

**LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SAFETY
COORDINATING COMMITTEE
2207 Lawrenceville Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648**

MINUTES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Kownacki, Council Liaison; Richard Krawczun, Municipal Manager; Dale Robbins, Fire Marshal; Chief Dan Posluszny, Lawrence Township Police Department; Chief Michael Oakley, Slackwood Fire Company; Chief Shaun Dlabik, Lawrence Road Fire Company; Chief Gary Wasko, Lawrenceville Fire Company; Jack Oakley, Emergency Management Coordinator; Anthony Cermele, Construction Official; John Gladwell, Community Representative; William Holmes, Community Representative and Roseann Manghisi, Community Representative.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carol Chamberlain, Health Officer; Mike Burzachiello, Community Representative and Kyle Collins, Community Representative.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Dale Robbins at 6:32pm.

Chairman/Vice-Chairman Appointment: Nominations and elections were held for the positions of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the committee.

The meeting was turned over to Jack Oakley, Vice Chairman of the committee for the nominations and election of a Chairman to the committee. Nominations were opened for Chairman and Rich Krawczun nominated Dale Robbins. The motion was seconded by Shaun Dlabik. There were no other nominations for Chairman, so a motion was made and seconded to close the nominations. A poll was taken of the members and all members present were in favor of Dale Robbins being Chairman of the Public Safety Coordinating Committee for 2013.

Chairman/Vice-Chairman Appointment (cont'd.):

The meeting was then turned back over to Chairman, Dale Robbins for the nominations and election of a Vice-Chairman to the committee. The nominations for Vice-Chairman were opened and Roseann Manghisi nominated Jack Oakley for the position of Vice-Chairman to the committee. The motion was seconded by Rich Krawczun. There were no other nominations for Vice-Chairman so a motion was made and seconded to close the nominations. A poll was taken of the members and all members present were in favor of Jack Oakley being the Vice-Chairman of the Public Safety Coordinating Committee for 2013.

Minutes: The regular monthly meeting minutes for December 11, 2012 were reviewed by the committee. A motion was made by Shaun Dlabik and seconded by Rich Krawczun to accept the minutes as written. All were in favor.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

HEALTH REPORT: Health Officer, Carol Chamberlain was not present and therefore there was no report.

EMERGENCY APPARATUS REPORTS: Chief Mike Oakley reported all apparatus are currently in service for the Slackwood Fire Company. Chief Oakley added that the charging unit is down and the Department of Public Works has been notified of this matter. He would like to have this matter checked into. Chief Shaun Dlabik reported that all apparatus are currently in service for the Lawrence Road Fire Company. Chief Dlabik also reported that due to the recent hose testing, the fire company has lost a lot of hose line. Chief Gary Wasko reported all apparatus are currently in service for the Lawrenceville Fire Company. Chief Wasko added that due to a recent house fire in Ewing Township, it is possible that all three (3) Lawrence Township Fire Companies may end up named in a lawsuit by the homeowners. Rich Krawczun reminded the Chiefs that in the event that a lawsuit ever comes under the Lawrence Township coverage, no fire company representatives are to speak to anyone. The matter should be referred to the township attorney. Chief Posluszny reported that all ambulances are currently in service.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEDIA ARTICLES: An article was recently posted with regard to driving safety in the snow. Anthony Cermele is to forward an article about wood stove safety to Chief Posluszny. Chief Posluszny will continue to be the contact for the articles with the newspapers. If anyone on the committee has an idea for an article topic, they are to address it to Chief Posluszny.

RADIO COMMITTEE: Chief Posluszny reported that things are continuing to progress with the committee, although with the exception of the Lawrenceville Fire Company, the other companies have not been completed as of yet. He also reported that Chief Dlabik is also on the committee and by the end of the year; everything is supposed to be in place.

FEMA REIMBURSEMENTS: Jack Oakley reported that all claims have been submitted for Hurricane Sandy and they are presently being reviewed. Some municipalities are not receiving all of the monies for the funds that they submitted. It seems that the problem is that after the Field Staff approves and submits the claim, it becomes reduced further.

Chief Wasko inquired about the equipment that was lost during Hurricane Irene. Jack Oakley suggested that the fire companies make a list. Chief Wasko will forward a list of lost equipment to Dale Robbins from the most recent storm, Hurricane Sandy.

NEW BUSINESS

PARKING PROBLEM: Chief Oakley brought it to the attention of the committee that there was a parking problem during a recent emergency call for a house fire on Bonnie Court. He asked if Chief Posluszny could look into this matter to prevent this problem from recurring. Chief Posluszny asked Chief Oakley to forward the street names to him. William Holmes inquired about this being an ongoing problem if another house fire should arise. Chief Posluszny reported that due to the current law, there is nothing that can be done about "legal" parking on the streets, until an ordinance is adopted by the township. Chief Posluszny will look into this matter.

QUESTION ABOUT J.I.F. INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE FIRE COMPANIES: Chief Wasko inquired about the need for any supplemental insurance or changes in deductibles now that the township is insured by the Joint Insurance Fund. Rich Krawczun assured that the same coverage is in place and no coverage changes have been incurred.

Chief Dlabik inquired about the certificates for the Lawrence Road Fire Company as a result of the most recent training by the J.I.F. Dale Robbins will follow up on this matter.

BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR NEW MEMBERS OF FIRE COMPANIES: Chief Wasko inquired about the possibility of the township assisting in implementing a better background check for individuals who apply for membership to the local volunteer fire companies. Chief Posluszny will check into the Police Department doing the investigation. Roseann Manghisi asked if the applicants were ever fingerprinted and suggested that it may be a helpful notion to consider or to have the applicant provide a copy of their own background check.

235 ELDRIDGE AVENUE: William Holmes inquired about the status of the house that was severely damaged due to a house fire quite some time ago. Rich Krawczun explained the procedures involved in trying to make the homeowner take on the responsibility for demolition and such. Mr. Holmes brought up a few other locations and Anthony Cermele explained the status of those as well.

DISCUSSION OF FIRE APPRATUS SPECIFICATIONS: Rich Krawczun brought a few items to the committee's attention with regard to the current specifications for the new apparatus for the Slackwood Fire Company. He would like to go over the specifications with Chief Oakley, due to the fact that he has some items that he has questions on. He would like the specifications re-worded for general disclosure and to be sure that there are no specifics on make/model of equipment to include other manufacturers, as well as making sure that experienced manufacturers have enough business experience without narrowing down the field of possible companies. He would also like the "Forest Grove Fire Company" removed from the specifications. Rich Krawczun also inquired about the apparatus size with regard to it fitting into all three firehouses. He will address the other questions when he speaks to Chief Oakley separately.

PLAN REVIEWS

There were no plans to be reviewed at this time.

OTHER BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE

There was no other business or correspondence to be brought before the committee at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to be brought before the committee, a motion was made by Chief Shaun Dlabik and seconded by John Gladwell to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Turek
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