

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

M-24 at City Hall & gotomeeting.com

Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – 5:30pm

**Present: Commissioners R. Bates, L. Kantor, D. Michel, C. Morello. Also present, Chief P. Brady, Mayor M. Roman, Deputies Corporation Counsel P. McGrath and J. Cafarella, City Clerk P. Oates**

**Comm. Morello called the meeting to order at 5:31pm**

- I. Reports Received**
  - **Motion by Comm. Michel, seconded by Comm. Bates, for reports received. Ayes 4**
- II. Reports Accepted**
  - **Motion by Comm. Kantor, seconded by Comm. Bates, for reports accepted. Ayes 4**
- III. Approval of Minutes**
  - **Motion by Comm. Morello, seconded by Comm. Bates, to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Ayes 4**
  - **Motion by Comm. Bates to nominate Comm. Morello board president for 2021. Seconded by Comm. Michel. Ayes 4**
  
- IV. Review the Chief's Agenda**
  - **LFD personnel attending paramedic classes: No changes, all are doing well. Personnel are now participating in clinical time. They continue to attend classes twice per week.**
  - **COVID-19 update: January was a busy month with 38 COVID calls. Call volume up 16% over one year ago. Number of COVID calls probably related to a holiday spike. Six LFD personnel were in close contact with COVID-19 positive individuals and had to quarantine. Most of the department has been vaccinated, with 8 refusing the vaccine. There have been no positive tests at LFD since Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>.**

- **Card renewals: CPR** was held on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>. ACLS will be done at the end of February or beginning of March. ITLS soon, as well.
- **AFG/SAFER grant period:** Assistance to Firefighters opened in January and closes Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>. It is a difficult grant to achieve, and the city's application falls under the 'new vehicle' category. The SAFER grant opened Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> and closes March 12<sup>th</sup>. It is expected there will be a total of \$355 million available and an estimated 300 awards, starting March 24<sup>th</sup>. There is no cost match for the city this year, if it should win an award. A SAFER grant would provide funding for 8 firefighter positions.

Commissioner Morello made a motion to order Chief Brady to draft a letter to Mayor Roman, with a copy to Director of Finance Tim Russo, requesting that the city seek funding from the office of State Fire Prevention and Control, in the form of a low-interest loan, to be used to replace the city's aging fire apparatus. Seconded by Commissioner Bates. Ayes 4.

Deputy Corporation Counsel McGrath noted that the board cannot commit to a loan without involving the Common Council. Mayor Roman said that over \$100,000 per year is spent to repair our present fire apparatus; also, that she may be able to arrange shared service with North Tonawanda on equipment maintenance/repair. Comm. Bates asked about the city's recourse should the ladder truck break down. Chief Brady replied that the city would call on the volunteer companies for assistance.

- **Work rules review signed:** Chief Brady will forward this document to Comm. Morello, as president of the board.
- **Assistant Chief test:** Will be held March 6<sup>th</sup>. Three of the four who are eligible have already signed up to take the test.
- **Agility testing results:** The three-day event went well. 21 were tested on the first day. 31 signed up, 30 attended, 4 did not pass.
- **Interview scheduling:** Chief Brady said the fire academy starts March 12<sup>th</sup>. He said the dates available for the board to conduct interviews are Tuesday, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, Friday, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. After lengthy discussion, the board decided to conduct 6 interviews on Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> (beginning at 5:30pm), 4 interviews on Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> (beginning at 5:30pm), and the remaining 12 interviews on Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> (beginning at 9am). Six firefighters need to be hired.

**V. Executive Session**

- **Motion at 6:45pm by Comm. Morello to enter into executive session to discuss personnel (permanent status for firefighters, promotions), seconded by Comm. Kantor. Ayes 4**

**VI. End of Executive Session**

- **Motion at 7:00pm by Comm. Kantor to exit executive session, seconded by Comm. Bates. Ayes 4**

**VII. At 7:01pm Comm. Kantor moved that the Board be adjourned, seconded by Comm. Bates. Ayes 4**

**The next regular meeting of the Fire Board will be held on Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 5:30pm.**

**Respectfully,**

**Paul K. Oates**

**City Clerk**

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