

**LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SAFETY
COORDINATING COMMITTEE
2207 Lawrence Road
Lawrence Township, New Jersey 08648**

Minutes

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Members Present: James Kownacki, Council Liaison
Kevin Nerwinski, Municipal Manager/QPA
Chief Brian Caloiaro, Lawrence Township Police
Jack Oakley, Emergency Management Coordinator
Edward Tencza, Fire Marshal
Chief Raymond Nagy, Lawrenceville Fire Company
Carol Chamberlain, Health Department
Chief Marty Sudol, Slackwood Fire Company
Chief Michael Byrd, Lawrence Road Fire Company
Mike Burzachiello, Community Representative
Ron Dziminski, Community Representative
Michael Oakley, Community Representative
Elissa Grodd Schragger, Community Representative
Charles Sista, Community Representative

Members Absent: William Holmes, Community Representative
Mike Rodgers, Construction Official

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Jack Oakley at 6:35 p.m.

Minutes: The minutes for the February 11, 2020, meeting were reviewed by the Committee. A motion was made by Ed Tencza and was seconded by Ron Dziminski to approve the minutes as written. All were in favor.

Public Participation

There was no Public Comment

Old Business

Ed Tencza reported that Chick-Fil-A is moving forward as planned.

Lawrence Shopping Center – Lidle is progressing and early planning is anticipating an August opening. LA Fitness has been put on hold until COVID restrictions are lifted. Starbucks is moving along as scheduled.

New Business

Carol Chamberlain reported the Lawrence Township Health Department continued to be busy with COVID-19 concerns. The health Office is working with Mercer County on vaccine clinics which will be administered at the Cure Arena in Trenton. People should be registering online with the State.

At this time Jack Oakley recognized Carol Chamberlain's retirement after 35 years of dedicated service to the Township. Carol has been an important asset to the Township and the residents she serves, dedicating her time and caring to those she is helping. She will be very missed. Thank you, Carol, for your hard work and dedication.

Each fire chief reported on their equipment: Station 21 has Engine 21 out of service. Mike Byrd reported at Station 22 has their new pumper in service and Ray Nagy reported that Station 23 has all vehicles in-service. Jack Oakley reports that EMS 129-4 is out of service with engine problems.

Fire Department advised committee members that on January 15 there was a fire on Heritage Way and that a hydrant was out of service and TWW did not notify us of the problem. Discussion continued that TWW occasionally will advise us, but on this instance, we were not aware of the hydrant. It was back in service the next day.

There was also a fire on President Avenue – PSE&G reports this was caused by a boiler problem. Carbon monoxide levels were at 500 ppm and no CO detector was on-site.

Jack Oakley thanked Kevin Nerwinski for his blog honoring the EMTs and their service this year during COVID-19 pandemic. It was recognized and appreciated.

Chief Caloiaro discussed the new legalization of marijuana. This law has been passed and now the Police Department has to provide answers for all the questions they are receiving. It is his belief that it is dangerous for kids and there are not enough experts to provide needed answers to the concerns we have. It will be a serious challenge for law enforcement and NJ police departments are not yet prepared for this.

Chief Caloiaro also announced that Volunteers of America are now working with the Police Department. These volunteers will be stationed in the police building and will be available 40 hours a week to assist with social service problems i.e., homelessness, drug addiction, domestic violence and will assist councilors in our schools.

Other Business/Correspondence

Jack Oakley introduced Charles Sista who has been appointed as a member of the Public Safety Committee. Let's all welcome him.

Mike Burzachiello began a discussion regarding the fire hydrants at the new Cobblestone development. These hydrants are a new style and were apparently improperly installed. Ed Tencza will check to see if this problem was corrected. Further discussed continued as to hydrants not being properly marked when the water is shut off. Career staff is going to be checking all hydrants in the spring to ensure they are operational. It was suggested that firemen should be marking hydrants that are not working and it should not take several months for a hydrant to be repaired and operational. Kevin Nerwinski stressed that hydrants MUST be managed and it needs to be a priority and taken care of immediately. Per Township ordinance, hydrants must be shoveled out after a snow fall.

Kevin Nerwinski announced that a benefactor donated four drones to the Lawrence Township Police Department. These drones will be used for various situations, such as active shooters and missing persons. Nine police officers and one EMT have been trained and certified in the operation of the drones. Lawrence Township will share these resources with neighboring towns. Lawrence Township also received two donated motorcycles from the same benefactor. These cycles will be used for community events throughout the year.

The Committee was advised that Amazon will be having a helicopter at their site Saturday to place 30 AC units on the roof of the building on Princess Road.

The next meeting will be scheduled on May 11, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Having no further business to be brought before the Committee, a motion to adjourn was made by Mike Burzachiello, seconded by Jim Kownacki and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Yvette Martinette