

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

**Meeting Date:** July 16, 2018  
**Meeting Place:** Fire Administration Building  
**Meeting Called To Order:** 7:30pm  
**Members of Board Present:** **Chairman** – Clifford Ruth  
**Vice Chairman** – Richard Paul  
**Treasurer** – Raymond McManus  
**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**

All present.

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

Motion made by Comm. Hans, seconded by Comm. Paul to approve the 06/18/18 minutes as they are available to the public upon request. Any questions? (hearing none) All in favor, ayes have it.

**Correspondence – Cl.Crockett**

**Cl.Crockett:** There was correspondence from the 2017 Audit that was completed. That's it.

**Treasurer's Report – Comm. McManus**

As of 07/16/18:

TD Bank General Checking	68,047.26
TD Bank Money Market Account	558,242.38
TD Bank Money Market Capital	2,554.29
TD Bank Payroll Checking	14,195.87
TD Bank LEA Dedicated Penalty	5,576.36
TD Bank LEA Trust Penalty	16,050.78
Petty Cash	200.00
Total Current Assets	664,866.94

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

**Payment of Bills – Comm. McManus**

**Comm. McManus:** In front of you, you have a list of 40 bills totaling \$27,941.24.

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

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

**Comm. Ruth:** The Fire Official's report for 06/19/18 -07/16/18 was read aloud, a copy is attached to the minutes. Yours in Fire Safety, Acting Fire Official Timothy Shannon, and Michael Brezee Fire Prevention Specialists.

**Training Division – Comm. Ruth**

**Comm. Ruth:** I did not get a Training Report for this month, and have nothing else at this time.

**Administration / Personnel – Comm. Ruth**

**Comm. Ruth:** The Board had an ad in the Courier Post and on-line for the Clerk's position. We received 30 resumes. Comm. Hans and I will sit down and probably take the top 10 resumes and start interviews and move on from there and see how we make out. If anybody has any input on that or would like to read the resumes, you're more than welcome.

Budget Workshops – first will be 09/10/18, 7:30pm in the back office. That will be the Bureau of Fire Prevention and the Presidents. The second workshop will be 10/01/18, 7:30pm in the back office. That will be the Chief and the Training Division. We'll send out an email to the President's so they're aware that the meetings are coming up.

**Fire Department Equipment – Comm. Paul**

No report.

**Turn-Out Gear – Comm. Paul**

**Comm. Paul:** The Junior 1 helmets and decals are in, and they are in service.

**Fitness Center – Comm. Paul**

**Comm. Paul:** The radio system will be installed tomorrow night. I'll be closing the gym sometime about 7:00pm so the guy can get it done.

**Recruitment / Membership – Comm. Paul**

**Comm. Paul:** There is one application on the Chief's desk for an interview. One member applied that failed the respiratory part of the physical, and they're waiting for a new classification of membership. Myself and the Chief will be working on it. That's all I have.

**S.O.G.'s – Comm. Paul**

No report.

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

**Comm. Hans:** I have nothing at this time.

**Health & Safety – Comm. Hans**

No report.

**Fixed Assets – Comm. Hans**

No report.

**Hydrants / Water – Comm. Hans**

No report.

**Insurance – Comm. Weindel**

No report.

**Incentive Program – Comm. Weindel**

No report.

**Fuel – Comm. Weindel**

**Comm. Weindel:** I just got an email that Burns put out that the gasoline pump is still down?

**Capt. Burns:** It wasn't the pump itself, it's that they ran out of fuel. They were waiting for delivery.

**Comm. Weindel:** The diesel is still good?

**Capt. Burns:** The diesel is still good, they're waiting for gasoline.

**Uniforms – Comm. Weindel**

**Comm. Weindel:** Hopefully by next year I'll have everybody in all class of uniforms that are active at 40%...we're pretty close. I just ordered some polo shirts so everybody has something for the anniversary coming up at Battalion 1.

The hats that came in, it was a bad batch and I sent them back. I got them redone, they didn't charge me nothing. I asked if we could keep the old hats, and they said ok. Maybe No. 1 can sell them and make a few extra dollars since we got them for nothing. That's all I have.

**Train Display – Comm. Weindel**

No report.

**Communications – Comm. McManus**

**Comm. McManus:** I just bought some paper clips for the V's. All the other radio stuff as far as I know is good.

**Apparatus – Comm. McManus**

**Comm. McManus:** The Ladder should be back hopefully the end of this week, if not, the beginning to middle of next week. Right now it's at the factory. They're putting a whole new exhaust system on it and replacing that hydraulic motor. So far they fixed the air conditioner, rebuilt the brake chambers...I have a list of about 12 things they've done so far. He told me today if everything goes right, optimistically the end of this week, but realistically, next week.

**Computers – Comm. McManus**

**Comm. McManus:** You're still waiting for something for the one in the Sqrt, right?

**Capt. Burns:** Yea, I was talking to Justin about it the other day.

**Comm. McManus:** He's looking to see what he can do with that, and when the Ladder comes back he's going to install the other Surface in the Ladder, and see how it works. That's all I've got.

**Sale of Assets – Comm. McManus**

No report.

**Assist Personnel – Comm. McManus**

No report.

**Budget – Comm. McManus**

No report.

**Chief's Report – Chief Beeler**

**Comm. Ruth:** Chief Beeler is not present. I'll read his report since I have it. The Chief's report for 06/19/18-07/16/18 was read aloud, a copy is attached to the minutes.

**President's Report – Comm. Ruth**

**Comm. Ruth:** President's? (hearing none)

**Borough of Lindenwold – Councilman DiDomenico**

**Comm. Ruth:** Councilman DiDomenico? (hearing none)

**Solicitor – R. Tavani**

**Sol.Tavani:** We do have a proposed resolution tonight for the Board's consideration. At the request of the Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund, we have been asked to submit or pass a resolution tonight urging the legislature to oppose 3 pending bills. First is Senate bill 716 with its corresponding bill to the Assembly A-741. That's a bill that would amend the workers compensation laws to create a rebuttable presumption that cancers that develop in firefighters, volunteer or career would be deemed to be related to any exposure that a firefighter may have in his career. That's opposed by the Municipal Excess Liabilities. It's anticipated the cost to Fire Districts and Fire Companies and Fire Departments, statewide estimated \$40,000,000 a year. Current workers compensation law requires any worker, including a volunteer firefighter or firefighter to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that they have a medical condition attributed to exposure. This legislation is opposed because it's changing that presumption...it's presuming that everything is related, unless the Municipal entity or Fire Dept. etc., can come in and show by a clear and convincing evidence that it's not related. That's a very difficult standard for any person to meet or any entity to meet. I would certainly urge action on this resolution to oppose that proposed bill Senate bill 716, Assembly bill 741. Secondly, they've asked this Board to pass a resolution seeking to oppose a change in the Wrongful Death statute in the State of NJ. Currently people who are family members may select compensation for actual lawsuits sustained as a result of a death of a loved one, medical bills, loss of income and loss of companionship. The bill proposed in the legislature, Senate bill 1766 would allow recovering from emotional distress. The MEL estimates that that could cause an increase in liability rates between 6% -10% per year, and has urged us to oppose that. And finally, we have a statute of limitations bill proposing to amend the statute of limitations in those instances that deal with claims for sexual molestation in Senate Bill 477. Currently,

**Solicitor – continued**

there is a 2 year statute of limitations to pursue a civil action against a person or entity if they tolerated or permitted or were negligent in allowing sexual molestation against children. The MEL agrees that the statute of limitations should be increased, however, Senate Bill 477 would make it unlimited...no statute of limitations. And they feel a more reasonable statute of limitations for things like that would be 7 years for public entities and with no statute of limitations for the actual perpetrator. So the Senate Bill 477 is currently drafted, there is no statute of limitations as against any public entity. They feel that is an unreasonable exposure for the public entity, because you'd literally have Officials and Volunteers faced with defending a claim of sexual abuse that may be decades old. If you think about the Catholic Church and all the cases that came out of that, the MEL is concerned about potential liability from public entities like the Fire District, so they urge that if you want to increase the time for sexual limitations regarding those claims, put it at 7 years, not 2 years. So I've drafted Resolution 2018-20. A resolution passed by this Board urging the Legislature to oppose the aforesaid bills, and this is a recommendation made in accordance with the Municipal Excess Liability Insurance Fund. That's an entity that works hand and glove with FIRST Responders to try and keep down our cost of our insurance, our workers compensation and civil liability insurance, and I would urge action on that Resolution tonight.

**Comm. Ruth:** I'd like to table this resolution until the August meeting so I can contact the State Fire District Association representatives from the Association, and find out where their legality is with them opposing the bills and everything. That's where I stand on it.

Motion made by Comm. Paul, seconded by Comm. Weindel to table it till the August meeting to do the research.

**Comm. McManus:** When are these bills due to be voted on?

**Sol.Tavani:** They're pending in legislature now. The bill regarding the cancer, the workers compensation claims, that's already passed one House of the legislature. It's pending in the other one.

**Comm. Ruth:** I thought that was brought up at our last meeting about them, and I don't know if they opposed it because of the way it would cost the Fire Districts down the road or not.

**Comm. McManus:** I thought if we wait till the August meeting, are they going to vote on it before then?

**Comm. Ruth:** I don't know.

**Sol.Tavani:** The Governor has not taken a position on any of the proposed legislation. I can tell you that from past experience, each of these bills were opposed by Gov. Christie because of the concern of the cost to the public entities. I believe that the bill regarding cancer presumption has legs in the Senate, I think that's gone past. I'm not sure if it's going to pass the Assembly. You're looking at a \$40,000,000 expenditure potentially by the different Fire Districts and Municipal Fire Departments in the State. In this day and age when things are tight, I'm not so sure that will pass. And again, the Firefighters do have the workers compensation statute, they're still able to try to assert a claim. What is proposed is creating the presumption to make it like you have it, and it's related, and the public entity has to prove it otherwise. And that's kind of putting the cart before the horse in any litigation situation. But to answer the question, I don't believe these things will be cast by next meeting. I think we should be fine. If you want to table it, by all means find out what the...

**Comm. Ruth:** OK, I have a motion and a second, do I have any more questions? (hearing none)

Roll call vote, all yes.

**Comm. Ruth:** I will reach out to the President or the Secretary of the State Fire District's Association and present them with what we were presented from the JIF, and get their opinion...they won't have a meeting now until September, but they'll have input through their lobbyist on what they're doing, what they're supporting and what they're not supporting.

**Sol.Tavani:** Probably Rich Braslow, right?

**Comm. Ruth:** That's their attorney, but Lynn something is the lobbyist for the State Association. So I'll reach out to them and get an answer, then I'll bring it back to the Board for the August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Resolutions – Comm. Ruth**

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

**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. McManus, seconded by Comm. Weindel to open to the public. All in favor, ayes have it. (hearing none)

Motion made by Comm. Hans, seconded by Comm. Weindel to close to the public. All in favor, ayes have it.

**Comm. Ruth:** Chief Beeler has entered the meeting, and we'll open the floor up to Chief Beeler.

**Chief Beeler:** Did you read the report?

**Comm. Ruth:** Yes, I did.

**Chief Beeler:** I went with that particular architect and showed him all 3 building and the ambulance building, he said OK. The other one I've been playing phone tag with, I don't know if we should try and use him or not. One, he sounds like he's 195 years old, but he is not getting back to me. There is another one that I got a phone number for, he's in Chews Landing.

**Sol.Tavani:** Chief, what about Dan Rodeer? He's the guy that did Voorhees. I can give you his information.

**Comm. Weindel:** PK, the people that were here tonight, are they going to come back and do the area?

**Chief Beeler:** He gave us an estimate for what you call the needs assessment. That goes over what we've got, what we need, a deficiency report on what we already have, cost estimates and make a foot print in a specific area, and how much it will run us. The guy that was just here did a ton of fire houses. He's from Woodbury Heights and has been doing it for a while. I have not heard anything bad about anything he did. I'll call the guy Sol.Tavani will give me, talk to him about it too. And try to get another one in here. The one guy from Voorhees that I spoke to that Mike called prior to that, he called me and went off the deep end about soil samples, building tests...

**Comm. McManus:** Before you do anything, you have to have all that done.

**Chief Beeler:** And that's what he had told me, that when that comes in they're going to take care of that. This guy was telling me you have to have it done now, and the guy from Voorhees, I don't think he wants anything to do with it. I was going to make contact with a couple other people, they tell me you don't want to get involved with Municipalities, but I feel like this is something we need to do. Build one firehouse for the future that has everything they're going to need now, 20 years from now, 30 years from now, 40 years from now. Right now, what we got is not working. Other than that and what you went over with my report, I don't have anything else.

**Open to Commissioners – Comm. Ruth**

**Comm. Weindel:** As everyone knows, the anniversary is coming up at Battalion 1, August 18th. I think they're looking for people in their ad books.

**Comm. Ruth:** I spoke to Comm. Paul, the Board can't out of Board money pay, so we have to do our own ad. I talked to Comm. Paul earlier about doing a ¼ page ad from the Commissioners. It would be about \$10 for each Commissioner.

**Comm. Weindel:** Like I said, we can help them out some way. We're all in this together.

**Comm. Ruth:** Anybody else have anything? (hearing none)

**Closed Session – Comm. Ruth**

n/a

**Adjourn - Comm. Ruth**

Motion made by Comm. Hans, seconded by Comm. Paul to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm. All in favor, ayes have it.

Lindenwold Fire District No.1  
Treasurer's Report  
As of July 16, 2018

	<u>Jul 16, 18</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
<b>1000 · CASH</b>	
1010 · TD Bank General Checking	68,047.26
1011 · TD Bank Money Market Acco...	558,242.38
1013 · TD Bank Money Market Capital	2,554.29
1020 · TD Bank Payroll Checking	14,195.87
1030 · TD Bank LEA Dedicated Pen...	5,576.36
1040 · TD Bank LEA Trust Penalty	16,050.78
1090 · Petty Cash	200.00
	<hr/>
<b>Total 1000 · CASH</b>	664,866.94
	<hr/>
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	664,866.94
	<hr/>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	664,866.94
	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>664,866.94</b>
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<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	0.00

## **FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT**

07/16/2018

June 19, 2018 to July 16, 2018

### **Inspections Completed**

Kings Row Apts  
Fini Deli  
Mega Wireless  
Happy Garden  
El Publito Market  
Dr Gerzoff  
Clementon Grocery  
A-1 Hollywood Braiding  
L's Beauty Mart  
Lindenwold Board of Ed  
Lindenwold Park Field Buildings  
Lindenwold Public Works  
Kelsch Group Homes at Pine Ridge (7) units  
Perfect Smiles  
Laurelwood Shopping Center  
Lindenwold Fire Company's Station 1, 2, Admin office and Gym  
Harvest House Senior Housing  
Paul Obeda DDS

### **Re-Inspections**

Norm's Rapid Lube  
Los Primos

**Complaints Received 0 Imminent Hazards 0**

**Requested Response 0**

**Civilian Burn Reports 0**

**Permits 1 – St Mark AME Church for a barbecue**

**Penalties 0**

### **Information to Fire District Commissioners**

The new fire code went into effect July 1, 2018 we are now using the International Fire Code NJ addition 2015. We are still waiting for Firehouse Software to install the new code updates down at the county. This office along with members of Lindenwold Fire Dept. participated in two public education events: Christmas in July at Mueller's ice cream and the Lindenwold Jr Police Academy. Great turnout from the members for both events. The Fire Safety Registration Late Fees (3<sup>rd</sup> and final notice before court) went out July 5, 2018 As of July 16, 2018 we received Non-Life Hazard fees \$15,999.75 Late Fees 1,669.25 and

permit fees 458.00. Our LEA rebate from the state is \$ 5,950.90. We will be attending national night out on August 7 with the police.

Yours in Fire Safety



Timothy Shannon  
Acting Fire Official



# CHIEFS REPORT

06/19/18 – 07/16/18

Calls for service – 60

Clementon- 11/Pine Hill-3/West Berlin -2/Gibbsboro-1/Blackwood-3

Both company meetings cancelled for holiday

The Laurel Road gas project has been completed and all roadways are open with no restrictions.

There were no remarkable calls for service. It has been busy with all incidental calls

Companies attended Laurel Springs and Berlin 4<sup>th</sup> of July parades

Companies attended Christmas in July 7/10

Companies assisted Lindenwold Police with their Jr Police Academy on 7/13

Ladder 63 is OOS- We are using Ladder 61 as a loaner until ours comes back. We conducted training on 6/30 with apparatus

1 members gear was removed for non-activity and a letter was sent certified and returned as undeliverable. I am continuing to follow up

1 member was suspended for misuse of a blue light and conduct unbecoming of a member.

We are having a Department meeting on July 31<sup>st</sup> at station 1 at 1930hrs.

Myself and Chief Polifrone have been working on the duty crew program as well as discussing the Architects and new building. We continue to work on both issues but as far as the duty crew program stands now, it is not going to work for most of our members.

The engine was involved in a very minor MVC at a residence in Clementon on a gas release call. While backing up they hit a fence. They did have a spotter and the accident was at best a brush of the bumper against the fence. I met with the resident on 2 separate occasions and then with Chief Busch. Chief Busch is adamant that the call happened in his town and since we were handling the call, his town was handling the fence. There was very minor damage to the fence and absolutely no damage to the engine.

Respectfully submitted

P.K Beeler, Chief