



# LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



## MINUTES BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS Regular Meeting – March 11, 2025

ATTENDEES: Chairman Mark Komorsky  
Commissioner Robert Taft  
Chief Anthony Champion  
Secretary Bria Le  
Jeff Lenkowski (Via Teams)

Commissioner Barry Ward  
Commissioner Vincent Tierney  
Commissioner Pignataro (via Teams)  
Treasurer Mark Pozniak (Via Teams)  
Attorney Michael Hekle (Via Teams)

At 6:05 pm, Chairman Komorsky called the Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting to order for Tuesday, March 11, 2025, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Komorsky welcomed Bryan Zittel for his first meeting as Deputy Chief.

### **MINUTES:** - 2/25/25 Regular Meeting, 2/20/25 Special Meeting

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Pignataro, and SECONDED by Commissioner Tierney the Board RESOLVED to approve the 2/25/25 Regular Meeting Minutes. Pignataro – Aye, Taft -Aye, Tierney –Aye, Ward – Aye, Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Pignataro, and SECONDED by Commissioner Tierney the Board RESOLVED to approve the 2/20/25 Special Meeting Minutes. Pignataro – Aye, Taft -Aye, Tierney –Aye, Ward – Aye, Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- There was a check from Cadence Education in the amount of \$350.00 for a CPR class.  
Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Pignataro and SECONDED by Commissioner Tierney, the Board RESOLVED to deposit the \$350.00 check from Cadence Education into the General Fund. Ward– Aye, Pignataro – Aye, Taft– Aye, Tierney– Aye, Komorsky – Aye. **Motion Carried.**

### **ROOM USE REQUESTS:**

- There was were none at this time.

### **OLD BUSINESS/UNRESOLVED ITEMS:**

- Station 1 Building Update – Commissioner Ward stated they have all of the documents in with the exception of the liability insurance for the HVAC contractor. The only phase that they have to do at this point is to sign the contract. The vendors have all signed the contract and submitted all the bond material and liability insurance material. He does not believe this requires a motion. Commissioner Ward stated he spoke with Attorney Hekle before the meeting but he is waiting for him to sign on and advise the entire Board. The only one they will not sign, as far as he knows at this point, is the HVAC contractor as they are waiting for the liability insurance. Chairman Komorsky asked if the rest of the Board was fine with Commissioner Ward signing the contracts and everyone was. Commissioner Ward will let the Board know when they have received the insurance. Attorney Thomas Petriccione was present and verified that the only vendor contract they would not be

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signing was for HVAC until he received the paperwork. Chairman Komorsky asked if they did not get it, what was the follow-up plan and Commissioner Ward stated that between him and the secretary, they would follow up with CPL and CPL will follow up with the vendor. Commissioner Taft asked if that insurance covers the firehouse liability and Commissioner Ward said no, it covers the vendor's liability and their worker's compensation coverage. Each vendor has to have their own worker's comp. coverage in case something happens while they are on site. Secretary Le stated they received the construction administration update. Chairman Komorsky stated everyone has a copy of that in the package from CPL. He asked if this was something that was approved at the meeting that he missed. Secretary Le stated she did not believe this part was approved but it states it is based on discussions that they had. Treasurer Pozniak stated he believed that at the last meeting they asked for a quote for this. Commissioner Ward requested they hold off on this as he is unsure of what it is. Chairman Komorsky stated he had some questions on the contract for CPL that has already been approved and he asked when they could sit and discuss that. Commissioner Ward stated they could discuss them altogether at the next meeting once they find out exactly what this other proposal is for. Commissioner Tierney had questions on the e-mail letter that was received today and Commissioner Ward stated that this describes the role of the project manager for the oversight of the project and making sure everything complies with the specs.

- Station 3 Storage Room – Commissioner Ward stated this remains a work in progress.
- Station 2 Brick Pointing – Commissioner Ward stated there is nothing new at this time.
- Station 1 Gutters – Commissioner Tierney stated this is completed. Chief Champion stated they walked all around the building and everything looks brand new. There are new leaders going down and new heat tape in the front. Chairman Komorsky stated it all looks good.
- Station 1 Trailer – Commissioner Tierney said that the trailer will be delivered on Thursday morning. He sent out an e-mail today. They need to have some planks on hand in case they need them and some other supplies. They will have the staff cook outside on a barbecue. There will be a kitchen inside but they may not want to use that. They will have a pop-up and some tables and chairs outside as well. Black Electric will come in once the trailers are in place and the water and sewer tanks cannot be placed until the water is run. There are two plans for where the trailers are to be placed. Plan A is to the south side of the firehouse by the flagpoles and the generator. Chairman Komorsky asked who would be there when they were delivered and Commissioner Tierney stated he would be. He stated Plan B is to park it on the North side in the parking lot. That is not the ideal location because when the alarm goes off the staff will have to cross the construction area.
- Staffing Community Events – Chief Champion stated he has nothing to report on community events at this time except that they need to follow up with Sandy Washburn and her staff to get the trailer from the Town to here. Chairman Komorsky asked why it was taking so long to get the trailer and Chief Champion stated they have been very busy and other things have taken a front row, especially with Lexipole and First Due and getting meetings set up and getting ready for the new incoming captains and officers. The Chief will call Brandls tomorrow.

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- Operational Software Overview – Chief Champion said they are working with First Due and it is going well. They have a meeting this week for scheduling. On Friday they will discuss assets. They have not met to discuss the CAD and First Responder. This plan is to sit with the two Deputy Chiefs and the captains and standardized how things will go in so as they move forward a bit more seamless. Chairman Komorsky asked if there was anything additional, they needed to know about and Chief Champion stated if there are issues with people getting the data entered into their phone from First Due it may be an issue with their phone. If anyone is having any issues, please reach out to him so they can straighten it out.
- Policy updates – Chief Champion stated he, Commissioner Tierney, Commissioner Ward, Deputy Chief Merritt, soon to be Deputy Chief Zittel, and Secretary Le have been sitting with Lexipol. They do have some homework to do. Four of the policies that need Board approval and review by legal are in the Team folder under a tab marked “policies”. All four of those documents are in Word form so they can be edited or have comments and questions listed. Nothing will be approved until the whole Board and the attorney have reviewed it.
- Grant update – Chief Champion stated the MIG Grant, which is associated with the ballistic wear, is awaiting reimbursement from the County. They did send a notice late this afternoon, so Chief Champion does have to respond to them. They did have a Train the Trainer session this past week for the ballistic wear from a former DCSO officer who is now on the sales side of the business. They are disseminating that knowledge to the other officers on the staff. A plan is being executed to get that gear into service on the rigs. The Chief is still waiting on a request for an extension for the SAFER Grant. He has not heard back up from them as of today. He is trying to work in the background to set up the additional reimbursement schedule so once they get a green light he can just submit and get reimbursed and submit and get reimbursed. Chairman Komorsky asked if they were in any risk of any penalties and Chief Champion stated he has asked that question because their time period ended in February. Chief Champion stated on the surface everything has been put on hold so he cannot submit for any additional reimbursements while this review is going on. Initially they stated that the day was coming up but not to worry about it. He is just continuing to try to get an answer from them. Chairman Komorsky asked if he had heard anything new on additional grants coming out and Chief Champion stated he did hear the County may do another community grant but it has not been verified at this time. Chairman Komorsky stated he heard that as well as there may be something new coming out of the State for some sort of equipment grant. Chief Champion stated it is the AFG Grant and it is a cyclical grant. He believes it comes out every year. He stated they are awaiting a coordination with the graphics design team and the County so they can get the two staff vehicles to have the County graphics on the backend for the AEDs that they helped purchase.
- Diesel Tank Accessories - Chief Champion said this is a work in progress pending warmer weather for the bollards. The monthly inspections of the diesel tank are continuing.
- Overhead Doors Work – Commissioner Tierney stated they have an initial rough estimate of what the doors would cost. There are a few contingencies. First, they have to talk about getting the floor level and the second is that they would have to go out to bid. They do have the specifications already written up. Chairman Komorsky stated he believes for Station 2 they are fine going out to

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bid for the doors. He would recommend waiting on Station 1 until they address the floor issues. Chairman Komorsky asked if the Board was fine with moving forward with going out to bid for Station 2 and everyone was. Secretary Le asked Treasurer Pozniak if the Board needs to approve the specs and set a date for bid opening. Treasurer Pozniak stated he believes they want to watch the timing. The bid opening and the awarding has to be done within whatever range the vendors will hold the pricing for. Chairman Komorsky stated pricing is changing dramatically daily so they do need to move fast. Commissioner Tierney stated he has the specs and they can turn this around quickly. Treasurer Pozniak asked if they were doing a permissive referendum or if this is being funded out of the general fund. Commissioner Ward stated this was one of the items they had listed that they were going to do at the year's end. It was the generator, the garage doors, the engineering fees, and a few things that they were going to do as a single referendum as they got closer to the end of the year. He stated they have the garage doors for Station 1 listed for 2026. They do not have the cash to be doing things like that at Station 2 in 2025. Commissioner Tierney stated he would like to have a working session to go over the budget because they might have funds for it. Chairman Komorsky asked the Treasurer If they could have a workshop where they can go over some budget issues in person. Commissioner Ward stated that most of these items are beyond the budget for this year. He has discussed this with the Treasurer and he has all of the information in the spreadsheet so it can be reviewed at any time they would like. Commissioner Pignataro asked if the repairs that Station 2 were listed for 2026 and beyond. Commissioner Ward stated they did go over this at the beginning of the year but it would not hurt to review it again. They can do it tonight if they have time. Commissioner Tierney asked if they could do it tonight because he would also like to bring up some other work that should be done at Station 1 that would coincide with this. Chairman Komorsky stated they would schedule a workshop meeting to go over this. Treasurer Pozniak stated this should probably be a quarterly meeting to review this since there is so much going on. Commissioner Ward stated it would also remind them of what the deficiencies are in 2027 to 2030. Chief Champion stated he appreciates Commissioner Tierney taking this project on.

- FASNY Recruitment Class - Chief Champion stated this class is being held this week at Roosevelt. There are two individuals from the volunteer ranks who have offered to attend. He has asked them that, after this class, they put their information together and come to the Commissioner meeting to share the ideas and thoughts that FASNY has for recruitment and retention. The two attending are Richard Sassi and Christopher Cassidy.
- Insurance Renewal – Secretary Le stated at the last meeting the Board discussed raising the deductible on insurance policies. She has reached out to the agent but they have not gotten back to her yet. They are working on it. As soon as she gets those numbers, she will let the Board know and will keep it on the agenda until they get back to her. Commissioner Ward stated there was an increase in the policy and they have a very low deductible so they wanted to see the difference if they were to raise that up. Secretary Le stated they are also aware that the trailer is getting installed on Thursday so they will have a certificate of insurance ready to go.
- Building Repairs/Repair Requests – Chairman Komorsky asked if anybody had anything that they had not already spoken about.

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### **NEW BUSINESS: -**

- Station 1 New Member Approval – Secretary Le stated they have an applicant that has gone through the application process. She has met with the membership committee and had her physical and passed the background check. Company 1 has approved her for membership. She is just waiting district approval. Her name is Sathya Jarembek and she is interested in EMS. Right now she is in the class to get her EMT.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Ward and SECONDED by Commissioner Tierney, the Board RESOLVED to approve the membership of Sathya Jarembek to the volunteer ranks of Station 1. Ward– Aye, Pignataro – Aye, Taft– Aye, Tierney– Aye, Komorsky – Aye. **Motion carried.**

- MS Licensing & Security Improvements proposal – Mr. Lenkowski stated he had a few calls with SHI, who is the sole provider for Microsoft under New York State contract. In order to increase the security posture with regard to both e-mail and antivirus, anti-malware, anti-phishing there would be an additional annual cost to the contract of \$9,216.72. For a partial year it would be prorated for the remainder of this contract year for \$3,072.24. This is an August through July contract. Commissioner Ward asked if this was additional anticipated work on Mr. Lenkowski's part and he asked if these were needed services. Mr. Lenkowski stated the 100 hours for him are for implementation and configuration. The configuration to make this work takes a lot of effort to get everything in place and to make sure that all of their e-mails do not get blocked. It is not a cut and dry set up. Commissioner Ward verified that the 100 hours is to modify the configuration for the current system and some products to make it more secure and Mr. Lenkowski said yes. Chairman Komorsky asked if all the products were included in the proposed number. Mr. Lenkowski stated it is not in the 100 hours. The products are included in the \$3,072.24 and the \$9,216.72 annual cost. Commissioner Pignataro asked if Mr. Lenkowski thought this was something they needed to pursue. Commissioner Ward asked if the 100 hours of labor are a onetime billing to set this up. Mr. Lenkowski stated the \$9,000 figure would be re-occurring annually. Chairman Komorsky asked if this was a reaction to the invasion of their website. Mr. Lenkowski stated it was started from the notification from the State Police and Lagrange Fire District's stance on securing further into that environment. Today they have basic e-mail filtering that is taking viruses in. They do not have phishing attack filters. This would block those e-mails. Commissioner Tierney asked if this was moving their local servers to cloud-based and Mr. Lenkowski said yes. He stated they just purchased a new server a year and a half ago so they will not recognize any savings there. They want to expand the online backup capacity. He stated he is fighting with it every other week to make room for new data. Commissioner Tierney stated if they do a camera policy someplace, they will need to store that information somewhere as well. Mr. Lenkowski stated the camera data does not go off premise. Commissioner Pignataro asked if there was any liability on the provider if somebody clicks on a phishing e-mail, as no system is foolproof. Mr. Lenkowski stated no. They will have the physical filtering and social engineering. Commissioner Pignataro stated he is not sure what the benefit of this would be then. Treasurer Pozniak stated it does lower the risk. Mr. Lenkowski stated last year he received an inquiry from insurance regarding the cyber security and some of those questions are very much tied to the e-mail filtering and something called their security score. Today their secure score is at 30%. Treasurer Pozniak stated with that score they might not be able to get cyber liability insurance or the premium will go up dramatically. Mr. Lenkowski stated by implementing these changes and additions to their security prowess it

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should, in theory, reduce their cyber security premium. Chairman Komorsky stated he believes those questionnaires from insurance come out twice a year. Treasurer Pozniak stated he is in favor of this because he has seen so much cyber fraud, but it is not a budgeted item so they would need to do a budget transfer or appropriate fund balance.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Tierney and SECONDED by Commissioner Ward, the Board RESOLVED to approve the purchase for the MS Licensing and Security improvements at a cost of \$3,072.24 for the remainder of this year and \$9,216.72 at renewal. Ward– Aye, Pignataro – Nay, Taft– Aye, Tierney– Aye, Komorsky – Aye. **Motion carried.**

Chairman Komorsky asked Mr. Lenkowski what the next step was now that this has been approved. Mr. Lenkowski stated he will get with the office tomorrow to get a purchase order for SHI for the \$3,072.24 for the remainder of this contract year. As soon as all the licenses are applied to the Microsoft tenant, he will start configuring it. As soon as everything is completed, they can notify the insurance company that this has been done. He stated this will take several weeks to get everything configured. Secretary Le stated the insurance policy for cyber usually renews in April. Chairman Komorsky wants to make sure that it just does not fall through the cracks. Commissioner Ward asked if the 100 hours were time and material. Mr. Lenkowski stated it is time and getting SharePoint set up and getting data transferred from their server. Commissioner Ward asked if they come in under the estimate would the labor bill be lower and Mr. Lenkowski said yes. Commissioner Pignataro stated, for the record, that he is against this because there is no guarantee that it is going to work and there is no liability on the provider's part to make the situation good financially and the fact that it was not budgeted. Treasurer Pozniak stated that is why they have the cyber security insurance policy. They will be the ones to cover any loss that they incur. The insurance company does want to see things like this in place. Commissioner Pignataro stated he does understand that but the provider should cover any issues. Commissioner Tierney stated that local servers on the network are a hackers dream. This is adding layers and layers of security to keep that filtered out. Commissioner Pignataro stated he has done this all his life and does understand that, but the provider has no skin in the game. And that is disappointing. Mr. Lenkowski stated that in the past 30 days just the firewall at Station 2 has blocked 26,000 intrusion attempts into the LaGrange network. Commissioner Pignataro stated that is no different than him checking his firewall on his home computer. Mr. Lenkowski stated the objective is to have as much security in place to restrict and limit what could potentially be lost, stolen, or destroyed. He does feel it is worth the effort. Treasurer Pozniak asked Commissioner Pignataro if he knew of any vendor that supplied any type of guarantee and Commissioner Pignataro said he did not know the answer to that. He asked why the vendor would provide that service if they have no consequences. LaGrange does pay for insurance and he feels that that should be provided as part of the service already. He stated there are individual services like LifeLock that will provide restitution. He does not know if there is anything that is for corporate level businesses instead of on an individual level. They stand behind their product and reimburse up to a certain amount of dollars if somebody does get hacked. Commissioner Ward asked if the cyber security insurance provides identity theft protection for a commercial entity. Mr. Lenkowski stated he does believe the cyber policy covers if somebody steals their identity with some remediation for it. Commissioner Ward stated the value to this would be an increase of their security score. If it doesn't, then they could not renew it next year and find somebody else.

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Chairman Komorsky stated they could wait and see how much the premium gets reduced. Commissioner Pignataro stated they will need to show him that. Chairman Komorsky stated they would see if there is a reduction in six months with a renewal comes in and then they can decide what they are doing moving forward.

Chairman Komorsky asked Mr. Lenkowski where they were on the replacement phones and computers. Mr. Lenkowski stated his original goal was to work with each of them tonight when he was present for the meeting, but he is under the weather so dialed in instead. Chairman Komorsky stated he hopes he feels better soon and they will see him at the next meeting. Mr. Lenkowski stated maybe he could meet up with them before then to get started on things. He asked if the Chief had any questions on computer issues. The Chief asked if he has a ship date for the new computers and Mr. Lenkowski stated he has supplied them with the price but has not placed the order yet. Chief Champion stated in the estimate provided by Mr. Lenkowski there is a Latitude 5450 14-inch Notebook VPro for a total of \$1,030.36, a mouse for \$5.72, and a Dell dock for \$145.00 for a grand total of \$1,141.81. Mr. Lenkowski stated this would be for a quantity one and they need 14 of the laptops. This would be replacing all of the laptops as some of them were purchased in 2020, and they are now in their fifth year. In October, Microsoft is discontinuing support for Windows 10, which means they will no longer be providing security updates. The computers they have are not compatible with Windows 11. Commissioner Tierney asked if the updates would be automatic once they are on the cloud and Mr. Lenkowski said yes, they already are. When they upgrade the licensing, it will give him the ability to do another type of update which will be more stable and reliable than regular Windows updates. Commissioner Pignataro asked if the minimum for all of the computers was five years old or if that was the average age. Mr. Lenkowski stated they are all a minimum of five years old. Chief Champion stated \$15,975.12 is the total for all 14 laptops. This is through Dell's New York State Aggregate Purchasing Contract. The desktop cost is \$796.35 per unit. There are nine units needed, which would equal \$7,167.15 and the labor cost is \$175 per unit and they need 23 units altogether so that cost is \$4,025 for labor. So the total costs for laptops, and desktops, and labor is \$27,167.27. Mr. Ward stated they had an equipment line budget amount of \$19,177 for desktops and \$18,424.27 for laptops so this comes in below budget.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Ward and SECONDED by Commissioner Tierney, the Board RESOLVED to purchase the laptops, mice, desktops, labor, and incidentals as per the spec. Ward– Aye, Pignataro – Aye, Taft– Aye, Tierney– Aye, Komorsky – Aye. **Motion carried.**

Chairman Komorsky asked when they can expect all of the equipment to be done. Mr. Lenkowski stated once the equipment is ordered, Dell has a 1 to 2 week delivery time. It may be sooner. He will get a price quote from Dell with everything all in one package which will hopefully lower the price quote by approximately \$50 per machine. Once he has that he will give the information to Secretary Le for a purchase order and then get the order to Dell. The price will not be higher than what is quoted because of the aggregate pricing. As they approached the middle to end of the month, Dell wants to increase their sales so they sometimes lower the prices a little. They are locked in with New York State contract pricing so they have to be careful how much they discount. Commissioner Ward asked if they purchased tablets for vehicles last year and Mr. Lenkowski said

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no. They were purchased in 2019. Commissioner Ward stated that means they have \$7,500 they did not spend last year. Mr. Lenkowski stated he just provided the Chief with iPad prices.

Commissioner Tierney stated there are a number of other rooms at Station 1 that have asbestos tiles in the floor and the ceiling. He believes they are at the point that if they are going to take that station apart, they should go out and fix all of the rooms that need the smaller projects as well. He has estimates to fix the entrance foyer, kitchen corner of the ceiling, the ready room and bathroom in the ready room. This does not include a bigger project that Commissioner Ward is going to talk about regarding the concrete, ramp, and blacktop. If they are going to break the big room in the meeting room apart it doesn't make any sense to have the trailer there and not do all the projects together. Commissioner Pignataro stated he thought the discussion they had prior was that they were not going to touch the tiles unless it was necessary. There is not an asbestos hazard for tiles in place. Commissioner Tierney stated career staff will be walking around scuffing up tiles that have asbestos in them. He feels that if they are doing the main room they should do it all. Chief Champion stated in the kitchen there are some tiles that have lifted due to lack of adhesion. It is an area he would like looked at but he does understand the financial aspects. They do come up periodically and each time it happens that exposes individuals to the potential problems that come with asbestos. Commissioner Tierney stated he did speak with the architects doing the big room who said that the black material is asbestos-based. Not counting cabinets in the kitchen, as they have to go out to bid, fixing the new entrance foyer door, the ready room, the ready room bathroom, and the kitchen for cleaning out all of the asbestos and replacing ceiling tiles comes to \$88,994. Each individual project is \$16,000 for the foyer, new entry doors are \$10,000, the ready room is \$19,000 the ready room bathroom is \$18,000, the kitchen labor to remove the asbestos tiles and new ceiling tiles makes up the rest of the \$88,994. He would also like to go out to bid on the cabinets as he has ballpark estimates. If they want to do the ready room at Station 2, because somebody had mentioned they want to replace the mini split on that wall, they could get that work done as well. That would be no structural changes, just tile, ceiling, paint, new trim, floors for \$19,700 so altogether it is about \$189,000. Commissioner Pignataro asked if any of this had been budgeted and Commissioner Ward stated it is, but not for this year. Commissioner Tierney stated they were going to spend \$1.3 million on renovations and the renovations came in at \$900,000. Commissioner Ward suggested that they go over the financial review with the Treasurer and see where this could fit in. They have reviewed this before and in 2027 they are short approximately \$450,000 and then they are short in the amount of \$450,000 in 2034 for planned projects. They need to see where this could fit in because in 2026, 27, and 28 there is money there, are but there are a lot of unknowns. They have discussed kitchen, sewer, and bathrooms, with the big thing being the septic systems. Commissioner Pignataro would also like the engineers to be in this discussion as well. Commissioner Tierney stated he asked if they wanted to be in on picking paint colors and replacing ceiling tiles and they told him that was not engineering work. Commissioner Pignataro stated that usually when they go out for structural project like this, they have an engineer scope of the project. Commissioner Tierney stated this is not structural. Chairman Komorsky stated that \$30,000 for cabinets at that station seems like a lot. He also stated that the cost to do the same job in two or three years could balloon to double or triple what it is now. He would like to sit and have a separate meeting to discuss these projects and have the treasurer there as well. Commissioner Taft stated he believes the first step is to sit down with all of the numbers. Commissioner Pignataro stated they just had an engineering firm

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out at Station 1 to scope out all the work they are about to take on. He asked why they did not include this as part of it at that time. Commissioner Ward stated they chose to contain what was in the scope. They have discussed if they wanted to do additional asbestos work, they could deal with the vendor directly and not go through CPL. Commissioner Pignataro stated his memory is also that CPL said there was no reason was to deal with asbestos if it was not in the area that they were disrupting and Commissioner Ward stated that was correct. If it is encapsulated you do not have to remove it. Chairman Komorsky did state that to hear that there are tiles lifting does become a concern. Commissioner Ward stated they also wanted to confirm that their testing has been accurate. His suggestion is they take the estimates for what they are and see where they can get things to fit. Commissioner Tierney was worried about contamination as they are walking through rooms with contaminated tiles to get to the new areas.

Commissioner Tierney stated the career unit team represents a lot of the employees. He would like to offer the Union a seat at the dais at the commissioners meetings. He believes it will help improve communication. Commissioner Ward stated they are on the agenda for every meeting already. Commissioner Taft stated they are already here and he asked the representative present if it made any difference to him. The Union Vice President Paul DeMillo stated, speaking for the Union, where they sit and the time they are given on the agenda is very good and provides open communication. He does not see a reason for a spot at the table unless there is some really in-depth conversation. He did thank them for the consideration.

### **REPORTS:** (by officers present)

- **Treasurer Pozniak** -Treasurer Pozniak stated they have not yet received the property tax check. They do have available funds of approximately \$3 million to carry them over. Some of this is funds they set aside as part of the SAFER plan. Some was unexpected revenue from the EMS cost recovery funds. They are in a good place for cash flow at this moment. They should continue that for the next several years. At some point they will need to start to draw down the excess fund balance as part of the six year SAFER plan. As soon as they do receive the property tax check, he plans to do the 2024 reserve transfers with the Board's approval. He will also do the 2025 transfers as well. They typically hold off on that to make sure that no emergency comes up that they do not have funds for. He does not feel that is necessary at this point. Commissioner Ward stated that the permissive referendum has passed with no objections. Treasurer Pozniak stated they will net that out, but he still has to record it as though it happens to keep the records straight. The Board was in favor of those transfers being done. Treasurer Pozniak stated by the next meeting he should have the financial reports on the reconciliations ready. He stated he is free any Tuesday for a budget meeting. They agreed upon March 18 at 6 PM being their budget review workshop.
- **Chief Anthony Champion** –stated he will not be present at the meeting on the 18th as he plans to attend the New York State Career Fire Chiefs meeting. They are discussing civil service issues so he would like to attend that. He asked if that session was going to be open or an executive session. Chairman Komorsky stated it is a workshop so it will be open unless there is the need for an executive session. Chief Champion stated both of the Deputy Chiefs should be able to attend. He would also like to have one of the officers on the Apparatus Committee attended as well.

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## LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

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Chief Champion extended a welcome to Deputy Chief Zittel at his first meeting as a Deputy Chief. He has hit the ground running and they have had several meetings to organize and address some issues. He has also met with the new captains today to discuss expectations and responsibilities. Everything is going well and is on track.

- Updates - Chief Champion stated this began the first week for the two new recruits of the last of the four that were hired. They both started on Monday. They have to go to Utica on Sunday evening and will be there for each full week training session. They will come back on weekends, but it is 14 weeks of Academy. Chairman Komorsky asked who was following up as there are academy classes going on in Westchester and Utica. Chief Champion stated they are sharing responsibilities and are communicating with both locations.

In regard to the civil service issues, he will be sitting down with Secretary Le tomorrow to finalize all of the paperwork for the recent promotions and to update civil service with all of those changes.

In tonight's Team folder there are two quotes. One is for the Paratech gear for a total of \$76,722.95. As they move forward with the new rescue and being involved in the technical disciplines, the use of the rescue jacks is no longer apropos. This will help them be better prepared to help the residents and travelers throughout the town. Chairman Komorsky asked if they were doing away with the rescue jacks and Chief Champion stated they do not fit with what they are doing moving forward. They are very limited in what they can do with extrication. The Paratech equipment is more versatile and provides collapse, trench, and shoring to provide versatility across multiple disciplines. Chairman Komorsky asked if it would work on rollovers or a car on its side and Chief Champion said yes it will work on cars, tractor trailers, dump trucks, and box trucks. It gives more versatility for the safety of the members as well as those being rescued. Commissioner Tierney asked if the jacks were going to become surplus and Chief Champion said he is going to request that they be surplus so they can get a return from that. Commissioner Ward stated he had budgeted \$83,453.70. Chairman Komorsky asked if these items were in stock and Deputy Chief Merritt stated it would take several months for them to come in. They will be using the jacks for quite a while as they will also have to do in-service training on the new ones once they are received.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Ward and SECONDED by Commissioner Tierney, the Board RESOLVED to purchase the Paratech rescue jacks at a total cost of \$76,722.95. Ward- Aye, Pignataro - Aye, Taft- Aye, Tierney- Aye, Komorsky - Aye. **Motion carried.**

Chairman Komorsky requested that the order be placed as soon as possible. Secretary Le stated for the record this was state contract pricing.

Chief Champion stated they are looking to purchase a NRS swift water boat, which will help in the aspect of rescuing individuals for swift water rescue. It is designed to handle rough water and when there are high water levels. This cost is \$2,245.50. Chairman Komorsky asked about the old boat and Chief Champion stated they are still using the Zodiac and they have budgeted for replacement for that. He does believe that was moved out for one year. This would be a new boat. The Zodiac does not have a hard floor so it did

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cause some problems navigating and using it. Over the years they picked up a banana boat, which he believes is also an NRS. That is specifically designed for low head dams. It can go in something like what the Inn at the Falls used to be. Using that boat in swift water has been problematic and is more of a danger to the staff. This boat will be more versatile and safer to use. Commissioner Tierney asked if this boat will sit on the rescue truck or if it needs to be towed. Chief Champion stated it is inflatable and will sit on the rescue. Chairman Komorsky asked if he verified that this technology is safer and Chief Champion had offered four staff to go to Orange County and speak with their Swift Water Team and this is what that team is using.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Ward and SECONDED by Commissioner Tierney, the Board RESOLVED to purchase an NRS swift water sled in the amount of \$2,245.50. Ward– Aye, Pignataro – Aye, Taft– Aye, Tierney– Aye, Komorsky – Aye. **Motion carried.**

Deputy Chief Zittel stated this is in stock and so should be in fairly quickly and he will advise the Board when it was received. Commissioner Tierney asked if there were any life jackets or equipment that needed to be upgraded as well and Chief Champion stated that has been budgeted. Some of that has been reallocated and some has been built into the replacement plan. Deputy Chief Zittel stated the replacement boat is good. There will be one more purchase later in the year for the replacement of rope and hardware.

Chief Champion stated in the last week or so there has been an increase in brushfires. Given that, the Governor has put out a proclamation and the DEC has implemented a No Burn plan. That is in effect from now until May 15.

Chief Champion stated Steve from Redemption Mechanical stopped in and advised that in the next couple of months he will be able to take out the A/C air handler and the other items from the ready room to install the new mini-split. One of the issues he is going to have is moving part of that grid in order to get the unit down and out without doing any additional damage. He will be as careful as possible.

Chief Champion is still waiting on some adjustments at Station 2 with Mya locksmith. He will be following up with them later this week.

- Mechanical Status Updates - Chief Champion stated Captain DeMillo has provided an update on the apparatus and that is in the mechanical area of the Teams folder. He is also present if there are any questions regarding mechanical repairs on any of the equipment. Chairman Komorsky stated 55 has been a big concern and he asked if everything has been going well with that. Paul stated there is one issue with the on-spots, but it can hold on a little longer. There is a slight oil leak and they have an oil pan gasket here so they will fix that. He would like to see it sent to Eagle Diesel in Kingston as they are the ones who did the injector rebuild. Chairman Komorsky asked how long the downtime for that would be and Paul said he hoped it would be one day. He stated it is not a hard job, it is just a large job. Commissioner Tierney asked what was on the horizon for it. Paul stated its age is a concern but everything else is working as it should. That is why they are just trying to use it for calls with the rescue truck not EMS calls. Chairman Komorsky asked where they were with the bad rear bumper and Captain DeMillo stated it is the front bumper and Deputy Chief Merritt is working on it. 61 has a pump issue that they cannot get parts for. The pump

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is at HA Schrek, who got all of the information and the numbers that they needed today. He will keep the Board informed. The bearing is obsolete but Schrek may be able to machine a new one or find one someplace. Just the motor and the pump replacement was in the range of \$16-\$18,000. Commissioner Ward stated they are planning to replace the vehicle, so they will continue to run it until it is no longer working. Captain DeMito stated he talked to Deputy Chief Zittel about possibly fabricating the new pump they just purchased to figure out how they could plum it into the back, because it is a portable pump.

- Training – Chief Champion stated Lieutenant Hildenbrand is working with the new firefighter/medics. They are getting comfortable in their gear and he is running through some scenarios with them. They are getting accustomed to academy life. Chairman Komorsky asked how Lieutenant Hildenbrand was doing and Chief Champion stated he is doing well and is receptive to criticism. They will continue to provide guidance to him as well.
- In County Training – Nothing at this time.
- Out of County Training – Chief Champion stated at the last meeting he brought an out of County request to the Board for then Lieutenants Rancourt and Zittel. They would still both like to attend a Tech Rescue leadership forum. At that time he did not have a cost for the hotel. Now he has the cost, which in total for both of them, is \$814.46, it is \$407.23 per person. The classes have already been approved but he wanted the Board to be aware of the hotel cost. All the reservations are made for this.

Chief Champion stated he has three personnel items for Executive Session.

- **Deputy Chief of EMS** – Deputy Chief Merritt stated last month one of the ambulances was parked at Vassar Hospital and got backed into by a commercial service ambulance. The estimate for the repair, including the siren box, is \$2200. As soon as we have the final cost for everything with shipping was invoiced will be sent to the commercial service, who will reimburse LaGrange. Captain DeMito stated they need to purchase the speaker, which is broken. It is an inbound bumper speaker and it is \$422. When that comes in, the body shop will get the bumper and the bracket. Chairman Komorsky asked if the parts were readily available and Deputy Chief Merritt said they were able to ship the next day. Stryker came in and did some preventative maintenance last week. He is in the process of trying to get preventative maintenance schedules on the stretchers, power loads, and stair chairs as well. Some of them are older so they are not covered on the service contract anymore. He will get a quote for any out of pocket payments that need to be made. Chairman Komorsky stated at times when they are pulling the Stryker stretcher out of the ambulance, it gets hung up. He would advise that they lift it a little. He asked why that is happening and what can be done to fix it. The Deputy Chief stated he believes it is a matter of the ambulance being parked on level ground. Sometimes they need to realign the hooks. Sometimes you need to lift up a little bit to get the legs to drop. It is a known issue. Chairman Komorsky is just concerned about not creating back injuries. Captain DeMito stated at the hospital there is a dip before the handicap entrance that they enter. The ambulance is parked flat but if the wheels fall in the

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dip you have to pull it out differently from the back of the ambulance. Chairman Komorsky asked if it would make sense for the drivers to pull the ambulance out a little further. Deputy Chief Merritt stated sometimes it is difficult to judge exactly where they are. Chairman Komorsky just does not want to see anyone get hurt. The Deputy Chief stated when they do in-service training, they do encourage people to park on the roads and not inclined driveways and remind them how to pull the stretchers down. Most of the weight carried by the arms of the stretcher.

He continues to meet with members to review their CME packets and certifications and everything is going well.

- **Deputy Chief of Fire** - Chairman Komorsky stated it gives him great pleasure to introduce Bryan Zittel as the new Deputy Chief of Fire. Deputy Chief Zittel thanked him for being added to the table. He does have one item for executive session.
- **Department** –Chairman Komorsky stated there was no one present.
- **Union** –Chairman Komorsky asked if there were any questions or concerns from the Union. Vice-President DeMillo stated he did not have any and he does not believe the Union has any questions at this time. Chairman Komorsky asked if everyone was enthusiastic about the promotions and changes and Vice-President said yes, 98%. Chairman Komorsky asked if the 2% were problematic and Vice-President DeMillo stated it is just getting used to change. It is not an issue.
- Chairman Komorsky stated there will be a ceremonial meeting on Thursday at 6 PM and he asked if everything was taking care of. Chief Champion said yes.

### **ABSTRACT:** \$256,253.58

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Tierney and SECONDED by Commissioner Pignataro, the Board RESOLVED to pay the bills for end of February and the beginning of March as per the abstract for \$256,253.58. Taft– Aye, Tierney– Aye, Pignataro – Aye, Ward – Aye, Komorsky - Aye. **Motion carried.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

At 8:00 PM, Chairman Komorsky opened the meeting to public comments. He thanked Commissioner Dixon Smith for being present at the meeting.

At 8:00 PM, Chairman Komorsky closed the public comment section of the meeting.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 8:01 PM, upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Ward and SECONDED by Commissioner Taft, the Board RESOLVED to go into Executive Session to discuss four personnel issues from Chief Champion and two personnel issues from Commissioner Pignataro. Pignataro – Aye, Tierney– Aye, Taft– Aye, Ward– Aye, Komorsky - Aye.

**Motion carried.**

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### **OPEN SESSION:**

At 8:57 PM, the Board resumed Open Session.

**PREPARE 3/25/25 MEETING AGENDA:** Secretary Le will prepare this.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:57 PM, upon a Motion made by Commissioner Tierney and SECONDED by Commissioner Taft, the Board RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting.

Pignataro – Aye, Taft– Aye, Tierney – Aye, Ward – Aye, Komorsky - Aye. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted by


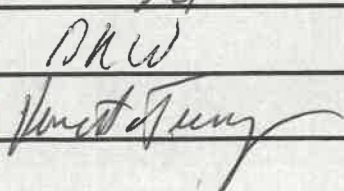
Julie Beyer

on behalf of Bria Le – District Secretary

***Approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners on 3/25/25***

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VENDOR	Amount Due	PO #	3/11/2025
A-JOHN/A-1 PORTABLE ✓	\$ 2,750.00	14062	PORTABLE BATHROOM STATION 1 RENOV
BOTTINI ✓	\$ 1,011.08	14076	DIESEL FUEL-STATION 2
CENTRAL HUDSON ✓	\$ 1,231.42	14041	ELECTRIC/AREA LIGHT CHARGES STATION 1
CHIPPS SEAMLESS GUTTERS ✓	\$ 8,600.00	14072	GUTTER REPAIR STATION 1
CPL ARCHITECTS ✓	\$ 1,000.00	14048	PROFESSIONAL SVCS STAT 1 RENOV
CPL ARCHITECTS ✓	\$ 2,500.00	14087	PROFESSIONAL SVCS STAT 1 RENOV
FREIHOFFER ICE & SPRINGWATER ✓	\$ 139.50	14077	5 GALLON WATER BOTTLES FOR COOLERS STATIONS 1 & 2
FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS ✓	\$ 159.56	14054	LOCAL/LONG DIST SERVICE STATION 1
GRAINGER ✓	\$ 97.60	14037	TRASH BAGS/REQUIRED TOTES FOR FIRE ACADEMY-NEW HIRES
H.G. PAGE LUMBER ✓	\$ 15.99	5632	MISC BUILDING SUPPLIES
HENDRICKSON FIRE RESCUE EQUIP ✓	\$ 18,894.61	14045	REPAIRS & PARTS FOR 47-11
HENDRICKSON FIRE RESCUE EQUIP ✓	\$ 436.82	14050	47-1 CAB TILT CONTROLLER
JACKSON LEWIS PC ✓	\$ 23,188.20	14066	PROFESSIONAL SVCS
JACKSON LEWIS PC ✓	\$ 36,046.70	14067	PROFESSIONAL SVCS
JOHN GIAIMO ✓	\$ 575.62	14065	BULB REPLACEMENT/PREVAILING LABOR STAT 2
JULIE BEYER ✓	\$ 180.00	2025BLE	TRANSCRIPTION OF BOFC MEETING NOTES
KOSCOHERITAGE/HOP ENERGY ✓	\$ 1,298.57	14057	FUEL OIL FOR STATION 1
M&O SANITATION ✓	\$ 1,414.95	14070	SEPTIC PUMP STATION 2
MASSMUTUAL ✓	\$ 429.75	14088	WHOLE LIFE-CAREER MEMBER
MEDICAL WAREHOUSE ✓	\$ 449.00	2025-AC	EMS SUPPLIES
MEDICAL WAREHOUSE ✓	\$ 896.40	5649	EMS SUPPLIES
MES SUPPLY COMPANY, LLC ✓	\$ 128.00	13983	UNIFORM-CAREER
MES SUPPLY COMPANY, LLC ✓	\$ 2,297.23	14008	NEW HIRE UNIFORMS
MES SUPPLY COMPANY, LLC ✓	\$ 409.08	13984	UNIFORM-CAREER
MES SUPPLY COMPANY, LLC ✓	\$ <del>86.08</del> 86.08	13983	UNIFORM-CAREER
MES SUPPLY COMPANY, LLC ✓	\$ 377.48	5631	SCBA REPAIR PARTS
MICHAEL BENENATI ✓	\$ 1,048.20	14073	REIMBURSEMENT OF MEDICARE PART B FOR 2024
MURTAGH, COSSU, VENDITTI, CASTRO-BLANCO LLP ✓	\$ 500.00	14040	CANCELTION FEE VOLUNTEER HEARING
NYCOMCO ✓	\$ 395.00	14055	REPAIR HEADSET ON 47-55
NYS EMPLOYEES HEALTH INSURANCE ✓	\$ 131,639.51	14079	EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS
OPTIMUM ✓	\$ 360.86	14084	CABLE/INTERNET STATION 1
OPTIMUM ✓	\$ 245.68	14085	CABLE/INTERNET STATION 3
RINGSQUARED ✓	\$ 909.97	14082	LOCAL/LONG DIST SERVICE STATIONS 2 & 3
ROYAL CARTING ✓	\$ 481.90	14071	COMMERCIAL WASTE REMOVAL ALL STATIONS
SAFE KIDS WORLDWIDE ✓	\$ 95.00	13959	SAFETY SEAT TECH TRAINING
SATHYA JAREMBEK ✓	\$ 14.25	VOUCH	REIMBURSEMENT DOJ BACKGROUND CHECK-VOLUNTEER
SHELTERPOINT ✓	\$ 167.96	14083	EMPLOYEE VISION INSURANCE
STRYKER SALES LLC ✓	\$ 5,770.78	13957	LIFEPAK 1000 AND ACCESSORIES
THE WORK PLACE ✓	\$ 3,964.00	14078	PHYSICALS
TOMPKINS ✓	\$ 4,871.44	14058	CREDIT CARD PURCHASES
TOWN OF LAGRANGE ✓	\$ 57.78	14075	WATER USAGE BILL
VESO LIFE ✓	\$ 330.88	14074	VOLUNTEER LIFE INS
VFIS/GLATFELTER INS GROUP ✓	\$ 350.00	14089	LOSAP ADMIN SERVICES 2024
WEX BANK ✓	\$ 436.81	14086	UNLEADED GASOLINE CC CHARGES
TOTAL SUBMITTED \$ 256,253.58			Commissioner Signatures:
changes listed:	08		 03/12/25 3/12/25
	256,253.66		
TOTAL APPROVED			 3/12/25 3/12/25
KEY:			
pre-paid:			
Paid:			