

***LODI AREA FIRE DISTRICT
FIRE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 17, 2024***

MEETING DATE, TIME & LOCATION: The LAFD Fire Commission held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at the Lodi Area Fire Department, located at 115 N. Main St. Lodi, WI 53555.

MINUTES

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER** Since Commission president Cable was unable to attend, vice president Matt Davies served as acting president for purposes for this meeting. Davies called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.
2. **ROLL CALL** Commission members present were Kurt, Strasser, Davies, Lendved and Kessler. Commission member Cable was absent. Fire Chief Sievers was also present. A quorum of the Fire Commission was present.
3. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA / AGENDA REPAIR / CERTIFICATION OF POSTING** The meeting agenda was properly posted at the assigned locations. Moved by Kurt; Seconded by Strasser to approve the agenda as distributed with moving agenda item #9 to follow item #4. Motion carried.
4. **UPDATE ON NEW FIRE DEPARTMENT SITE NEGOTIATIONS** The Fire Commission did not move into closed session. Mayor Groves Lloyd was present and presented an update. The City and the property owner met today and are getting updated estimates on utilities to serve the property. Steve Neander, Town of Lodi Chair, attended the meeting. The revised plan is that utilities will extend from the street the edge of the lot line only. Tax incremental financing is being investigated and pursued. The next meeting between the parties will be on Feb. 19 or 21. Chief Sievers has been contacted by Devin Flannigan of Keller Assoc. regarding consulting on the process for development of a new fire station. The Commission agreed that Mr. Flannigan should be invited to make a presentation at the next Fire Commission meeting.
5. **IGA – UPDATE / PREPARATION AND TRANSMITTAL OF FIRE COMMISSION COMMENTS** Fire Commission members discussed the latest new draft of the IGA which was sent via email on 11/15/23 by Lodi Town Attorney Morgan. Nick Strasser had prepared a “compare documents” version that shows differences between the currently approved IGA and the version distributed by Lodi Town Attorney Morgan. He distributed the document electronically on 1/1/24. Fire Commission members discussed their comments on the latest version of the IGA and agreed upon consensus comments. Commission members agreed that Commission president Cable could draft a letter and transmit the Commission comments to the three municipalities and their attorneys on behalf of the Commission.
6. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: December 20, 2023.** Moved by Kessler to approve the meeting minutes of 12/20/23 as distributed. Seconded by Kurt. Motion carried.
7. **CITIZEN INPUT ON NON-AGENDA TOPICS** No input on non-agenda topics from any citizen present.

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8. **FIRE CHIEF REPORT** Fire Chief Sievers presented his monthly report which had been distributed and is hereby incorporated into the minutes. The annual appreciation dinner was held on January 13, 2024. Chief Sievers reported on significant problems since the recent snowfall with roof leaks. The preliminary estimate for repair is \$66,527. No Commission action was taken. Emergency snow clearing has occurred, but long-term repairs cannot be made until warmer weather. This should be an agenda item for the next Commission meeting.
9. **CONFIRMATION OF NEW FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS BY THE FIRE COMMISSION.** Moved by Kessler; Seconded by Buck to approved the Fire Chief's recommendations for new officers. Deputy Chief John Lehr and Assistant Chief Jeff Gort. (Captains and Lieutenants are appointed by the Chief). Motion carried.
10. **ACCOUNTING SERVICES AGREEMENT** On January 17, 2024, Nick Strasser distributed via email a revised version of a proposed accounting services agreement between the City of Lodi and the Fire Commission. The newest version reflected discussion and revisions requested by the Fire Commission at their November and December, 2023 meetings. Moved by Kessler; Seconded by Strasser to approve the Accounting Services Agreement as presented by the treasurer (Strasser).
11. **UPDATE ON CREATION OF LAFD AS A s.501(c)(3) ENTITY UNDER IRS REGULATIONS** The Fire Chief reported that the IRS has approved the application via. a letter dated 12-22-23. The effective date is 10-4-23.
12. **INITIAL RESPONSE VEHICLE / BRUSH TRUCK; VEHICLE B16 STATUS /USE/ REPLACEMENT** The proposed contract from the manufacturer has been presented to the City of Lodi Council and to the West Point Town Board. Both municipalities have authorized the Fire Commission to proceed. The contract allows only 60 days for approval rather than 90 days as had been expected. The Town of Lodi Board will be considering authorization at their meeting on 1-18-24. Moved by Kessler; Seconded by Strasser to approve signature of the contract contingent upon authorization by the Lodi Town Board.
13. **TREASURER:**
 - a. **Payment of bills** Moved by Kessler to approve payment of the bills and payroll as presented. Seconded by Kurt. Motion passed.
 - b. **Financial reports** The financial reports were distributed electronically. There was discussion about a need for a plan for use of reserves and for investment of reserve monies.
14. **OTHER QUESTIONS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS** No further questions were presented.
15. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** Fire station site negotiations update; IGA update; Initial response vehicle update; Plan for use and investment of financial reserves; Fire Chief's report; Plus, standing agenda items.
16. **ADJOURN** Moved by Kessler to adjourn; Seconded by Kurt. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:35.