**Board of Fire Commissioners**

**LINDENWOLD FIRE DISTRICT No.1**

**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** July 18, 2016

**Meeting Place:** Fire Administration Building

**Meeting Called To Order:**   7:30 pm

**Members of Board Present: Chairman –** Clifford Ruth

 **Vice Chairman –** Richard Paul

 **Treasurer –** Raymond McManus, excused

 **Secretary –** Wayne Hans  **Commissioner –** Frank Weindel

 **District Clerk –** Kathleen Crockett

 **Solicitor –** Richard Tavani

**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

Comms. Paul, Hans, Weindel and Ruth present. Comm. McManus is excused.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting –** Comm. Ruth

Motion made by Comm. Paul, seconded by Comm. Weindel to approve the 06/20/16 minutes as they are available

to the public upon request. Any questions? (hearing none) All in favor, ayes have it. Comm. Hans abstained.

**Correspondence** – Cl.Crockett

**Cl.Crockett:** The closing letter for the 2015 Audit was sent to the State.

**Comm. Ruth:** Any other correspondence? (hearing none)

**Treasurer’s Report** – Comm. Ruth

As of 07-18-2016:

TD Bank General Checking 85,357.17

TD Bank Money Market Account 662,971.31

TD Bank Money Market Capital 242,860.03

TD Bank Payroll Checking 30,737.16

TD Bank LEA Dedicated Penalty 7,461.36

TD Bank LEA Trust Penalty 16,034.74

Petty Cash 200.00

Total Current Assets 1,045,621.77

Motion made by Comm. Paul, seconded by Comm. Weindel to accept the Treasurer’s Report as read.

Any questions? (hearing none) Roll call vote, all yes.

**Payment of Bills** – Comm. Ruth

**Comm. McManus:** In front of you, you have a list of 38 bills totaling $17,209.46.

Motion made by Comm. Paul, seconded by Comm. Weindel to approve the payment of bills.

Any questions? (hearing none) Roll call vote, all yes.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Fire Department Equipment** – Comm. Paul

**Comm. Paul:** The rhino cutter is back in service, it was a manufacture defect, it was taken care of.

**Turn-Out Gear** – Comm. Paul

No report.

**Fitness Center** – Comm. Paul

**Comm. Paul:** There are two doors that are not working. I had Craig Wells from Public Works look at them. They might not be able to be fixed. I’ll get with him again to maybe replace the motors, or possibly look at next year blocking them up like we did with the other three doors we had done several years ago.

**S.O.G.’s –** Comm. Paul

**Comm. Paul:** The S.O.G.’s are being worked on right now with the Alliance. There have been emails going back and forth so we can get them settled.

**Recruitment / Membership** – Comm. Paul

**Comm. Paul:** There are 4 applications out. One is getting his physical and had his interview with Capt. Fredericks.

And there are three on Kathy’s desk to proceed with that. That’s all I got.

**Building Maintenance / Grounds** – Comm. Hans

**Comm. Hans:** I know there are a lot of weeds at Station 3 that was sprayed yesterday in another week they’ll be starting to die off. In the meantime I’ll follow up with Quality again and have it taken care of whatever needs to be done and also replace the shrubs that died on the side of the building.

**Health & Safety** – Comm. Hans

**Comm. Hans:** A cartridge for the eye station at Station 1, somebody voided it so it was replaced. Actually I’m going to have to check the dates on them because I think they’re getting close to expiration on the dates.

I will start setting up for physicals in October with Interstate Mobile so we can get a decent date this time.

That’s all I have at this time.

**Fixed Assets –** Comm. Hans

No report.

**Hydrants / Water** – Comm. Hans

No report.

**Insurance** – Comm. Weindel

No report.

**Incentive Program –** Comm. Weindel

No report.

**Uniforms –** Comm. Weindel

**Comm. Weindel:** I’m working with Mike on the policies of returning uniforms when they leave this Fire Co. so we get the uniforms back because they’re not cheap. Also the hats for the Class B uniforms, I want to make a policy on the type of hats to be worn with them. We should have it by next meeting at the most.

Ff. Stephen Robinson got a Class B uniform. Can you order Bill Cantiello badges for his Class A uniform?

**EFA Nolan:** Yes.

**Comm. Weindel:** That’s all I got.

**Fuel –** Comm. Weindel

No report.

**Train Display –** Comm. Weindel

No report.

**Administration / Personnel** – Comm. Ruth

**Comm. Ruth:** We are getting into our Budget season. The first budget workshop will be 09/12/16 for Bureau of Fire Prevention and the Presidents. On 10/03/16 will be the Executive Fire Admin. and the Training Division.

**Office of Fire Prevention** – Comm. Ruth

**Comm. Ruth:** The Fire Official’s report for 06-20-16 - 07-18-16 was read aloud, a copy is attached to the minutes. For better Fire Protection, Michael Nolan - Fire Official, Michael Brezee & Timothy Shannon - Fire Prevention Specialists.

**Training Division** – Comm. Ruth

**Comm. Ruth:** I haven’t gotten a Training Report two months in a row.

**EFA Nolan:** Send me an email with those dates and I’ll take care of them.

**Comm. Ruth:** OK.

**Executive Fire Administrator’s Report –** E.F.A. Nolan

**EFA Nolan:** The report for 07/2016 was read aloud by EFA Nolan, a copy is attached to the minutes.

**Communications** – Comm. McManus

No report.

**Apparatus** – Comm. McManus

No report.

**Computers** – Comm. McManus

No report.

**Sale of Assets** – Comm. McManus

No report.

**Assist Personnel** – Comm. McManus

No report.

**Budget** – Comm. McManus

No report.

**President’s Report –** Comm. Ruth

**Comm. Ruth:** No President’s are present.

**Solicitor** – R. Tavani

**Sol.Tavani:** Mr. Chairman, we did previously receive a request from Ms. Garretson for basically membership again in the District. I did give the Board my legal opinion regarding the same. I can advise you Ms. Garretson, that I’m going to be sending you a letter regarding the Board’s decision regarding your application. We’re not going to talk in reference to anything further regarding this in the Public Portion, so look for a letter. I did send you a letter previously back in January, and I just want to make sure I have the correct address. I have it as 5 Colgate Ave., Somerdale, NJ. Is that still accurate?

**Ms. Garretson:** Yes.

**Sol.Tavani:** OK. That’s all I have Mr. Chairman.

**Resolutions** – Comm. Ruth

No Resolutions.

**Old Business** –Comm. Ruth

**Comm. Ruth:** Old Business? (hearing none)

**New Business** – Comm. Ruth

**Comm. Ruth:** New Business? (hearing none)

**Public Portion** – Comm. Ruth

Motion made by Comm. Weindel, seconded by Comm. Paul to open the meeting to the public. All in favor, ayes have it. At this time the meeting is open to the public.

**Ms. Garretson:** Am I allowed to speak under that?

**Public Portion** – continued

**Comm. Ruth:** It’s Public Portion.

**Sol.Tavani:** You can certainly speak, but I’m instructing the Board not to make any comments in reference to the situation since it is a personnel issue.

**Ms. Garretson:** OK. I have told you all this many times. During my mother’s illness, I did request a leave of absence. I did it formally in the form of writing, and I did it by word of mouth regarding the friendship between myself and Chief Nolan, but I did put it in writing. So I have two Firefighters who have witnessed this conversation, and all through my mother’s illness, I kept Chief Nolan updated. Before that, in December, I received an email from Chief Nolan saying that my percentages were going up and my call lines were going up, indicating that my decrease in call lines was directly related to my mother’s illness and eventual death. After her death, I moved in with my step-father because I needed to help him financially. He wasn’t eating, I had to cook for him, I had to do everything for him. I kept Chief Nolan updated on the fact I’d be moving back once the house was sold in October. I found a residence in Somerdale which is within the distance to report to calls for Lindenwold Station No. 1, and I told Chief Nolan that my pager was lost in the moving boxes. He told me that they were being ordered and I would receive one when they were received. He kept telling me this up until the day that my letter was sent and received. So I do not feel that this was dignified in me being left out. Also during my employment with Norfolk Mental Hospital, my employer advised me to take a mental disability because of my mother’s illness. In which fact, if I had taken this, I would not have legally been able to run in the Fire Department. I didn’t take it to be able to run as much as I could during my mother’s illness and afterwards. I made it as much as I possibly could, but the situation dictated otherwise. I continued running while my mother was sick, after I was told she was terminal, and as much as I could after the fact that she died. That’s all I have to say.

**Comm. Ruth:** OK.

**Ms. Garretson:** Oh, one more thing. Under Title 40 in the State of New Jersey, you cannot legally deny somebody the privilege to volunteer in the State of New Jersey, unless convicted of a felony.

**Sol.Tavani:** Well there are a number of different opinions on that. But we thank you for your comments.

**Comm. Ruth:** There is no other public.

Motion made by Comm. Paul, seconded by Comm. Weindel to close public portion. All those in favor, ayes have it.

**Open to Commissioners –** Comm. Ruth

**Comm. Hans:** Just remind everybody, National Night Out is August 2nd at the park.

**EFA Nolan:** The Department will be attending.

**Comm. Hans:** We sent an email also to the municipal alliance.

**EFA Nolan:** Yes.

**Comm. Hans:** That’s all, thank you.

**Comm. Weindel:** Mike, do you want me to change the sign to National Night Out?

**EFA Nolan:** No, I’d rather leave the membership up. That’s why I didn’t do it for Christmas in July. I’ve got 4 or 5 different things out for membership, and I don’t know if it’s working, but as Rich reported, we have 4 applications out there now. I actually did National Fire Council too, so it’s out on the internet.

**Comm. Weindel:** As long as you’re getting responses, that’s good.

**Comm. Ruth:** Anything else? (hearing none)

**Closed Session** – Comm. Ruth

n/a

**Adjourn** - Comm. Ruth

Motion made by Comm. Weindel, seconded by Comm. Paul to adjourn the meeting at 7:44pm.

All in favor, ayes have it.