



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



MINUTES BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS Special Meeting – Wednesday, March 4th, 2026

ATTENDEES: Chairman Marc Komorsky Commissioner Jeff Kaiser
 Commissioner Robert Taft Commissioner Vincent Tierney
 Chief Anthony Champion Deputy Chief Scott Merritt
 Secretary Bria Le Bookkeeper Jen Kaiser

At 3:31 PM, Chairman Marc Komorsky called the Board of Fire Commissioners' Special Meeting to order for Wednesday, March 4th, 2026, and let the Pledge of Allegiance. He thanked everyone for coming out. He noted it was a workshop on Station 1 but he has one item for Executive Session. Chief Anthony Champion said he had one personnel item for Executive Session and Commissioner Jeff Kaiser said he also had one personnel item for Executive Session.

STATION 1 DISCUSSION:

Chairman Komorsky turned the meeting over to Commissioner Vince Tierney who said he called the meeting because they needed to give MJ (Engineering) the high-level requirements that the District think they want to be built into the design. Commissioner Kaiser said that he knows they need to move it along, but he wants to make sure they do it the right way. He doesn't want to rush into something and then go back and say they should have done it differently. He asked if they bump the building out to front side to make an office, do they have enough money for it based on the engineers recommended price. He said he thinks it would be a good thing to do if they could afford it. Next he said he gave a construction update at the union meeting and requested for the staff to come back with things they want for the Board to consider in the planning. He said that he doesn't disagree with the Chief about having decon area but noted that he doesn't see that they have enough money to do it properly. Brief discussion held on the old bathroom in the old ready room and whether moving out the front of the building was necessary. Commissioner Tierney said that bumping the building out, doing something in the kitchen, and doing something in the ready room would be between \$700,000 - \$900,000. He said he and Secretary Le went through the Building Reserve fund and, after paying for the current phase of Station 1 and (Station 2) septic, they have about \$450,000 left in the reserve fund. Firefighter/EMT Rob Wells brought up the need for office space in the firehouse and brief discussion followed regarding an office. FF/EMT Wells said that the building used to have one bathroom and a gear washer, now it will have three bathrooms, a gear washer, and a washing machine so a concern was brought forward on the well capacity and existing septic. Chairman Komorsky thanked FF/EMT Wells for bringing it up and said they would look into it and Commissioner Tierney noted that they would add testing the well capacity and septic to their list. Commissioner Kaiser asked FF/EMT Wells if the career staff had any other concerns and FF/EMT Wells said that until the beds, tables, and chairs are physically put into the spots, they won't know what fits or doesn't. Discussion followed on getting furniture for the space and the timeline for the CO and getting back into the building. Commissioner Tierney asked what the Board wanted to tell MJ about what they want to see rendered in the design. Commissioner Kaiser said that he would like to have the brickwork and masonry work looked at also. Commissioner Tierney said that he had that on the list. He said that they believe the estimates with the bump out, the kitchen, and the ready room would be \$762k. Chief Champion asked if it was

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feasible to get what it would cost for the bump out in the hallway, putting in decon showers, demoing a wall, moving a door, and doing the office space so they have the full numbers to make an educated decision. Commissioner Kaiser said that his personal opinion is that it is a bad look for the District, you just built a new building for \$1M then your ripping out a bathroom that cost probably \$30k - \$40k, and now you have to rebuild the bathroom and you are ripping walls out that you just paid \$14k to build. He said that he agrees with the chief and knows what he wants but he can't justify it. Chief Champion said the other option would be to leave the bathroom where it is, extend into what was the bunkroom, take the door out and make a new doorway closer to the kitchen, remove the bump out from the kitchen and you have an office that extends into the bunkroom area that will impact later on the space for the gym equipment. He said that he doesn't know the numbers so he can't answer what is better. Discussion followed regarding concerns on the work that still needs to be done and the associated costs. Chairman Komorsky expressed concern that they are trying to shoehorn something in and they are going to spend money, throwing good money after bad. Additional discussion held about the need to look at the big picture and plan for the future. Chairman Komorsky said there are engineering firms that specialize in firehouses and Commissioner Kaiser stated that he has said that many times that there are conferences out that that people go to for new firehouses and reconstructed firehouses, at the conferences you meet people that building and design fire stations. Discussion followed regarding whether they could build something else and potentially finding a piece of land in a better location for responding. Commissioner Tierney asked if the Board wanted him to go tell MJ to shorten the project a lot, just paint, sheetrock, middle of the line cabinets, and sheetrock the ready room. Brief discussion followed on the cabinets. Commissioner Taft asked if everyone was in agreement to trim it down to try to save money and put efforts into hiring a firm to do a needs analysis and discussion followed in regards to getting a current analysis for the district. Commissioner Taft said that his take was to keep their eyes on the bigger picture. He said that if they put a million dollars into the existing building they still won't be happy. He said that they have to do something because the town isn't getting any smaller and if they build this thing, it is going to be for a long time especially if they plan it right by getting an idea the future needs of the district. Further discussion followed about the ever increasing operating costs and tax increases. Chairman Komorsky asked how they wanted to go forward with Station 1 and Commissioner Kaiser said they should finish it off as it is. Chief Champion stated that if there was a thought process of redoing the space where the old bar was, he believes it would be advantageous to move the kitchen wall to make it flush so the kitchen would be rectangle instead of the jut out that it had previously. He said the electric needs to be done anyway and there is no electric in that wall because it was discussed that it would be temporary. Commissioner Taft said that they should get costs on the scaled back version and when they come back with a schematic or plan then they can adjust. Discussion followed about options for additional ambulance staffing during emergencies.

Commissioner Kaiser brought up the upcoming Station 1 construction meeting on Friday and said he would press CPL heavily on the design of the entryway that wasn't designed properly and the ceiling is not complete on the opposite side is a 4 inch gap between the air handler unit and the wall. He said he will press them heavily because the district is not paying extra on these two items because this was their plan that CPL designed so how are they going to solve the problem with the ceiling and what are they going to do about the floor. Commissioner Tierney stated that Meyers Construction said the mechanical guy is creating a strip of metal to fill the gap and there was a natural slope to the entrance, the old tile was very flexible but the new tile is very very stiff and when they tried to put it down it cracked so they had to do it flat. He said it was about 3/4 inch high and he spoke to the contractor and said it was a trip hazard, there was a lip. He said the contractor said they would make a BoFC Special Meeting 03/04/26

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transition piece. Commissioner Tierney said the ceilings were all done, the doors are on, there is a problem with 1 light, the windows went in today, the issues with the paint were recognized, and they will have to decide if they want to keep the extra doors. Commissioner Tierney said for the tile they ordered twice as much brown but not enough gray so the additional tile came in and they think they will get in on Monday to finish the hallway.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 5:09 PM, upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Taft and SECONDED by Commissioner Tierney, the Board RESOLVED to go into Executive Session to discuss two contractual items from Chairman Komorsky, one personnel item from Chief Champion and one personnel item from Commissioner Kaiser. Kaiser – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney – Aye, Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

OPEN SESSION & ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:13 PM the Board resumed Open Session.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Tierney and SECONDED by Commissioner Kaiser, the Board RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting. Kaiser – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney - Aye, Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Bria Le – District Secretary

Approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners on 4/14/26

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