

**Board of Fire Commissioners**  
Regular Meeting for October  
October 14, 2010

The regular meeting of the City of Cortland Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order at 5:20 p.m. by Chairman Heath. Board members present include Commissioner Minnella, Commissioner Quinlan, Commissioner Buttino and Commissioner Tricarico. Also present were Fire Chief Glover and Assistant Fire Chief Friedman.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Trish Hansen, from TLC, presented to propose a 5 year contract between TLC and the City of Cortland. The goal is to create a better relationship between the City of Cortland Departments and TLC. TLC is proposing a contract, similar to the one they have with the City of Auburn, in which TLC would be the sole ambulance provider for the City and in return TLC would handle billing for the incidents and open up training opportunities. There would be no cost to the City. The monies received from billing the insurance companies, not the resident of the City, would then go back to the City. The City would need to pass a local law and establish billing rates.

In respect to trainings TLC would offer such trainings as Blood Borne Pathogens, CPR, ALS and others. The only charge for the training would be for the book and cards. A complete list of trainings could be sent to Department heads.

Moved by Commissioner Quinlan, seconded by Commissioner Buttino to approve the September 2010 meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Tricarico, seconded by Commissioner Minnella to pay the bills as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Quinlan, seconded by Commissioner Tricarico to accept the paid staff sick report. All in favor, motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Minnella, seconded by Commissioner Buttino to accept the application for membership of John Slavick Jr. to company #6. All in favor, motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Tricarico, seconded by Commissioner Quinlan to accept the following:

Add/Change Forms: Resigned Jeremie Currie Company #6  
Resigned Michael Kordek Company #1  
Resigned John Stimson Company #1

All in favor, motion carried.

## **Chief's Report:**

Fire Chief Glover attended Chief Baron's retirement party and the Career Fire Chiefs Meeting last month where Chief Baron was honored.

A trip to South Dakota was made to attend a pre-build meeting for the new aerial apparatus that went well.

Open House, the Inspection and Memorial Service were well attended and received. He has heard nothing but good things. 201 is not quite in service yet, due to warranty items being addressed.

A few people have stopped in for volunteer applications recently.

Assistant Fire Chief Wayne Friedman thanked the commissioners for their support with the recent Fire Department activities especially the Inspection and Memorial Service.

He attended a meeting with the Historic Commission, to discuss the replacement of the garage doors at headquarters. Parts are no longer manufactured for the doors that we have. The focus was to get doors that can be readily maintained and that are in good working order before winter.

## **Old Business**

Commissioner Quinlan reported that he and Commissioners Minnella and Buttino met and discussed false alarms and receiving compensation for them if they become excessive. The idea was brought up that after two false alarms the owner of the building would be billed and the cost would increase for each additional call in that calendar year. To keep track of this there would be a database maintained.

Commissioner Minnella brought out that 700 codes are false alarms, alarm codes within that group are more commonly related to the actions of individuals within the building, system failures and so on. It would be the call of the incident commander or Captain as to what the code for the incident would be. He said we are the point of looking at other places similar to Cortland to come up with a model law and then we can move on from there.

Chief Glover stated this is not in an endeavor to necessarily make money but to alter the behavior of the property owner, construction companies working on the property ..., so as to reduce false alarms. He also made the point that the fine would be to the owner of the residence not to the tenant.

This is something that would need to be taken to the Common Council. It should be clearly stated that this is not to generate money but rather to reduce false

alarms. Commissioner Minnella discussed putting together a package on the intent, how to administer and how other municipalities handle it so the Council can understand the background.

Secondly, Commissioner Minnella was tasked to create a draft letter that was going to go to the volunteers regarding the consolidation of companies. He presented the letter to Chairman Heath. He brought out that he doesn't want to define too much of how they handle the task and would like to give them some time to research it. A discussion followed regarding a time line of when the Companies would be asked to report on their ideas regarding the matter. It was decided to ask for an interim report in February and a final report presented to the Commissioners in May.

### **New Business**

A discussion regarding Trish Hansen's presentation ensued.

Commissioner Quinlan stated that the Mayor is requesting input on consolidation of services. With that in mind, the college is doing a community forum on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m. on "Does Efficiency Trump Tradition? The Consolidation of Local Governments, the Misconceptions and Realities". Commissioner Minnella will be recording the forum and said it would be shown on channel 2 also.

Communication from the Board of Engineers was received regarding the Keith Whiting Award. The Board of Commissioners can nominate someone if they choose.

Commissioner Quinlan received an e-mail which gave a website for the comprehensive plan proposal. The Mayor is looking for input specifically for the fire department. If everyone can read it, make notes, then everyone is aware of the proposal and there can be a fruitful discussion of it in the future.

Moved by Commissioner Minnella, seconded by Commissioner Quinlan to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Courtney L. Metcalf  
Administrative Assistant