

**LODI AREA FIRE DISTRICT
FIRE COMMISSION AGENDA**

MEETING DATE & TIME: Wednesday, April 10th, 2019 5:00 PM

MEETING LOCATION: Lodi Fire Station, 115 N. Main St. Lodi, WI 53555

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, the Lodi Area Fire Commission will hold its monthly meeting at the date, time and meeting location stated above. Members of and possibly a quorum of the governing bodies of the City of Lodi, Town of Lodi and the Town of West Point may be in attendance for the purpose of gathering information. No action will be taken on anything other than items specifically referred to in this notice.

MINUTES

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

President Doug Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM

2. ROLL CALL

All members present – Mike Bilkey, Doug Nelson, Nick Cable, James Brooks & Matt Davies,

3. CITIZEN INPUT *

Town of Lodi Chairman Brian Henry,
Town of Lodi Deputy Clerk Deputy Clerk Jay
Lodi Firefighter Dan Markart & John Lehr

DISCUSSION, REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS:

4. SECRETARY

A. MEETING MINUTES:

1. Wednesday, March 13th, 2019

Bilkey/Cable motion to approve the minutes. M/C 5-0

5. TREASURER:

A. Payment of bills

B. Financial Reports

Bilkey/Davies motion to approve checks 5790 – 5801 and automatic withdrawals for KMA, Utilities, Bank and the chief's paycheck. M/C 5-0

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6. STORAGE UNIT RENTAL

Chief Annon checked out 3 locations for rental units and the average cost is 75.00 to 100.00 a month for a unit. Chief Annon said this should be temporary but we need to make room for gear. Bilkey asked what locations were looked at. Annon, Lodi and Harmony Grove. Bilkey – said having it in Lodi is an advantage having because its close.

Chief Annon said I will keep it in Lodi because its close by for us in case we need to respond to it. Chief said they will pay for a year up front.

Bilkey/Brooks motion for the chief to use his best discretion when choosing a location when it comes to the actual location and price. M/C 5-0

7. VEHICLE REPLACEMENT FUND

Davies, I'm concerned that it could make it harder for the municipalities if the money was given back to the them. Deputy Clerk Jay said it could be a headache, but we should keep it in the fire department. Davies, we could talk with the communities and ask them what they would like to do with it.

Bilkey, for the year of 2017 the Town of Lodi and the Town of West Point paid with the City of Lodi withholding their payment share. My thought process was and I don't know this because I don't do municipal book keeping but if they can save money for equipment and they are they should be able to just put it in there and that shouldn't be a problem, but I don't know any of that. I just know sitting on that gets confusing every year.

Brooks, we have an item on the agenda that's next that pertains to this and the discussion we are having. Bilkey, the money that is currently sitting in the accounts are as follows, The Town of Lodi has \$18,680.00 and the Town of West Point: \$9340.00

Brooks, we have to do a vote on that to go to move on to the next item. Bilkey, someone can make a motion to table it I think.

Bilkey/Davies I make a motion to table this until after the next item. M/C 5-0

8. CAPITOL BUDGET AND ITEMS IN CAPITOL BUDGET

Brooks, I put this on the agenda due to a discussion with a past community leader and in this discussion this leader didn't feel the Fire Commission, nor the Fire Chief was running the fire department correctly. The leader talked about the age of fire trucks, age of the building and how we will be coming to the community with the need of new trucks and a new building and it will cost millions. I explained to this leader a Capitol Budget was laid out and over half of the pamphlets with all the fire department future needs as far as building upgrades and fire truck purchases were left behind sitting on the table, which meant very few on the City Council or Town Boards know what the needs are.

Since I put this on the agenda, I have learned that Deputy Clerk Deputy Clerk Jay, Julie Ostrander from the City of Lodi and the fire chief have been in discussion about future needs and this is now being addressed. This Fire Board and the Fire Chief need to keep in mind that on the Town of Lodi alone we will have two new members on the board and I don't know about the other municipalities, ultimately this Capitol Budget needs to be

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addressed at the next joint Municipal meeting regarding the fire department. The new members need to be educated about all the issues we are running into with the fire department and the ones that are still sitting on boards must have forgotten about our aged fire trucks and that they will need replacement in the next 5 or so years and that we are having issues with the building. We need to keep this information fresh in people's minds that we are having problems down here at the fire department.

Fire Chief Annon, so everyone in this room with the exception of Deputy Clerk Jay probably our new Town Chairman is aware that three years ago I took a capitol budget plan to the municipalities which included air packs and a potential schedule for truck replacement along with repairs to the building. I presented this nice packet of information, I made one for everyone in the room which half of the elected officials left behind at the end of the night. This was greatly disappointing. These things municipalities claim to be blindsided by are ridiculous. All the leaders have been made aware of it. The problem that I see here is the joint meeting that we have every year, no one takes notes on what was said. No one takes minutes. They can't go back and say the chief did say something about that or a member can look at the minutes. I hate that the finger always gets pointed back at us and we are at fault when we clearly aware of these upcoming purchases. You go to the City's public safety meeting and there talking about purchasing planters for main St instead of putting money away to purchase fire trucks. We really need to get this point across, I don't know any other way to do it other the do what I did with the Capitol Budget. I put hours into the Capitol Budget plan, and nobody cared. I said, you all need to start putting away about \$100,000.00 dollars a year to start funding replacements in the future and that fell on deaf ears. I'm very happy to have Deputy Clerk Jay hear, he seams to have knowledge on how to do this, your right James, this needs to be brought up, I don't like getting a finger point at me saying we didn't know about this, why do you need this or why did you spend this money when they were all told at that meeting. Everyone from this commission knows this was said at that meeting but others don't want to admit it, so then they say the fire department is being run like crap when they drop a \$200,000.00 bombshell on us. That makes me upset.

Davies, especially when they were warned how many times. Chief Annon, they were warned numerous times and they are saying until there blue in the face they weren't and that's what really ticks me off. Bilkey, we talked about it each year. Chief Annon, these people down here including myself work very hard and things are going good down here. I tried to get this capitol budget to fly and like I said, half of them were sitting on the table at the end of the night so what kind of message is that sending, we don't care, right? Is that how you would view that? Brooks, absolutely! So then there saying, we didn't know about this, well you did but you left your information on the table a few years ago when you left. I understand there is turn around and there are newly elected officials and that stuff is going to happen but if where going to continue have this giant meeting which I'm not a fan of to begin with but if that's the way they want to continue, someone needs to start taking detailed notes about what's talked about so they can be accessed and reviewed at a later time. I'm hearing the municipalities have no idea what's going on here. That's should never happen, the minutes of these meetings should be posted, and you guys are appointed to this board. If they want, they should be asking you. It just upsets me when they say their blindside or mismanaged. I hope this is going to be in the past. We need to bring up this capitol budget again and it needs to be drilled in hard. I'm going to send Deputy Clerk Jay what I have and where going to work on it and push it home. Engine 10 turns 25 in about four years and it is really starting to cost us a lot of money to keep it in service. We should be deciding if its worth keeping or if we should get rid of it. It can be moved to a back up engine, this year along I already have \$10,000.00 into the thing for repairs and were only in April. I'm with you, that's all I'm saying, and it needs to be drilled home somehow better than it was. I thought I did it right but apparently, I didn't. Bilkey, you did but you didn't, it is extremely painful to go to those meetings every year and have them say that everything we told them last year is a surprise this year. Chief Annon, to have them thinking were not doing things right down here is a real disservice to me and everyone down here. Brooks, you drilled it home, people just weren't listening. Chief Annon, that's just it, I don't know how to get them to listen. These are the things to be done we need to be prepare for the future, the

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Capitol Budget is the only way to do that, otherwise in four years I'm going to walk into that meeting and I need \$700,00.00 dollars for a new fire truck, get your checkbooks out and that's not going to go good. Davies, the meeting that is held once a year is just a circus, does anyone know why it done that way? Bilkey, historically the fire department and the EMS would present their budgets that night and people would kind of know what it would say. If people had questions, they sort of dealt with them ahead of time and that meeting was really just to approve the budgets because people already knew what was going to be in there. The City at some point decided they wanted it earlier to talk about it and then they wanted each municipality to take it back and have their own discussions about it, which really doesn't make any sense because you have to put it all together and then bring it back to the people that really made the budget in the rights place. Davies, you just created a month of paperwork. Bilkey, the thought process was they would have the budget done earlier but it made it actually get done later. There now talking about redoing the agreements and that will change things, whether it changes things for the better or not, that's to be seen but things will change. Chief Annen, I'm with you Mike, I'm not really a fan of that meeting for a couple reasons because of what you just said and the City emails me every year in July and asks me for my proposed budget, there is no reason why it shouldn't be ready for the joint meeting.

They assign you, elected official, you can take the stuff back and explain it to the boards and explain it to the municipalities and vote on it. Its nice to see everyone in one place and get things accomplished together and that's required sometimes like this study, we needed everyone's heads together but for the budget, that's not needed. I expect to have a new draft of the Capitol Budget in the next couple months and I will bring it to you guys ad you can look at it and see what you think. I don't know how Mark Wickham accomplished this, but all these trucks are within 10 years of each other. Dan Markart, he didn't have a choice and you are going to run into that same trouble. Chief Annon, right the ages of the trucks are very close in age so its going to be one of those things where its one truck after another. I don't want to spec out another truck to fit in this building, that is the goal. I would limp engine 10 along as long as I can until it cost effectively no longer makes sense to run it. I'm hoping that once this study is done we can move forward with a normal sized station but Dan's right, we are going to run into the same problem as Chief Wickham did and we will need to start replacing them because they are at end of life and the cost to repair them to keep them on the road will be to high. Engine 10 has a tank issue where it keeps leaking and no one can seem to find the problem. Its nickel and diming us but the \$1000.00's though. Bilkey, they're going to have figure out how to deal, they're going to have to figure out how to do this different, they're going to have a different plan maybe it will be better. Chief Annen, where going to go in with the capitol budget but there going to have to realize that there will be millions of dollars needed in the next ten years for new fire trucks. Where ok for the next couple of years but from there its not good. I don't want to spec out a truck for this building. The trucks we have no longer fit there gear we need to have on one fire truck and specing out a truck to fit this building will give us the same exact problem in the future. We have gear all around so when we get a certain call, we need to get the gear that is for that type of call which then slows our response time to that emergency call for service. For our long range plans the brush truck was already supposed to be replaced but its not costing us anything in repairs so saving taxpayer dollars make sense. The truck meets NFP standards so were good there. Bilkey, I think that's really what your going to have to do, you need to figure out how to meet those standards and replace what makes the most sense to replace over time because you're going to have a hard time getting the money for the trucks. If you come to them in 2025 and tell them we need all new trucks its not going to happen, even if you start telling them now you need new trucks that's probably not going to happen. Chief Annen, obviously in 2025 we won't need all new trucks. Brooks, no but we need to start putting substantial amounts of money away for vehicle replacements or we won't have hardly anything when the time comes. Chief Annen, years ago it was a \$100,000.00 a year that was replacement of trucks, gear, hose, extrication equipment. For years now we have been replacing extrication equipment out of donated funds. That should not be happening, that needs to be a budget item which in that long rang budget plan its there. Extrication equipment is not a frivolous non necessity, we must cut people out of cars. Stuff that is needed to make the department run should be in the budget. We have a little bit in the budget for a rope fund but

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it's a start. Dan Markart, 99% of the extrication equipment has come from donated funds. Chief Annen, those items are all in that capitol budget I brought to the meeting. We raise money and would like to use that for maybe extra equipment or maybe use the money to enhance the equipment we have but it should not all be used to purchase new equipment or be relied on to purchase equipment. We just purchased an UTV for \$30,000.00 with donated funds. It can be used for grass fires or if there is a snowmobile accident out on the trail. This isn't a required piece of equipment, but it will enhance use doing our job. Since Mark left there really wasn't direction and equipment were necessarily taken care of like it should've. A lot of the stuff I'm asking for should've been taken care of or done but wasn't. My understanding is there was something in place it just wasn't followed. The municipalities need to know that within the next couple years there will be a need for a new engine and that bill will be at minimum \$750,000.00 and that is a stripped-down model with nothing on it. There will be cost to purchase that extra gear. Tenders are running \$500,000.00 dollars now. Brooks, we just purchased air packs but already we should be putting money away for the next purchase of air packs. Chief Annen, that was also part of the Capitol Budget the municipalities have not acted on. That is why a hundred thousand should be put away every year for at least ten years. There would be a million dollars sitting in there after ten years. That money is to purchase items like air packs and fire trucks. It is not cheap to run a fire department. I think \$100,000.00 was on the low end. I think it may have been \$130,000.00 a year. Chief Annen, Brooks your right. This needs to be in place, when I leave, I want to leave it better for the next chief. I wan that person to have a clear path for them. When I came in as chief it was a purchase after purchase for things that should've been done but wasn't. Flying by the seat of your pants will not work. Chief Annen to Dan Markart, do you have anything to add. Dan, the biggest issue I see is people get the ball rolling and then after a while it stops. Sometimes it's a change in the municipal boards or change in fire department personal but it stops. It then starts over again, and time is lost. From when Mark was the Chief, there should be money in the budget for new trucks, purchasing land and building a new building. Mark had money coming in. That all gone. Brooks, there is a lack of forward thinking. Chief Annen, exactly and that is what upset me three years ago when all those packets were left behind after the meeting. I keep saying this every year but there not listening. Deputy Clerk Deputy Clerk Jay, I can give you a little something there, the major problem is there is when the town and the city does there budget there is an operating budget and the capitol budget is left separate, usually the capitol budget is left separate because you can then borrow for the capitol budget because you can't borrow for the operating budget. The city tends to do the borrowing and the towns want to put money away, on the back page of the profit and loss there I added in some of the vehicle expenses and the vehicle replacement fund should go as p art of the annual operating budget so its not left out or forgotten. That should show \$80,000.00 to \$100,00.00 and then that gets split out into right now its zero but I'm putting the holders in now. Like the building, there needs to be building improvements building contingency funds for if the roof caves in but there would already be money sitting aside and that way there would be money. If three isn't an operating budget and a capitol budget I think that's where the ball gets dropped, where if there is one number coming from fire and one from EMS to take to the municipalities it would be easier. I would be Leary on giving the money back to the municipalities that should be on your budget. Cost of everything was in the budget so these surprises did occur, its built in. Bilkey form my perspective, how do we deal with the issue of the city needing to pay the \$18,000.00 or we give the money back to the municipalities, I'm assuming the two towns would save the money. To your point that's the right way to do it whether we save it, or they do it I don't really care, I care that there saving it for the next purchase. The city decided there not playing that way, there just going to borrow. The municipalities should've got on the same page at that time, but didn't so now we are stuck in a rock and a hard place. I don't like going to the meeting and having someone from the town of west point ask when the city of Lodi is going to pay that money back. I have no clue when that's gonged to happen. Brooks, my thought is, if Deputy Clerk Jay can notate it somehow in QuickBooks the city of Lodi didn't pay but the town of Lodi and west point did that shouldn't be a problem. Deputy Clerk Jay, I will be preparing a monthly report which will show this information. Brooks, I'm not concerned if it noted on paper in computer. Bilkey, I just don't want to see it forgotten about and in 2020 a member says where is the missing money or why was it like this. I see this

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is driving a wedge between the municipalities. Brooks, if were going to pay back we need to pay it all and zero out the account. Bilkey, the account is at around \$10,000.00 because of purchases. We would need to take money from other funds to pay the municipalities back that paid that year. Davies, it's up to us to fix this problem, the city decided not to pay which irritated the two town boards, that's between them but we will need to fix it. Deputy Clerk Jay, I have talked with Julie Ostrander at the city, she has the same mindset that it needs to be fixed. We are really working this out and things are going well. We are working on a system with life span on equipment and more. Bilkey, maybe that's part of the deal and that's how this gets fixed, your doing the books now and the process wasn't working and maybe you can get it to work. Deputy Clerk Jay, I was invited to a meeting and gave them a presentation on the finances from last year and where we are now. I told them we will need a lot more money to keep the fire department up and running. Julie said they will have it on as a normal agenda item. This will be done for Fire and EMS. Once a year is not working. Its been shelved and this is something that should be on a monthly agenda item. Bilkey, one of the alder people said he would add a third to the budget and get it back up to a level playing field but he's no longer on the council. Brooks, I'd like to see the money come back on to the fire department budget and have it on our books but there needs to be good accounting of this to show what each municipality has on there accounts. Deputy Clerk Jay, that is what the levee was for. The municipalities never needed to come back for anything, the EMS gave them the cost and it was paid. These meeting minutes will make it clear which municipality owes what. People come and people go, and people remember it that way and this way. These minutes should stand and so do the financials. Deputy Clerk Jay, I will be recreating the books and it will show the less money form the City of Lodi. Bilkey in 2012 maybe the two town chairs and I agreed we put the money in a vehicle replacement fund and then the city changed it. Deputy Clerk Jay, it will be replicated every month who and who not has paid.

Bilkey/Davies I resend my Motion. M/C 5-0

9. FIRE CHIEF REPORTS:

A. Building update(s)

Chief - Need to get on the agenda replacing the front of the building area. Bilkey we need to get estimates on the front pad. We can do a bay or two at a time. We will store the truck down at the plant maybe.

B. Fire call report(s)

Total of 8 calls

City of Lodi

5

#30 Gas Leak – South main St. Flood there was gas coming from business

#31 public assist on Portage St. flooding

#33 gas leak Columbus St. pilot light went out of fireplace.

#34 Gas Leak South Main St. Flooding

#36 Crash Skid Steer fell of trailer

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#35 Fire Alarm on South Countyline Rd. burnt food

#37 Fire Alarm West Harmony Dr. false alarm.

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Town of West Point

1

Flood related call at Crystal Lake – 40 people to be rescued – need a bus. Dozen trailers flooded but they were all safe and there were no patients there. Assisted with evacuation

Mutual aid

None

C. Other status report(s)

Sitting at 39 members

We have several that took there practical for fire fighting

D. Upcoming event(s)

Sending out our calendar at the end of May. Gun Raffle tickets will be getting printed this week or so and that will start up.

We will be doing a pancake breakfast the day of the Brewbecue.

E. Other issues the Fire Chief wishes to bring to the attention of the Fire Commission **

Chief Annen gave a synopsis of the Flood Incident for the City of Lodi

F. Other questions from Commission members **

Davies - What is the population of the fire district? 8500

Davies – fire fighter pay, do you track hours worked? Bobby - No point system, its per call. Who is here and how often?

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Replacement of front pad

11. ADJOURN

Davies/Bilkey motion to adjourn M/C 5-0

Minutes Prepared by:

Town of Lodi Supervisor I

James P. Brooks

The Fire Commission welcomes public input on any agenda or non-agenda topic but will not discuss or take action on any topic that is not on the agenda. The Fire Commission reserves the right to limit the duration of citizen statements and will not engage in debate with a citizen presenter. At the sole discretion of the Commission Chair, a citizen or a member of the Fire Department may be recognized for a brief statement during discussion on an agenda topic. Fire Department members who wish to speak on an agenda topic should speak with the Fire Chief in advance and must be called upon by the Fire Chief. The Fire Commission Chair may or may not decide to recognize a member of the Fire Department who has been called upon by the

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Fire Chief. To designate the item(s) on the agenda this paragraph speaks of is designated by the following mark *. If action is needed it will be placed on a future agenda for discussion and possible action.

No action by the Fire Commission can be taken on any issue or question brought up with the following designated mark ** on the agenda. If action is needed it will be placed on a future agenda for discussion and possible action.