

**CITY OF LOCKPORT**  
**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING – OFFICIAL RECORD**

Council Chambers at City Hall & gotomeeting.com

Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – 5pm

Present: Commissioners R. Bates, K. Fogle, L. Kantor, C. Morello, J. Schratz.  
Also present, Chief P. Brady, Mayor M. Roman, Deputy Corporation Counsel P. McGrath, City Clerk P. Oates

Comm. Schratz called the meeting to order at 5:03pm

- I. Reports Received
  - Motion by Comm. Fogle seconded by Comm. Morello for reports received. Ayes 5
- II. Reports Accepted
  - Motion by Comm. Bates seconded by Comm. Fogle for reports accepted. Ayes 5
- III. Approval of Minutes
  - Motion by Comm. Morello seconded by Comm. Bates to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of November 10<sup>th</sup> and the special meeting of November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. Ayes 5
- IV. Review the Chief's Agenda
  - LFD was saddened to learn of the recent death of retired Firefighter Gerald 'Jake' Fry, who started with the department on June 14, 1965
  - LFD personnel attending paramedic classes are doing fine, and will finish their semester next Thursday. Their grades are not yet available. The next semester begins Jan 4, 2021.

-Mayor Roman said it is important for LFD to have paramedic training with the pending loss of ENH over the next few years. The mayor said many times our personnel are first on the scene, and their training will be of paramount importance.

- The department has seen a COVID-19 spike recently and has attended many sick people (7 for the month, as of Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>). LFD is handling it fairly well, despite having two cases within the department. The first firefighter is due back this Saturday and the second one is due back next week. 16 rapid tests have been performed on LFD personnel.

-Comm. Morello said we should be eligible to get the test (from the county) on an as-needed basis. Comm. Schratz agreed, and said priority should be given to firefighters and police officers.

- LFD has an engine on Ernest Road, giving coverage to the south and east portions of the city, along with an engine at city hall, giving coverage to the north and west portions of the city.

-Comm. Morello said there should be plenty of room for social distancing for all personnel at fire headquarters, and that all equipment and manpower should be stationed at city hall. Comm. Kantor questioned Chief Brady on how response time is affected by the move to Ernest Road. Chief Brady said 1-2 minutes at the most, adding that the split is designed to, “keep our workforce working”. Comm. Schratz asked the chief to investigate what similar-sized departments with this situation are doing to resolve the problem, and Chief Brady said he would look into it.

- Firefighter Assist Search Team: Chief Brady said he is considering using Clarence Center for the foreseeable future until the airbase is again available. LFD has a signed agreement with the federal government for FAST, but the base team is not available because of COVID.
- The memorandum of agreement between the City of Lockport and LPFA Local 963 was signed in November, 2020.

-Comm. Schratz asked DCC McGrath for an explanation of the hazard pay clause. DCC McGrath added that the likelihood of the clause being triggered is extremely low.

- The training budget was reduced by the Common Council by \$20,000 in the 2021 budget, and that will affect new hires. The chief said he will be requesting the funding from the Council in March. He said the overtime budget, from the same time frame a

year ago, was down from \$160,000 to \$120,000. He said an effort will be made to keep it below \$160,000 for all of 2020.

- Motion by Comm. Bates, seconded by Comm. Morello, to adopt the updated work rules. Ayes: 4 Abstain: 1 (Schratz)
- Motion by Comm. Morello, seconded by Comm. Bates, that the Fire Board draft a letter to the NYS DOH requesting that random rapid testing be provided to LFD personnel. Ayes: 5

**V. Executive Session**

- Motion at 6:02pm by Comm. Morello to enter into executive session for personnel matters, seconded by Comm. Schratz. Ayes 5

**VI. End of Executive Session**

- Motion at 6:40pm by Comm. Schratz to exit executive session, seconded by Comm. Fogle. Ayes 5
- Motion by Comm. Morello to withhold the hiring of any individual, pending a legally permissible background check. Seconded by Comm. Bates. Ayes 5

**VII. At 6:46pm Comm. Fogle moved that the Board be adjourned, seconded by Comm. Kantor. Ayes 5**

The next regular meeting of the Fire Board will be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 5:30pm.

Respectfully,  
Paul K. Oates  
City Clerk

CC: Fire Board, Chief Brady, Mayor Roman, Common Council, and Corporation Counsel