

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

Minutes

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

Members Present: Patricia Hendricks Farmer, Mayor
Olympia Perry, Council Liaison
Edward Tencza, Fire Marshal
Lt. RJ Laird on behalf of Kevin Reading, Interim Chief of Police
Keith Levine, Health Officer
Jim DeForte, Construction Official
Christina Vincent, Emergency Management Chief
Raymond Nagy, Lawrenceville Fire Company
Michael Oakley, Slackwood Fire Company
James Kownacki, Community Representative
Ron Dziminski, Community Representative

Members Absent: Kevin Nerwinski, Municipal Manager
Jack Oakley, Emergency Management Coordinator
David Moore, Lawrence Road Fire Company
Mike Burzachiello, Community Representative
Christopher Laird, Community Representative
Charles Sista, Community Representative
John Clarke, Community Representative

Public Attendee: n/a

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Edward Tencza at 6:35 p.m.

Minutes: The minutes from the March 11, 2025 meeting were reviewed by the Committee. A motion was made by Raymond Nagy 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

Keith Levine- H5N1 is still a problem. Small dead animals found but State is not testing them to find the cause. Reminder to Public to not handle birds that appear to be ill. Contact Health Department for assistance. No Trenton Water Works updates.

Sub-Committee

Olympia Perry- The findings were presented to council of the top 3 organizations and it is expected that by August an agreement is made on who to use and move forward.

James Kownacki- When will Public Safety be able to see this report?

Olympia Perry- The report will be made available to Committee before it is made public.

James Kownacki- Would like the Committee to see report before Council as there may be concerns that need to be taken into consideration when Council reviews the reports.

Olympia Perry- We will make the report available to everyone by next meeting.

James Kownacki- Would like to see all the proposals and how you came to the number one spot.

Olympia Perry- If needed, we can do a presentation to the Committee but that is why we had members/experts from this Committee in the Sub-Committee for their knowledge and input.

Olympia Perry- In response to RFP, Sub-Committee received 7 proposals. While conducting assessments, we created a rubric as to how to best choose the organization based on the RFP and what was necessary. Top 3 were CGR, CPSM and H2M. Will provide you with all the information.

Ray Nagy- We can also share the pros and cons of each organization.

New Business

Keith Levine- Had a possible measles case that turned out to be negative. Also had 2 residents who were possible exposed to measles. Monitored them and never experienced any symptoms. If you believe you have measles, call the hospital before you go there, do not want to show up and expose everyone around you.

Christina Vincent- With Measles, you experience flu like symptoms and a rash inside your mouth. If you have a fever and rash, seek medical help.

Edward Tencza- Emergency Fire Apparatus Reports

Michael Oakley-Multiple pieces of apparatus are out at this time. Some apparatus over 20 years old and will need to be replaced. Turnaround time for new ladder is 3 ½ - 4 years, 3 years for a new tower.

Olympia Perry- Need to meet to discuss. Has there been research in looking into used apparatus that we can buy?

Michael Oakley- I am sure Chief Oakley has looked into that. Have to be aware if it's a used piece, then money will probably be needed for some repairs.

Edward Tencza- Oldest piece we have?

Michael Oakley- Tower 203 is over 30 years old.

Olympia Perry- Why was this not addressed.

Michael Oakley- Money has to be appropriated. It takes years. Funding needs to be available. Grants don't work for us because of surplus of funds. New apparatus cost \$1.5 - \$2 million, they are expensive. Coverage-Career staff working brilliantly, volunteers are dwindling and response times are between 7-29 minutes. Which causes aid to come from other towns. Not volunteers

fault, it's the high call volume. Need to try and move forward with around the clock coverage and have secondary as backup.

Patricia Hendricks Farmer- What mileage are on engine?

Michael Oakley/Edward Tencza/Lt. RJ Laird/Raymond Nagy- Engines have around 25K-30K, Tower 20 has 16K. They are hard miles. Hours the engine and its parts are running, like on idle, are significantly higher.

Olympia Perry- Where are we with volunteers?

Michael Oakley- Active volunteers are between 20-25. However, there are 4-8 on an average call. Outside resources are coming in more.

Ronald Dziminski- Where are we with the 3 new firemen?

Michael Oakley- Physicals are scheduled for June 19th. Still in process. 2 are trained and 1 would have to go to school.

Christina Vincent- 1 was totaled from the accident. 2 in service. Expecting 2 new apparatus by August.

Edward Tencza-Public Safety Committee Media Article

Lt. RJ Laird- Over past month we had 1K plus Facebook posts on public service.

Mercer Mall has been a target for organized retail theft. Stores not allowing security to engage. Once theft occurs and the party leaves store, then they call police. May have officer posted there in the future like we have at Quakerbridge Mall. If we have staff available.

Olympia Perry- It was budgeted to hire 3 new officers. What is the status?

Lt. RJ Laid- In the academy.

Ed Tencza- Will be putting out information on bon fires and fire pits.

Ed Tencza- How is parking on Fountayne Lane after the sign was put up?

Olympia Perry- Someone took the sign down making the turn a blind spot.

Ed Tencza- Will follow up.

Plan Review

Ed Tencza- Grovers Mill Housing, at the Quakerbridge Mall outer-ring, just placed in their final plan review to go before the Planning Board for 5 apartment buildings and townhouses.

3131 Princeton Pike, went through and was finalized. Demo date has not been confirmed.

Other Business/Correspondence

Christina Vincent- We have bare minimum, with more housing coming in, more public traffic coming through, more nursing house facilities, not enough personnel, need to plan for the future. Old St. Lawrence dispatched minimum 3 times a day and dispatched constantly to the wrong building.

Michael Oakley- Fire has the same problem.

Christina Vincent- Since new company took over, their phone lines are showing different locations and dispatch is sending us to a different location. This past weekend, took 40 minutes to locate patient. Need to figure out how to fix this.

Lt. RJ Laird- Whatever caller ID says is irrelevant in a medical call, police transfers call to Central.

Christina Vincent- Their policy is if a 911 call is made, they are supposed to inform the on-call Supervisor. There is no security on site.

Edward Tencza- We have codes to get into 2 of the doors, Morris Hall/Founders Hallway, 15 sec pull doors to get into the building.

Christina Vincent- We can get into the building but do not know where to go. Each building has the same room numbers.

Jim DeForte- Maybe have them name Buildings put A, B, C. etc.

Lt. RJ Laird- I will have my dispatch supervisor look into the calls to see if caller is saying the correct physical location but central is dispatching somewhere else.

Michael Oakley- Did they provide a copy of their Operation and Safety Plan?

Edward Tencza- Yes, we review it every year. If they do not follow it, State can come in and review it.

Adjournment

Having no further business to be brought before the Committee, meeting was motioned to adjourned at 7:28 p.m. by Michael Oakley, 2nd by Raymond Nagy.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Kania