

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

Minutes

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

Members Present: Patricia Hendricks Farmer, Mayor
Olympia Perry, Council Liaison
Edward Tencza, Fire Marshal
Kevin Reading, Interim Chief of Police
Keith Levine, Health Officer
Jim DeForte, Construction Official
Charles Sista, Community Representative
Ron Dziminski, Community Representative

Members Absent: Kevin Nerwinski, Municipal Manager
Jack Oakley, Emergency Management Coordinator
Raymond Nagy, Lawrenceville Fire Company
Michael Oakley, Slackwood Fire Company
David Moore, Lawrence Road Fire Company
Christina Vincent, Emergency Management Chief
Jim Kownacki, Community Representative
Mike Burzachiello, Community Representative
Christopher Laird, Community Representative
John Clarke, Community Representative

Public Attendee: n/a

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Edward Tencza at 6:34 p.m.

Minutes: The minutes from the June 10, 2025 meeting were reviewed by the Committee. A motion was made by Keith Levine and was seconded by Ronald Dziminski to approve the minutes as written. All were in favor.

Public Participation

There was no public comment.

Old Business

Sub-Committee – No new updates on Emergency Center.

TWW- No new updates

Olympia Perry- Neighbor advised they called 911 and took 16 rings before call was answered.

Chief Kevin Reading- 911 has been having problems. System was down for a few days. Ewing took over calls. Equipment issues and K&L is out of business. No support or parts. County Dispatch had some parts and we were able to get it working. Going to get 911 system upgraded in winter to early part of New Year with two fully functioning 911 consoles.

Olympia Perry- Wasn't there money approved for an upgrade?

Chief Kevin Reading- Approved money was to upgrade CAD. 911 system is at least 23 years old. But we did move our Dispatchers back in house.

New Business

Olympia Perry- Putting a new survey out. Came out with a matrix with committee members, Chrissie, Ray, Ron, John Clarke and Mike Radcliffe. We went over the bids and came out with the top 3. Not ready for consolidation. Need survey to come up with best location, what the best staffing model will be and what resources we will use. We need to make sure we are responding and maintaining safety with the hybrid model that we have now. Which is 8-4 on Fire and then the Volunteers. We have approached Township, Manager and Jack, with some options that need to be taken care of but with our form of government, we cannot make any decisions. Kevin has to initiate that. But lastly, we do have a viable way to make this current model functional if we update the staffing, provide the right resources to the staffing and incorporating and making sure the volunteers are still part of the mix.

Edward Tencza- What are the terms of consolidation?

Olympia Perry- The original survey and what the Manager had considered was 1 unit with 3 bays and EMS and Fire somewhere in the pad of the Municipal Building.

Edward Tencza- I thought you meant consolidation as in bring the fire departments all together which they have been since 2017.

Olympia Perry- We are talking about one building and possible one other. But we do not agree that is the best strategy at all.

Ron Dziminski- More man power is needed.

Olympia Perry- Cannot sleep at night sometimes thinking about the response times. And that includes career fire. Can you imagine if we pulled career fire out of the equation? Are we waiting for someone to get hurt? We have the money. That is my frustration. But I seem to be the only one concerned.

Charles Sista – Work in career ambulance in neighboring town. I agree with you in putting EMS and Fire in the same building is not the right solution. Where I work, it is nothing but animosity between those two crews. Firemen get upset when ambulance get a call at night, EMS get upset, when Firemen sit around and hang out. With regard to response time, Wildwood weekend starts tonight. Is there a plan? I just left work so I know what happened on Brunswick Avenue.

Olympia Perry- Please enlighten us, I don't know.

Charles Sista- Went to third response?

Edward Tencza- They never got out. Hamilton handled it.

Charles Sista- Is there a plan?

Edward Tencza- As far as I know Chief Oakley is having career staff cover the weekend. And as far as I know, there is only 1 active firefighter going to Wildwood.

Keith Levine- Health Report

COVID levels are on the rise. Test kits are available for free for Lawrence residents. If residents have tests that happen to be expired, do not throw them out. We have tested tests that are 3 years expired that still work. You can go to Manufactures website and type in the Lot # and it will tell you if you can still use it. We had a goose at Colonial Lake with an arrow in it. It was alive and the police department and our animal control officer got a boat out there but were unable to secure it. If any community members see any malicious activity towards animals, please report it to the police department and also contact the Health Department. Lastly, we have a free rabies clinic on October 11, 2025 at the Municipal Building from 12:30-3:30 and registration is now open.

Edward Tencza- Emergency Fire Apparatus Reports- No out-of-service reports.

Edward Tencza-Public Safety Committee Media Article

Chief Kevin Reading – 2 press releases in the last 3 months. One was the fatal motorcycle crash on 06/13/2025 at Princeton Pike and Franklin Corner. It was determined that the operator lost control and struck a telephone poll. The other was a Tesla motor vehicle crash at the dealership. Individual in the driver's seat hit the gas and went through the glass windows. Nothing suspicious about it. Vehicle burglaries are on and off. Groups looking for unlocked cars. They will drive streets and look for cars with side mirrors out, which in the new cars means that the doors are unlocked. Shopliftings are consistent at Mercer One and QBM. National Night Out was a huge success for us. Double the vendors from last year.

Ed Tencza- Will be putting out information on bon fires – Dos and Don'ts. The State of New Jersey-Operation Safe a Life and Channel 6 gave us 60 new combination Smoke/CO that will be distributed to individuals with limited needs.

Plan Review

Jim DeForte- The last project we looked at were apartments going in at Texas Avenue. Starting the storm for the 64 units there. Spruce Street on hold pending the soil issue.

Ed Tencza- Grovers Mill Housing, putting 4 multi-dwelling buildings.

Jim DeForte- Dave & Busters moving into 2nd floor at the Mall.

Other Business/Correspondence

Adjournment

Having no further business to be brought before the Committee, meeting was motioned to be adjourned at 6:58 p.m. by Edward Tencza, 2nd by Ronald Dziminski.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Kania