month.

Frank DeLucca: Okay thank you.

Motion made by Comm. Weindel, seconded by Comm. Paul to close to the public.

All in favor, ayes have it.

Open to Commissioners – Comm. Ruth

Closed Session – Comm. Ruth

N/a

Adjourn - Comm. Ruth

Motion made by Comm. Paul, seconded by Comm. Weindel to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 pm.

All in favor, ayes have it.

	<u>Aug 16, 21</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1000 · CASH	
1010 · TD Bank General Checking	78,094.16
1011 · TD Bank Money Market Acco...	1,636,922.24
1013 · TD Bank Money Market Capital	2,567.29
1020 · TD Bank Payroll Checking	15,376.90
1030 · TD Bank LEA Dedicated Pen...	5,578.36
1040 · TD Bank LEA Trust Penalty	16,076.49
1090 · Petty Cash	200.00
	<hr/>
Total 1000 · CASH	1,754,815.44
	<hr/>
Total Checking/Savings	1,754,815.44
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Total Current Assets	1,754,815.44
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TOTAL ASSETS	1,754,815.44
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LIABILITIES & EQUITY	0.00

CHIEFS REPORT

7/19 TO 8/16

Calls for service – 56

Laurel Springs-3, Clementon-4, Pine Hill-5, Voorhees -4

7/28- Department meeting held

8/1 -Crews attended Dixon memorial at Lindenwold Park

8/2- Department attended National Night out at Lindenwold Park

We have several events coming up that we will be attending

Tower Ladder committee still working on truck

Progress on building committee. Talked to EMS regarding same

Training-

7/20 Hose Line deployment

8/10 Pump Operations

Albert Smith 3rd(Trey) starting Fire 1

Respectfully submitted

Philip Beeler, Chief.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

08/16/2021

July 20, 2021 to August 16, 2021

Inspections Completed:

J&G Auto Center & Tire
Pine Ridge Apartments
ARC of Camden County

US Gas
Santa Fe Apartments



Re- Inspections

The Pines
Jack's Donuts
Family Dollar

Scoopy Lou's
Lucy Laundry



Complaints Received 1

Santa Fe Apartments for fire code / life safety issues.

Imminent Hazard 1

This office was notified of an illegal business that was going to operate a night club/ entertainment venue at 2512 Egg Harbor Road. The Borough of Lindenwold code office was notified also and the business was closed down until proper paperwork can be filled out and go thru zoning and planning board.

Requested Response 1

August 14, 2021: Elba's Bridal 316 WHP for a small fire in the ceiling that started from a bathroom attic fan.

Civilian Burn Reports 0

Permits 0

Information to Fire District Commissioners

We send out the third in final notice for 2021 Fire Registration Fee's on July 1, 2021. We have received 98.5% of the inspection fees so far. Life Hazard fees received \$15,115.06 and Non- Life Hazard fees 21,648.50 and Type 1 and 2 permits 1,552.00. If any residents are in need of a