



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



MINUTES BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS Regular Meeting – December 18, 2025

ATTENDEES: Chairman Marc Komorsky
Commissioner Barry Ward
Deputy Chief Scott Merritt
Attorney Michael Hekle (via Teams)
Commissioner Robert Taft (via Teams not voting)

Commissioner Anthony Pignataro
Chief Anthony Champion
Secretary Bria Le
Treasurer Mark Pozniak (via Teams)

At 6:02 PM, Chairman Komorsky called the Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting to order for Tuesday, December 18, 2025, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He welcomed everyone in attendance. He stated this would be their last meeting of the year unless there is an emergency. He thanked everyone for coming out tonight.

MINUTES: - 12/04/25 Regular Meeting minutes and the 11/13/25 Special Meeting

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Pignataro, and SECONDED by Commissioner Ward, the Board RESOLVED to approve the 12/04/25 Regular Meeting minutes. Pignataro – Aye, Ward – Aye, Chairman Komorsky – Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Pignataro, and SECONDED by Chairman Komorsky, the Board RESOLVED to approve the 11/13/25 Special Meeting minutes. Pignataro – Aye, Ward – Aye, Chairman Komorsky – Aye. **Motion Carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

- There was none.

ROOM USE REQUESTS:

- There were none.

OLD BUSINESS/UNRESOLVED ITEMS:

- Station 1 Building Update – Commissioner Ward stated he spent most of the day working with Chief Champion. There were some hurdles with Station 1 construction. The finishing of the sheetrock is mostly done. There are two things preventing it from being completed. One is the stack test needs to be completed by the Town. This is for all of the waste related components of the plumbing. That probably won't be done until next week. The second thing they need to resolve is concerning a vertical grab bar in the bathroom. This is an ANSI recommendation for vertical bars. The top part of the bar per their standard would terminate in what is now a window. They have come up with a solution for that so it should be resolved shortly. The only other thing that they have found that they need to look at is there was a waistline clean out that was extended into one of the bedrooms. That itself is not an issue but it was supposed to be terminated in the mechanical room. They just need to talk to the plumber as to why that was extended out further. It is flushed with the floor so it is not an issue but they don't know the reason why it was extended. The project is continuing. The electrical work with the consolidation of all of the panels out there will probably happen around December 29th. That is the next big thing that has to be done. They have discussed the overlap of contracted function with the low voltage work with the EC sub and Blue Dragon, so they are trying

BoFC Regular Meeting 12/18/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



to work that out. Chairman Komorsky asked if there was dialogue going on and Commissioner Ward said yes. He did send out a note to everyone mentioning 3 change orders. The first one is the change order associated with the electrical heat, which is 2 contractors. 1 is HVAC and covered under the contingency. The second is the electrical where they have already exceeded the contingency. They are going to have to approve the delta for the electrical. For the HVAC, they do not have to do anything on except send it back that it has been approved. The one they have to approve is the electrical. This is to connect to the heaters.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Ward, and SECONDED by Commissioner Pignataro, the Board RESOLVED to approve \$1633 for the electrical connection of the heaters for the sheetrock work. Pignataro – Aye, Ward – Aye, Chairman Komorsky – Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Commissioner Ward stated there was a lot of general work that they put together. It was originally the exterior wall on the D side, which is the wall where the window they were just discussing is. That was originally going to have tile directly on it. They extended framing for it. The original contract did not have insulation there. They also had to address the wall that is between the new hallway and the kitchen because that all has to be reframed as well. It is the quarter wall. This includes demolition and installation of the rear quarter wall, including all the metal studs, sheetrock, and hollow metal door frame. It also includes removing existing sheetrock in electrical room and minor reframing for the electrician. It includes installation of the exterior wall. Chairman Komorsky asked if there was an issue with the sheetrock and Commissioner Ward stated no, it was not covered by anything, so he told Alex to include that sheetrock around the electrical. It is not much that is there. There was no asbestos there, so they did not have to worry about it.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Ward, and SECONDED by Commissioner Pignataro, the Board RESOLVED to approve \$14,494.16 additional funds to approve the additional sheetrock and framing issues as presented. Pignataro – Aye, Ward – Aye, Chairman Komorsky – Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Commissioner Ward stated this should be it at this point. Mr. Lenkowski stated he was at Station 1 about a week ago working on the network cabinet. It is full of dust. He does not know if it is good dust or bad dust. He did close it and lock it again. He doesn't know if the asbestos people need to come in and clean it or test it. Commissioner Ward asked if this was before or after the sheetrock and Mr. Lenkowski stated it was before. Chairman Komorsky stated he would recommend talking to the GC and no one should go near it without a mask and gloves until they hear that it is clear. He thanked Mr. Lenkowski for the heads up. Chief Champion stated there was some low voltage wire popping through the wall into the meeting room that is not in conduit. It is above the entry door and needs to be relocated. He asked if that could be taken care of as well when they start doing the low voltage work. Commissioner Ward stated he believed there was a resolution for this as they have spoken about it before. Chief Champion stated gutters are being installed on the trailer tomorrow so that should alleviate any ice for hopefully the remainder of the winter. It is being done by the same vendor who did the gutters on Station 1.

- Station 2 Septic – Chairman Komorsky stated he did not have any new reports. People will be submitting their bids for the new scope of work on the specifications. Secretary Le stated the bids are due on January 16th at 3:00 PM at Station 2. That will not be a meeting night, but it will give them a chance to review the bids. Chairman Komorsky stated he would be here for that and asked her to put out an e-mail reminding the board in case anyone else wants to attend as well. Commissioner

BoFC Regular Meeting 12/18/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



Pignataro asked if they could come to a board meeting on the night that they present the bids and Chairman Komorsky said yes.

- Station 2 Brick Pointing – Chairman Komorsky stated he and Commissioner Tierney are continuing to work on this. Once the bricks come off below the chief's office, MJ and his crew will be here to look and see if there are any structural issues. Commissioner Pignataro asked if water or anything got into the building with the snow that came today. Chief Champion stated nothing has been reported as of yet. Chairman Komorsky stated hopefully after the holidays Tom will be back and on a more reasonably tempered day they will get more done. Secretary Le stated the engineer was brought in to work on this and the Board needs to approve these services.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Pignataro, and SECONDED by Commissioner Ward, the Board RESOLVED to approve payment for services provided by MJ for the repair design in the total amount of \$13,760.00 for the front parapet emergency repair. Pignataro – Aye, Ward – Aye, Chairman Komorsky – Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Secretary Le stated there will be additional work that will require additional payments. She asked if the Board wanted to approve a not to exceed amount. Chairman Komorsky said not yet because they don't know exactly what that work will be. Commissioner Ward stated it gets very confusing when they pre approve things. It is easier to track if they approve it as it comes in. Secretary Le stated they did make a motion to approve the crane in the amount of \$6100. Commissioner Pignataro stated they have already had motions for the actual repair of the fascia. Commissioner Ward stated the roof work is still open and that may involve some masonry work that has not been included in anything yet. Commissioner Pignataro asked if the roof damage they found when they were up there was repaired and Commissioner Ward said yes.

- Station 3 Asbestos Remediation – Chief Champion stated the abatement has concluded. He received an e-mail from Commissioner Tierney that states the mold removal will take place starting next week and should take approximately 2 weeks with the holidays. Chairman Komorsky asked if that area was plastic sealed and the Chief said yes, it is already plastic sealed off and will stay that way until they are done with the demo. The Board has already approved the work to reestablish that room. Once that happens, he will update everyone.
- Staffing Community Events – Chief Champion stated the only recent community event they had was Company 3 with the Santa Run. It was very successful and the neighbors in that response area were very appreciative. He does not have final numbers on how many kids they got to see but everyone seems very happy. Chairman Komorsky stated this is the first year he had ring cameras at his house and there were a number of ring notifications with people asking when Santa will be at certain locations and it was interesting how many responses there were. It seemed like there were a lot of people out this year. He stated he was an elf one year and it was fun to see how excited the adults and the children were to see the trucks come up. He thanked everyone who participated.
- Lexipol Policy Updates – Chief Champion stated that he and Deputy Chief Merritt were both on a call with Lexipol today. They ran through a couple of chapters that the committee has looked through and reviewed. They're moving to the stage of taking all the ones that they just reviewed

BoFC Regular Meeting 12/18/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



and sending them to legal for their review. He did ask for an extension for the onboarding, and they have been given till the end of February at no additional cost as of right now. They were educated on how to run through and send through policies out to the membership once they have been reviewed and approved by the Board. Attorney Hekle stated they are aware of the extension date, and they are ready to turn the policies around as soon as they get them in. Chief Champion stated the next Lexipol meeting will be on the 8th of January and then they will be meeting weekly until the end of February. There are only approximately 2 1/2 more chapters to get done and then it is working with legal to make sure they are all right and then bringing them to the board for final approval. Chairman Komorsky asked if they were working on a more detailed ethics policy and he asked where they were on that subject. Chief Champion stated he has to check to see if they had sent Lexipol what they have. There are several areas where they discuss conduct and what is ethical. Attorney Hekle stated his only comment on his end is that they will be combining the provisions that are in various policies into a single policy for ethics. Chairman Komorsky asked if the attorney was going to vet that as well and he said yes. Commissioner Pignataro asked if that was going to have to go through the collective bargaining union as well and Chief Champion said he did broach that question this afternoon as to what topics could be parceled out this afternoon to the local and the board of fire commissioners. Lexipol said there are parts in these policies that make reference to collective bargaining agreements and how that contract will supersede any other policies. The policies pertain to membership that may not be in the collective bargaining as well. Attorney Hekle stated in reality it won't matter because the union will still want to review the bulk of the policies. He stated that the better approach may be if they have a table of contents to share with the union and pre-marking the policies that they believe are relevant and then hearing any objections from the union. The thing that will hold this process up will be the exchange with the union and making sure that everyone is in agreement. If they can do that and start that process now it would be helpful. Chairman Komorsky asked if the union could determine what is in the ethics policy. Attorney Hekle stated the ethics policy would fall within this. If it affects terms or conditions of employment, they do have a right to bargain over it. Potentially the ethics policy could have a provision that applies to someone in the bargaining unit and they could be subject to discipline and because of that the union has a right to review and agree to the policy. If you pushed the policy through without union approval and subsequently tried to discipline a bargaining unit member without the union previously agreeing to the policy, you won't be able to enforce the discipline. Chairman Komorsky asked if it was a very detailed portion of the policy or just a reactionary piece to something that may be egregious. They could take years going over all of that. Attorney Hekle stated that is part of the concern. They should do it by policy. They should identify the policies that they think are relative and give them the full list with the board's suggestions. Then it can be scanned and they can come back with whether or not they are in agreement and then those additional items can be discussed. He really feels the need to start with the table of contents and pre-mark the ones that they think are affecting the bargaining unit. Chairman Komorsky asked what happens if they don't come back within a reasonable amount of time with their comments. They have no power to enforce them to come back and enforce them to review these policies within a certain amount of time. Attorney Hekle stated they could bargain their way to an impasse if they had to try to get these to move forward but he does believe it is premature to take that discussion yet. Attorney Hekle stated he has had this problem with other groups but hopefully that won't be the case here. Chairman Komorsky stated he is just concerned about a timing standpoint to get this done sooner rather than later. The goal is to memorialize it once they get it all in order. Commissioner Ward stated if they prepare them ahead of time and let

BoFC Regular Meeting 12/18/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



them know that there is something coming down the line that will be helpful. Chairman Komorsky asked Chief Champion if he had any prior conversations with the union about this. Chief Champion stated they did have conversations with the union that the fire district is reviewing the policies to get things more formalized and they did touch upon the fact that if there are contractual issues that need to be discussed it will go to the board and then to the union to be discussed. He stated he could get a table of contents to send to them to let them know what has been reviewed already. Commissioner Pignataro asked if there was a camera policy provided by Lexipol and if so, can it be integrated. Commissioner Ward stated they are almost done with it but then they got sidetracked. Chief Champion stated Commissioner Tierney took that aspect and incorporated it into the policy that was here so that was reviewed today. Commissioner Pignataro asked what the status of that is at this point. Chief Champions stated he and the Deputy Chief reviewed it today and he will e-mail it to Commissioner Tierney and Commissioner Ward to review it. Then he will print it and send it to legal. Chairman Komorsky stated the camera policy is an example of one that was started a long time ago and they still don't have it in place. He doesn't want every policy to be put on a desk and just be held up. They haven't had great success with one or two policies in the past let alone an entire table of contents with many policies. Commissioner Ward stated they shifted from the camera policy to the 207A policy which was a significant amount of work. They just have to pick the camera policy back up and get it finished. Chairman Komorsky stated he just wanted to make sure that no policies get forgotten about. Attorney Hekle stated he feels the more important question is how they are going to deal with Lexipol because the union is not going to agree to this within their time frame. He asked if they really need Lexipol to onboard the policies and Chief Champion said no. Commissioner Ward stated they probably have a priority sequence they would like to see followed and they should take the lead on that and get those done first. That way there is some plan with forward progress. Chairman Komorsky stated he believes that is a great suggestion and Attorney Hekle agreed as well. Attorney Hekle stated many of these policies have a joint interest and he feels that there are many items that both the union and the district want to see memorialized in writing. Commissioner Ward stated if they have a checklist of what they want done and one of the items stalls them out they can choose to pass over it and come back to it later so the rest of the items can get moved forward. Chairman Komorsky stated with Commissioner Ward's retirement he feels that everything should go to Commissioner Elect Kaiser to handle this.

- Operational Software Overview - Chief Champion stated they are still moving forward and transitioning the NERIS for the New Year. The local did trial the callback feature in First Due. It seems to be working fine with no real reported issues. They do extend their apologies for not being able to attend this meeting but hopefully they will be at the next meeting to work with the board in discussion on this topic. They would like to present it to the membership first should they choose to transition away from what they have and do the callbacks and everything through First Due. The union has a meeting on the first Monday of every month and the next Board meeting is on the 13th. Chairman Komorsky asked if they could give a heads up before the meeting instead of just showing up. The reorg meeting is always a long meeting and there is already a guest scheduled to be at that meeting. Chief Champion stated he could ask them to just come in at the second meeting of the month. He will let the board know. Chairman Komorsky stated he has heard some complaints about the new hardware. Chief Champion stated he has heard a complaint regarding the Surface Pros, and it is because the Surface Pros have a screen and a keyboard with a kickstand on the back so they not as rigid as the laptop when it comes to putting it on your lap

BoFC Regular Meeting 12/18/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



without the screen falling. Deputy Chief Merritt is working with the EMS committee to source ideas to correct it. Chairman Komorsky stated he did not know what the complaint was he was just hearing that they were not happy with the tough book replacements. Deputy Chief Merritt stated he did warn them in the summer they were getting away from the Toughbooks because of the Windows upgrade. They hadn't planned on it so there was no money in the budget for new Toughbooks which are extraordinarily expensive. He has been working with the membership to try to find a solution to the floppy Surface Pros that they are currently using. He does have multiple people looking at multiple solutions one of the solutions does involve a Windows 11 Dell Rugged Pro but they are \$2200 apiece. Commissioner Ward stated he does not believe that is the way they need to go right away. Part of it is just getting used to it. With the Surface Pro you don't have to use it with a keypad, you can use it like an iPad. Deputy Chief Merritt stated the Surface Pros were given to them by Proclaim. They do have iPads inside all of the units, and they are trying to find tougher cases for them. They are trying to find solutions before they spend a lot of money on replacements. It might come down to working on the budget to find a rugged computer for them. The last ones lasted about 10 years without any complaints. They are very expensive right now so they will look at other options first. If the suggestion ends up purchasing some sort of Toughbook they will come to the board first for some suggestions on budgeting. Chief Champion asked Chairman Komorsky if he had asked the individuals with the complaints if they had any sort of solution. Chairman Komorsky stated he did not. Chief Champion suggested next time telling them to come to their lieutenant or captain first. Deputy Chief Merritt stated every time he gets a complaint from someone he asks them if they have a suggestion for a case that would work, and no one has come back to him with any suggestions yet.

- Grant Update – Chairman Komorsky stated he has forwarded some grant information to both Chief Champion and Deputy Chief Zittel. Chief Champion stated they have both read over it quickly. They will look at it in depth. Chairman Komorsky asked that he be kept in the loop as to when it will get written up as he may be able to assist with it. Commissioner Pignataro asked what the grants are for and Chief Champion stated one is a Local Government Efficiency Grant application open until February 4th. He read the overview for Commissioner Pignataro. Commissioner Pignataro asked if this was in order to encourage municipalities to merge services. Chief Champion stated he has not read enough about it to be able to answer that.
- Grant Writing Update – Chairman Komorsky stated this has pretty much been addressed.
- Building Repairs/Repair Requests – Chairman Komorsky asked if there was anything they had not already covered. Chief Champion stated there was a heat issue out at Station 1 for the back ready room right off of the bays. Steve Turner was called and rectified the issue within a day or two. He believes one of the trades that was in there isolated something and did not go back and un-isolate that system so it set off a temperature alarm. They did receive a phone call from the alarm company and the issue was rectified. It was a good test of the system.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 2019 Draft Audit Report – Treasurer Pozniak stated they do not need to do anything with it tonight. It is there for them to review. Once it is finalized, the board will have to adopt a resolution to accept it. They can go into executive session to discuss any questions that anyone has. In terms of the delay, typically these were being done more up to date but this was the audit that started

BoFC Regular Meeting 12/18/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



when COVID hit and they could not come into the Firehouse for a few years. The original contract was with Sickler, Allen, Torchia, and Churchill, but they have since become RBT CPA's.

Sometimes the district was slow getting them information but 90% of the delay was on their end. Treasurer Pozniak had talked to the New York State Comptroller's office. His concern is that they are not going to get caught up and they need to be caught up to get the 2023 audit done because of the federal funding that they have. The comptroller's office told him to go back three years and get caught up from there. Treasurer Pozniak has asked the auditing firm to skip forward and get 22 and 23 done as soon as possible and then they can move forward regularly from there. Chairman Komorsky asked if there were any questions or comments for the treasurer and there were none. Commissioner Pignataro stated he is glad that Treasurer Pozniak explained why they are so far behind because that was going to be his first question. Chairman Komorsky asked if the treasurer or any board members felt the need to discuss this in executive session. Commissioner Ward asked if there were any findings and Treasurer Pozniak said yes. Commissioner Ward would like to review that in executive session.

- 2022 & 2023 Audit Engagement Letters – Treasurer Pozniak stated if Chairman Komorsky will sign these letters the audit company can start to move forward with these audits. He stated that for the most part the audits are not a necessity and they do it for good practice and they do certainly need them if they are ever going to bond for something. What they really need it for right now is because it is a requirement for the federal funds they are receiving for both the FEMA reimbursement and the SAFER funds. Secretary Le requested for Treasurer Pozniak to come in and sign the 2019 representation letter. Treasurer Pozniak stated he would be in tomorrow.
- Station 2 Emergency Generator Assessment - Chairman Komorsky stated that Joel Bianci was supposed to be present tonight, but he had an emergency, so he was unavailable. He will be here at the reorganizational meeting on January 13th. Chairman Komorsky suggested that everyone review this assessment so they can discuss it at that point.

REPORTS: (by officers present)

- **Treasurer Pozniak** - Treasurer Pozniak stated he had no additional report besides the audit review to be discussed in executive session.
- **Chief Anthony Champion –**
 - Membership - Chief Champion stated there was the department meeting this week. There were some aspects of being an active member that were discussed and voted on at that meeting. That criteria was approved by the department membership so he will get those changes into the forms that they presently have and get it out to the membership, so everyone sees it. There were no changes to the State LOSAP requirements. This is strictly a discussion regarding what it is to be an active member. Two of the three commissioners were there so he will not go into it in detail. Chairman Komorsky asked if there was a way to encourage the membership, especially those with questions, to come to these meetings. He feels they are very important, and he noticed that a lot of the membership were not there on the volunteer side. He feels it is important for them to understand the importance of these meetings and possibly get some credit for attending them. It is one night and there is dinner provided and dessert. It is the second meeting that he was at and most of the volunteers did not show up. Chief Champion stated he believes communication is getting

BoFC Regular Meeting 12/18/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



out because there were individuals there that are more social members. He believes that the department executive staff does reach out to those individuals, including those that may bring more voices to the meeting. It is not for lack of trying. There are 12 rostered, six that are responding and six that are on medical or another form of probationary status. At the meeting there were maybe three people active members there. Chairman Komorsky stated the rules have been in place for many years and he asked how many times they have to go over them because it was amazing how many people did not know the procedures. It was concerning. Commissioner Pignataro apologized for not being able to attend as he had a family responsibility. Mr. Kaiser stated he did get current emails from those that were attending that night. They are trying to create camaraderie and get the volunteers together.

- Updates – Chief Champion stated Deputy Chief Zittel put out an e-mail trying to get the membership to sign up for Chief Mobile. They are approving certain people in to specific areas so they can use what is appropriate for them. All three stations have been set up with the wallboards on the TV's so people can see the calls, weather, and the training calendar. They are trying to get different colors on the training calendar.
- Training –
 - In county training - Chief Champion stated for in county training there was a radio class being offered in January. It has been put out to the membership and at this time he has not received any interest.
 - Out of county training - Chief Champion stated he is looking for some individuals to go for Ice Rescue training. This is being held at three separate locations, and five different individuals are interested. This would be for room, board, and meals for all individuals. There will be an overlap of coverage for their shifts due to the length of the course, as it is 4 days, and they will have to go up the day before and come back on the last day of class. The first is Firefighter/Medics Kemmerer and Brinson on February 21st to Oneida County.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Pignataro and SECONDED by Commissioner Ward, the Board RESOLVED to allow Firefighter/Medic Kemmerer and Firefighter/Medic Brinson to attend an Ice Rescue training class in Oneida County starting on February 21st to include room, board, meals, and travel.

Pignataro – Aye, Ward – Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Chief Champion stated the second location for the ice rescue is Montour Falls. Firefighter Higham and Firefighter/Medic Rand would like to attend this starting on February 28th.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Ward and SECONDED by Commissioner Pignataro, the Board RESOLVED to allow Firefighter Higham and Firefighter/Medic Rand to attend an Ice Rescue training class in Montour Falls starting on February 28th to include room, board, meals, and travel. Pignataro – Aye, Ward – Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Chief Champion stated the last ice rescue is in Schenectady. At this time there is a request from one person, but he would like permission to send two should someone else decide to go. It is January 24th. Right now, it is Firefighter/Medic Pierson who would like to attend.

BoFC Regular Meeting 12/18/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Pignataro and SECONDED by Commissioner Ward, the Board RESOLVED to allow Firefighter/Medic Pierson and one other to be named later to attend an Ice Rescue training class in Schenectady starting on January 24th to include room, board, meals, and travel. Pignataro – Aye, Ward – Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Chief Champion stated the last out of county training that they have is a Medium Structural Collapse class which is in Monroe County for February 27th and Firefighter/Medic Brinson is looking to attend and the Chief is looking for at least two spots.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Ward and SECONDED by Commissioner Pignataro, the Board RESOLVED to allow Firefighter/Medic Brinson and one other to be named later to attend a Medium Structural Collapse training class in Monroe County starting on February 27th to include room, board, meals, and travel. Pignataro – Aye, Ward – Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

- Equipment - Chief Champion stated 47-11 Is at Hendrickson and has been road tested today. It was a diagnosis of an issue with the rear differential. They have narrowed it down to the differential being in the locked position. That is what caused the issue and a lot of the gears and pinions to go kaput. They have replaced it. They asked if they could install a sensor that would be a heads up or light display in the cab for the cost of \$1000. The Chief requested that it gets installed on both. It is a sensor that will tell you if the differential is locked or unlocked. Chairman Komorsky requested that they let everyone know what that light is for and Chief Champion stated they would be sure to do that. He will talk with Captain DeMilto and mechanic McAllister so when 12 goes down for service that will get the same light installed for its differential as well.
- Mutual Aid - Chief Champion stated they did respond mutual aid to Union Vale for a reported structure fire. It turned out to be a fire in the stove. Firefighter/Medic Trott was on that call and worked with the medical unit that Union Vale contracts with to care for and tend to the patient that received burns until the helicopter was landed to fly them to Westchester. No water was used on the scene. Firefighter/Medic Trott remained on the scene to assist the crew and wait for the helicopter to land. The chief wanted to commend him for going above and beyond on that call and letting the board know. Commissioner Pignataro asked the Chief please let Firefighter/Medic Trott know that it is appreciated. Chief Champion stated they did have a garage fire last night off South Cross and Noxon Road. They used approximately 1200 to 1500 gallons of water. It was a detached garage that was set up as a shop. He stated they are currently in a trial period with a few different brand portables. It is going well and any issues were ironed out with the captains and Deputy Chiefs. This could be an alternate to the Motorolas they currently have. They are also trialing out the repeater on the Highland tower across the river. In trying that out there has been some static noticed during transmissions. One of the key features is that the current system that they are trialing is a 50 Watt and their system installed that they are not using at this time is a 100 Watt. Given that, if they choose to move forward in any direction, they will resume use of their 100 Watt to get the clearer communication. The purpose of the trial is to find any dead spots in the area. They were even able to get

BoFC Regular Meeting 12/18/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



communication out of Arlington High School. It was a bit garbled, but it did work. They have tried it out on Rossway, on the Taconic northbound and southbound, and on the north end of town with seemingly no issues with radio traffic back to Station 2. After Christmas they will return everything and bring the data back to the board for future consideration moving forward. Commissioner Ward asked if that means they are going off the tower on the hill. Chief Champion said yes if they decide to move forward with it. Commissioner Ward asked if there was a cost for that and Chief Champion said yes and he will bring that forward with all the other data. There is a cost difference and a pocket savings for the district. Commissioner Pignataro asked if that would take them off of the rental tower and Chief Champion said yes. Commissioner Ward stated they have looked at this in the past but only did a model study and not a live study. It is good to see that it is working out. Chief Champion stated there is a cost difference and there is the benefit of a backup generator so they no longer would have to receive notifications a power down and sending utility up. There was an issue that occurred on Monday with a power failure at the Illinois tower. Their program was not set up to restart. They did call and within 20 minutes it was rectified. It has been re programmed so it will not happen again should there be another tower power outage. It was a programming issue. The trial period repeater was not set up to come back on should it cycle off for some reason. Within 20 minutes after their call the programming error was corrected, and they were back up and running. Commissioner Ward stated this is for their channel only and not tied to the county.

- Chief Champion stated he has one personnel issue and one contractual issue for Executive Session.
- **Deputy Chief Fire** – There was no report in Deputy Chief Zittel’s absence.
- **Deputy Chief of EMS** – Deputy Chief Merritt stated that he mentioned last month they were approved for the reimbursement of the cost of a LUCAS device from the Dutchess County fly car grant. The cost of the LUCAS is \$19,858. He is still waiting for a copy of the contract from the county before he makes the purchase. The grant period just began 3 days ago. Last week he submitted to New York State for the recertifications of five paramedics. They have already approved four of them. He is just waiting on the fifth. After the holiday he will start working on his next group of applications.
 - Training - Deputy Chief Merritt stated Chief Champion, Paramedic Edgar, and himself all met with the EMS Program Director at Dutchess Community College last week about hosting classes at LaGrange using LaGrange’s instructors under their training center license. These classes would include classes that LaGrange needs to maintain to keep their certifications like the New York State paramedic series recertification program, program EMT recertification program, and the American Heart Association classes. At present Arlington does this and LaGrange usually tags onto their classes. Under this model LaGrange would be copying Arlington’s model. He is working to get paramedics to take the required instructor classes so they can start hosting classes in house. Some of these will be involving community classes like CPR for the public. He hopes to start hosting Heart Association classes within the next few months. Last week four more paramedics attended the Difficult Airways class in Valhalla. It was Deputy Chief Merritt, Firefighter/Medic Wern, Firefighter/Medic Edgar, and Firefighter/Medic Bourne. This was an

BoFC Regular Meeting 12/18/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



absolutely beneficial class. They practiced intubating patients with difficult anatomy, clearing airways that were full of simulated blood and vomit, and end practice frontal neck access. These are very high-fidelity mannequins. They practiced frontal neck access on animal tracheas that very closely mimic human tracheas. It was a very well-run class and a great experience. They are hosting another class in April, and he is looking to get approval to send two or three more people to that as well. It is \$350.00 for the two-day class per person. They have started bringing some of the training that they received into the station to people here.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Ward and SECONDED by Commissioner Pignataro, the Board RESOLVED to allow an additional four members at \$350 per person to attend the Difficult Airways in Valhalla in April. Pignataro – Aye, Ward – Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Deputy Chief Merritt stated with this class he has been speaking with the medical director to bring in RSI Capabilities for their paramedics. He hopes to be able to apply in January. He does have an application that he would like the chairman to review tonight and possibly sign so they can bring those RSI capabilities to LaGrange. After the application period, they will have to talk to the medical director to bring in an RSI trainer. The region has a very stringent certification process for this. It is a medical avenue that they absolutely needed. Commissioner Ward asked if anybody did RSI. Deputy Chief Merritt stated that the Commercial Services do RSI. Commissioner Ward stated that it means it is limited to a few units and not every unit and Deputy Chief Merritt said yes. You must be a specific paramedic. People have wanted this class for years. Commissioner Pignataro stated he is glad to hear that the training was done well and that they got a lot out of it.

- **Department** – Chairman Komorsky asked if there was anything from the department to report. President Kaiser stated the Chief covered the meeting details. They are changing a few things. He wanted to thank Chris Cassidy for stepping up to be the point person for drills and duty nights. After he talked with Captain Kile and the training officer and they will be holding some drills in the evening. The volunteers were very happy that there would be some evening drills coming up.
- **Union** – Chairman Komorsky stated there were no union members present to give a report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

At 7:20 PM, Chairman Komorsky opened the meeting to public comments. Jeff Kaiser stated a year ago his mom went to the hospital. They received a lot of good praise from the nursing staff there on the care given to her by the LaGrange members. His mother went into the hospital again the other night. Again, the guys were very professional and did a great job. When he went to pick her up to bring her home, the nursing staff indicated that because she was a member affiliated with the fire district, they did get her in a little quicker. The nurse made the comment that LaGrange is the best, The reports are always spot on, and it is a pleasure to work with the staff from LaGrange when they bring patients in. Chairman Komorsky stated he is sorry to hear that Jeff's mom ended up in the hospital but is happy to hear the report regarding their staff. Mr. Kaiser stated he does have questions about the funds going out for Station 1. He knows that they were originally budgeted for \$800,000 and that they are over that as things have changed with the project. It seems like there are overruns with the project. Commissioner Ward stated there are not. The only thing that they have gone over for is approximately
BoFC Regular Meeting 12/18/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



\$6000 for the electrical and the \$15,000 for the additional wall. On roughly a \$900,000 project they have only gone over on two of the general contract issues. All the numbers that they hear that are going over are actually accounted for in the contingency. It is complicated to follow but he feels they have done very well sticking to the target. \$25,000 over from a \$900,000 project is really good. Mr. Kaiser stated if they had finished the project in September, like they had said, they would not have had the additional overrun on heating trailers and the additional winter expenses. Commissioner Ward stated the only additional cost, if they had finished in October or November, have been the trailers. There have been really no additional fees. The only thing that changed was the time frame and that was driven by the fact that they relied on a 2019 asbestos report that did not include the ceiling. They learned by accident that the ceiling above the drop ceiling had asbestos in it which put a major kink in the execution of the contract. In terms of money they stayed surprisingly close. They had no reason to think there would be a change in the asbestos report as nothing had changed from 2019 to 2024. They do have to reply on the input they get from the professionals. It is unfortunate that that particular contractor didn't do that piece of the inspection. Why it was not done he does not know. Mr. Kaiser stated that as part of that meeting the engineer that designed the project was asked who was going to oversee the project and their comment was it is not a very big project so the general contractor can oversee it. A meeting or two after that it got brought up that they needed to spend \$40,000 for them to oversee the project. Commissioner Ward stated that is not for them to oversee the project. The engineering firm that did the original bid spec then makes sure that the contractors meet that spec. They do not manage the project, they just ensure compliance with the specs. Mr. Kaiser asked then why did they say they did not need to be involved in it during the first meeting and then change their minds later. He hears that Commissioner Ward and the Chief are out there doing the inspections and doing all of these things with the contractor. His question is if they were paying them the extra money why aren't they there overseeing all of this to make sure it is getting done. Commissioner Ward stated the things they got involved in were change orders. The engineering firm does not authorize or approve changes. They just ensure compliance against the specifications. If the board uncovers something and find an issue they oversee it as the owners of the building. Most of the change orders were covered under the contingency but it is something that the board oversaw as they were the ones who changed the specifications as they went along on these items. That is where the board gets involved and you will always be involved as the owner of a project. The engineering firm takes what you ask and turns it into a spec and sends it out to the contractors. The contractors then have to provide a quote on it which the engineering firm comes back and lets them know what the change order is and what the associated costs are. Mr. Kaiser's concern is regarding some of the things the board found like 2 doors opening in on each other which is a hazard, the area being too small to fit a bed, there being no grab bar in the shower. Commissioner Ward stated they'd changed the expectations of what type bed was going to be used. The engineering firm did do their due diligence but the board put a bed in there that was 2 feet longer. That is a change that the board made that they should have picked up on as a change in the requirements but they didn't. There are always things that you run into that will be a change and you try to anticipate and plan as much as possible but in the end that's why there is a change order process and a contingency in the contract. He does feel they stayed very close to the contract price. It does take work to do that. You don't go to bid and say let me know when it's done. You own the building and you need to oversee what you do or don't want as you go along. There are things that come up that you don't necessarily think of in the beginning or things that you encounter as you go along. He does not want the impression to be that they overspent because in his opinion they have stayed very close to the spec and he is impressed that they have maintained it as well as they have.

BoFC Regular Meeting 12/18/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



At 7:28 PM, Chairman Komorsky closed the public comment section of the meeting.

Commissioner Ward stated he has two contractual items for executive session. Chairman Komorsky stated he has one personnel item for executive session.

ABSTRACT: \$315,707.55

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Pignataro and SECONDED by Commissioner Ward, the Board RESOLVED to pay the bills for the end of December per the abstract for \$315,707.55. Pignataro – Aye, Ward – Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye.

Motion Carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:30 PM, upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Pignataro, and SECONDED by Commissioner Ward, the Board RESOLVED to go into Executive Session to discuss the 2019 draft audit report, one personnel issue from Chairman Komorsky and one personnel issue and one contractual issue from Chief Champion and two contractual issues from Commissioner Ward. Pignataro – Aye, Commissioner Ward – Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

OPEN SESSION:

At 8:21 PM, the Board resumed Open Session. Chairman Komorsky stated there were no motions that need to be made as a result of the executive session.

Commissioner Pignataro stated this is Commissioner Ward's last meeting. He personally wanted to thank Commissioner Ward for his expertise, hard work, and knowledge base. It will be difficult not having that to rely on a day-to-day basis. He does appreciate everything that he has learned from Commissioner Ward. He is sad to see him go. Commissioner Taft stated he also wanted to thank Commissioner Ward for everything that he has done and for all of the work he has put in. Chairman Komorsky stated he does agree with everything that has been said. He has worked with Commissioner Ward for a very long time and he will be missed. Commissioner Ward wished Jeff Kaiser good luck as he steps into this position. Mr. Kaiser stated he has represented the department and the department does appreciate Barry for all of his work over the years.

Chairman Komorsky stated on behalf of the board he wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy and safe new year and a wonderful holiday season to everyone and their families. He has been a commissioner for a long time and he feels they have come a long way and it is dramatically different than it was when he first started. The organization has really been built out well and they are well on their way. It has been a pleasure working with everyone. He thanks Treasurer Pozniak and attorney Hekle for their work as well. There have been some tough times and tenuous things but they have all worked together and gotten through it. Commissioner Pignataro stated in his time here he has seen an improvement. It is fantastic working with the Chief and his staff and they are totally professional and they know the answers to the questions before they are asked. The district is being well served by the chief and his staff. Chairman Komorsky stated the whole group is great, including Bria and Jen. They have become a well-oiled machine across the board and get stronger every day. They have a very good, strong footing. Attorney Hekle stated that he does not have a lot of clients that his children know
BoFC Regular Meeting 12/18/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



but his kids do know Commissioner Ward. They know that Attorney Hekle enjoys speaking with him and he has been a pleasure to work with. He does regret that he was not able to be present in person tonight and he wishes Commissioner Ward and his family the best.

Chief Champion stated he wanted to express on behalf of the chiefs that they appreciate the support from the board and they look forward to the new year working together.

PREPARE 1/13/26 MEETING AGENDA:

Secretary Le will prepare the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:27 PM, upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Ward, SECONDED by Commissioner Pignataro, the Board RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting. Pignataro – Aye, Ward – Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted by
Julie Beyer on behalf of
Bria Le – District Secretary

Approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners on 1/13/26

BoFC Regular Meeting 12/18/25

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via Microsoft Teams.

VENDOR	Amount Due	PO #	12/18/2025
ACCESSPLUS ✓	\$ 924.43	14896	STAT 2 & 3 LOCAL/LONG DIST SVC
AMBU INC ✓	\$ 1,450.00	14870	EMS EQUIPMENT
ASSOC OF FIRE DIST OF NYS (KAREN SWEETING) ✓	\$ 75.00	14923	MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
BOTTINI FUEL ✓	\$ 1,093.44	14905	TEMP PROPANE STAT 1/DIESEL FUEL STAT 2
BROWN & WEINRAUB ADVISORS ✓	\$ 5,200.00	14907	LOBBYIST FOR TOWN CENTER
CASSONE LEASING ✓	\$ 1,998.00	14898	TEMP TRAILER LEASE-STATION 1
CENTRAL HUDSON ✓	\$ 3,273.13	14914	ELECTRIC/GAS/AREA LIGHT STATION 2
CPL ARCHITECTS ✓	\$ 1,623.77	14906	STAT 1 ADD'L PERSONNEL SERVICES
CRYO WELD CORP ✓	\$ 161.35	14887	OXM RENTAL
FREIHOFFER ICE & WATER ✓	\$ 148.80	14895	5 GAL WATER JUGS FOR STAT 1 & 2
GANNETT/LOCALIQ ✓	\$ 62.92	14908	LEGAL NOTICE PUBLISHED
H.O. PENN ✓	\$ 1,335.30	14902	GENERATOR INSPECTION ALL THREE STATIONS
HAUN WELDING ✓	\$ 16.70	14883	EMS SUPPLIES
JACKSON LEWIS PC ✓	\$ 23,879.50	14929	LEGAL SERVICES
KOSCOHERITAGE ✓	\$ 1,293.68	14901	FUEL OIL STATION 3 & 1
L.N. CURTIS & SONS TOOLS ✓	\$ 101.60	14899	TRAINING INSTRUCTOR MANUAL-CAREER USE
LEXIPOL ✓	\$ 11,561.43	14909	OPERATIONAL SOFTWARE
M&O SANITATION ✓	\$ 900.00	14904	SEPTIC PUMP STAT 2
MEDICAL WAREHOUSE ✓	\$ 740.68	14881	EMS SUPPLIES
MEDICAL WAREHOUSE ✓	\$ 903.68	14897	EMS SUPPLIES
MEDICAL WAREHOUSE ✓	\$ 808.66	14926	EMS SUPPLIES
MES SERVICE CO ✓	\$ 368.80	14579	RESCUE INFLATABLE
MES SERVICE CO ✓	\$ 296.82	14833	UNIFORM-CAREER
MES SERVICE CO ✓	\$ 83.08	14848	UNIFORM-CAREER
MES SERVICE CO ✓	\$ 305.09	14690	MECHANIC UNIFORM
MES SERVICE CO ✓	\$ 170.00	14739	PATCHES
MES SERVICES CO ✓	\$ 418.93	5704	FIRE GLOVES
MJ ENGINEERING ✓	\$ 13,760.00	14921	ENGINEERING FOR STATION 2 SIREN TOWER REPAIRS
NAEMSE ✓	\$ 425.00	14821	TRAINING LEVEL 1 INSTUCTOR-CAREER
NYS DEPT OF LABOR ✓ <i>ced check</i>	\$ <i>OK</i> 6.00	14900	PENALTY PESH BUREAU
NYS EMPLOYEES HEALTH-NYSHIP ✓	\$ 146,111.57	14893	MONTHLY HEALTH INS PREMIUM
OPTIMUM ✓	\$ 116.84	14911	CABLE SVC STAT 2
OPTIMUM ✓	\$ 245.68	14912	CABLE & INTERNET SVC STAT 3
OPTIMUM ✓	\$ 360.86	14913	CABLE & INTERNET SVC STAT 1
OPTIMUM ✓	\$ 195.72	14928	INTERNET SVC STAT 2
POLARIS SALES ✓	\$ 57,720.04	14313	POLARIS RANGER TRAIL BOSS
PROCLAIM INC ✓	\$ 6,908.60	14910	TRANSPORT CLAIMS EMS
QUALITY ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS ✓	\$ 17,474.20	14894	STAT 1 ASBESTOS AIR SAMPLES, LABOR +MILEAGE
RBT ACCOUNTANTS ✓	\$ 8,533.92	14925	REVIEW OF ADJUSTMENTS OF 2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENT
SECURITY MUTUAL LIFE INS ✓	\$ 1,021.75	14917	LIFE INSURANCE-CAREER
SENSIT TECHNOLOGIES ✓	\$ 157.34	14810	CALIBRATION OF METER
SHELTERPOINT ✓	\$ 198.55	14916	VISION INSURANCE
THE WORKPLACE ✓	\$ 1,863.00	14889	REQUIRED ANNUAL PHYSICAL-CAREER
VERIZON ✓	\$ 149.00	14930	INTERNET SVC STAT 2
VERIZON WIRELESS ✓	\$ 937.41	14903	APPARATUS & SMARTPHONE SERVICE
VESO LIFE ✓	\$ 327.28	14915	VOLUNTEER LIFE INS
TOTAL SUBMITTED	\$ 315,707.55		Commissioner Signatures:
<i>changes listed:</i>			Marc Komolisky <i>12/18/25</i>
			Barry Ward <i>12/18/25</i>
			Robert Taft
TOTAL APPROVED			Anthony Pignataro <i>12/18/25</i>
KEY:			Vince Tierney <i>12/18/25</i>
pre-paid:			
Paid:			