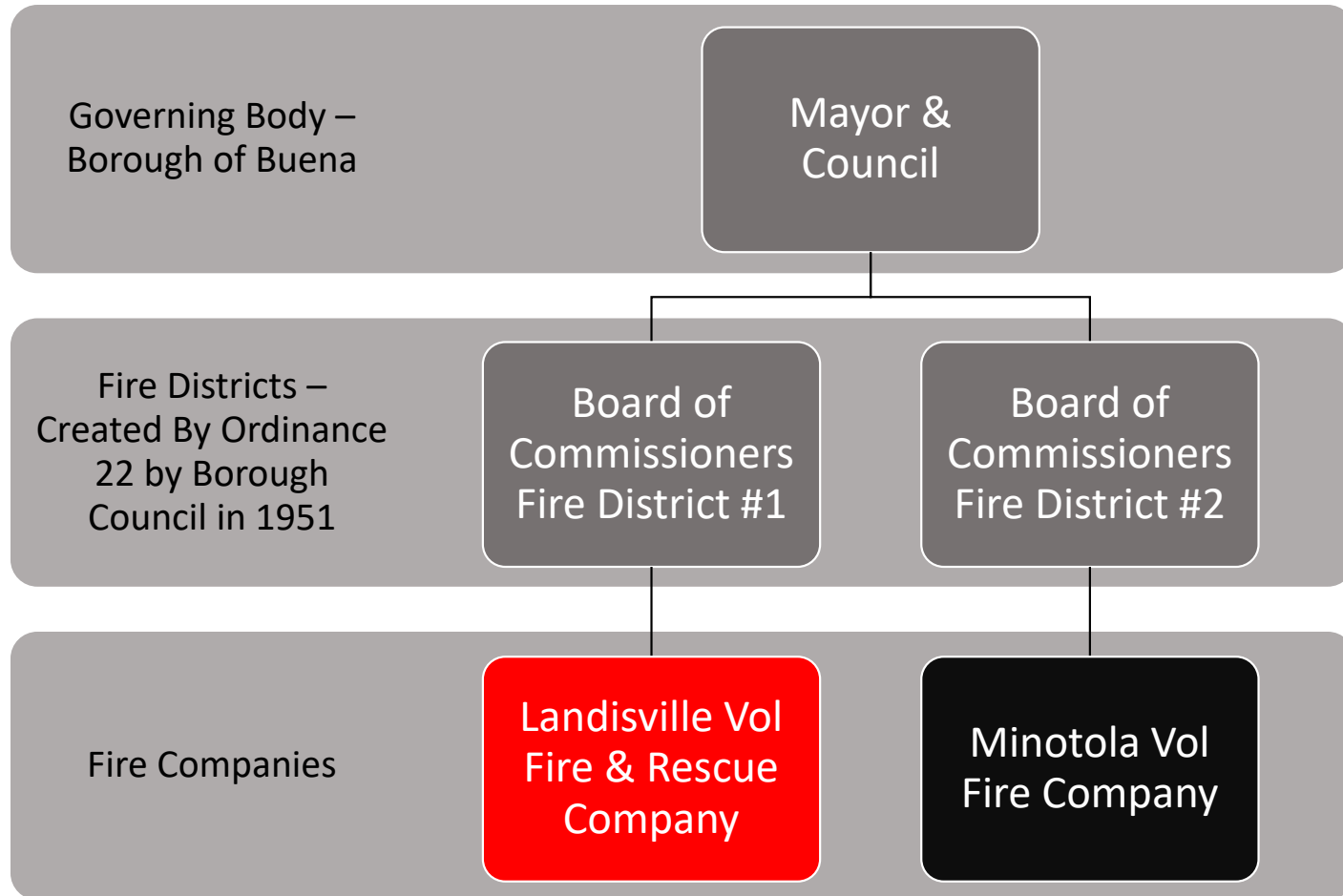


Presentation of the
Borough of Buena
May 26, 2021

Creation of Fire Districts by the Council of the Borough of Buena



Creation of the Fire Districts

- On February 26, 1951, the Mayor and the Council of the Borough of Buena by Ordinance 22 created two Fire Districts. The Ordinance states:

§ 18-1. Boards of Commissioners; election.

The two fire companies in the Borough of Buena, Landisville No. 1 and Minotola No. 2, shall be under the control of their separate Board of Commissioners. The Boards of Commissioners shall be elected at a public election once each year on the third Saturday in February at their firehouses, as their terms expire.

§ 18-2. Officers; election.

The separate companies shall once a year elect from their membership the officers needed to operate their respective companies for the year.

Dissolution & Enlargement of Fire Districts

- **The following authorizes the Mayor and the Council of the Borough of Buena to dissolve Fire District #1 and enlarge Fire District #2:**
- **N.J.A.C. 40A:5A-20 Dissolution of authority by local unit**
 - The governing body of a local unit which has established an authority shall have the power and is authorized by ordinance in the case of a municipality to dissolve the authority, except that the ordinance shall be approved by the Local Finance Board prior to adoption.
- **N.J.A.C 40A:14-90. Enlargement of fire district**
 - The governing body of a municipality having a fire district therein, by ordinance, may enlarge such fire district by extending the boundaries thereof to include additional territory in such municipality but not included in another fire district.

Why are we here?

- On January 1, 2020, I was appointed Director of Public Safety by Mayor Zappariello. During my research, I became aware in June 2019 of an investigation by the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety that concluded the Chief and Assistant Chiefs of Sea Isle City's volunteer fire company lacked proper certifications.
- Proactively, and after consultation with the Borough's solicitor, we decided to ensure both Minotola Volunteer Fire Company and Landisville Volunteer Fire/Rescue company were in compliance with their own basic requirements.

Why are we here?

- On April 24, 2020, I sent an email to both Minotola (Habersham) and Landisville's (Coraluzzo, Jr.) Fire Chiefs requesting the following information:
 - A Roster of all current members
 - Drivers License numbers of all members operating vehicles owned by the Fire Districts to confirm they are in good standing with the NJ Motor Vehicle Commission
 - Copies of required DFS certifications for all Line Officers
 - A copy of the Fire Companies' bylaws
 - List of the Fire Companies' current Executive Board

Email from Councilman D'Alessandro to Fire Chiefs

Request for Information

Joseph D'Alessandro, III <joseph.dalessandro@buenaboro.org>

Fr 4/24/2020 1:34 PM

To: Ricky Coraluzzo <enricocoraluzzo@gmail.com>; Tony Habersham <eng61@aol.com>

Cc: David Zappariello <mayordave@buenaboro.org>

Gentlemen,

I hope that all is well with you and your families. As I have mentioned to each of you previously, I was planning to have regularly scheduled meetings with the Chiefs of our Public Safety Departments in 2020. The current COVID-19 epidemic has certainly changed a lot of our plans and forced all of us to operate differently on a daily basis. I had hoped to meet and discuss the items below in person, but it doesn't seem that we will be able to do that in the near future. Since becoming the Director of Public Safety, I have been working hard to support our First Responders, elevate our situational awareness and readiness in the Borough and to ensure that the Borough is following proper protocols. The information that you provide will aid in that effort. Please note that the information provided will remain confidential and placed in a locked filing cabinet in the Public Safety Director's Office at Borough Hall.

Please send me the information requested below by 9am on Wednesday, April 29, 2020:

- Roster of all current members
 - Please indicate if the individual members meet the requirements for your Company's Active Duty Status and if they hold a minimum of Firefighter 1 Certification
- Please provide the following for all members authorized to drive apparatus/vehicles so that the Borough may confirm that their NJ Drivers Licenses are in Good Standing with NJMVC:
 - Full Name (as it appears on their valid NJ Driver's License)
 - NJ Driver's License Number
- Please provide copies of all credentials/certifications required by the NJ Division of Fire Safety for the following list of Officers (Lists of Current Officers were provided by the Chiefs in March 2020):
 - 11-1 Landisville
 - 11-100 Chief Ricky Coraluzzo, Jr
 - 11-101 1st Asst Chief Charles Gazzara
 - 11-102 2nd Asst Chief Joe Kaspar
 - 11-103 Capt Brian Rowan
 - 11-104 Capt Lou Nardone
 - 11-105 Lt. Scott Dortu
 - 11-106 Lt. Frank Scancella
 - 11-2 Minotola
 - 11-200 Chief Tony Habersham
 - 11-201 Deputy Chief Dom Pace
 - 11-202 Asst Chief John Belfi
 - 11-203 Capt Chaz Bramble
 - 11-205 Lt Mark Dixon
- Please provide a copy of the Company's Bylaws
- Roster of all current members of the Company's Executive Board

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and I appreciate your continued service to the residents of the Borough of Buena!

Regards,

Joseph A. D'Alessandro, III
Borough Council
Director of Public Safety
Emergency Management Coordinator

Borough of Buena
616 Central Ave
Minotola, NJ 08341
Mobile: 609-579-2634
joseph.dalessandro@buenaboro.org

“Since becoming the Director of Public Safety, I have been working hard to support our First Responders, elevate our situational awareness and readiness in the Borough and to ensure that the Borough is following proper protocols.”

Why are we here?

- Fire District #2 and Minotola Volunteer Fire Company supplied the requested information within 48 hours and was found to be in compliance.
- However, what started as a simple request for basic information, quickly became like a loose thread, once pulled it began the unraveling of Fire District #1 and the main reason why we are here tonight.

Why are we here?

- What follows are some examples of the systemic problems with Buena Borough Board of Fire Commissioners District #1. For these reasons and more the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Buena have applied to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Local Finance Board to dissolve Fire District #1 and enlarge Fire District #2.

The Relationship Between the Fire District and the Fire Company

New Jersey State Association of Fire Districts: Fire Commissioner's Handbook

- The purpose of this manual is to supply sufficient background information, provide guidance, and answer enough questions so that a newly appointed or elected Fire Commissioner may feel comfortable in carrying out this function as an active, participating Board member.
- It is also intended to serve as a resource for more experienced members as they go about the business of attempting to provide adequate, affordable protection to their constituents, the residents and taxpayers of the fire district.

FIRE COMPANY vs. FIRE DISTRICT

- A Fire Company is a non-profit corporation which is established pursuant to Title 15 of the New Jersey statutes. This entity has its own certificate of incorporation filed with the Secretary of State. It also has its own bylaws which govern the actions and activities of the members of the organization.

FIRE COMPANY vs. FIRE DISTRICT

- A Fire District is a municipal entity which is established and governed by the laws and statutes of New Jersey and are found in New Jersey Statutes Annotated Title 40A:14-70 and 40A:5A. It is of the utmost importance that the members of the Boards of Fire Commissioners make themselves knowledgeable of and adhere to the principles contained therein. It is a public body corporate which is an autonomous entity separate and distinct from the Fire Company. A Fire District by statute has the obligation to provide fire protection to the residents and taxpayers within the geographical boundaries of the Fire District.

FIRE COMPANY vs. FIRE DISTRICT

- It is important to remember that a member of the Board of Fire Commissioners of a Fire District is an elected public official and must recognize that he or she represents therefore the entirety of the public in making decisions and not just the Fire Company. You must be able to distinguish your role as a firefighter from your role as a Commissioner.

FIRE COMPANY vs. FIRE DISTRICT

- A Fire District and a Fire Company are separate entities with each providing fire protection services to the public. Each has its own officers and its own bylaws. It is important to recognize this distinction in serving as a Commissioner.

Blurred Lines Between Fire District #1 & Landisville Fire Company

- Amendment Nine of Landisville Fire Company's Certificate of Incorporation states, "The Board of Trustees shall consist of all Fire Commissioners of the Borough of Buena Fire District No. 1 in Atlantic County, New Jersey who shall be elected pursuant to law."

Blurred Lines Between Fire District #1 & Landisville Fire Company

- The Local Finance Board has issued an ethics opinion concerning the issue of whether various administrative (i.e. Trustees of the Fire Company) and firematic officers of a Fire Company serving the Fire District could also serve as a Fire Commissioner or whether this created a conflict of interest.
 - The opinion states that individuals in administrative roles or hold the rank of Chief or Assistant Chiefs of the Fire Company in the Fire District cannot serve as a Fire Commissioner.
 - **The Commissioners of District #1 serving as Trustees of Landisville Fire Company is improper.**

Improper Relationship between Fire District and Fire Company

John Pilles, Jr. attorney for District #1,
confirmed to Mayor and Borough Council the
District's improper entanglements with the
Fire Company.

"My objective is to properly divorce the
District from Landisville Volunteer Fire and
Rescue Co, Inc."

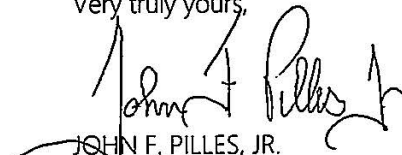
"The District is not the alter ego of
Landisville; rather – as you know – the
district is a governmental entity..."

Angela Maione Costigan, Esq.
Re: Buena Borough Fire District No. 1
January 5, 2021
Page 2

My objective is also to properly divorce the District from Landisville Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company, Inc. (hereinafter "Landisville") in accord with State law and established principals. A fire district, under Title 40A, is a body corporate and politic whose elected commissioners are prohibited from holding any firematic and/or administrative office within the volunteer organization receiving tax funding from same district. The District is not the alter ego of Landisville; rather – as you know – the District is a governmental entity explicitly empowered by N.J.S.A. 40A:14-81 to exercise the same "powers, duties and functions ... as in the case of municipalities." N.J.S.A. 40A:14-81.3 empowers a fire district with ultimate supervisory authority over personnel. I hope to begin discussions between the District and Borough as to the many steps which the District intends to pursue in achieving such legislative intent. I have found that dialog best advances the interests of all parties having an interest in a potential controversy. Toward that end, I intend to invite the Borough to propose, in addition to the District, the manner by which both governmental entities may continue mutually beneficial dialog in resolution to problems as same may be discovered or incurred.

Please advise, at your earliest convenience, proposed dates and time for a meeting.

Very truly yours,



JOHN F. PILLES, JR.

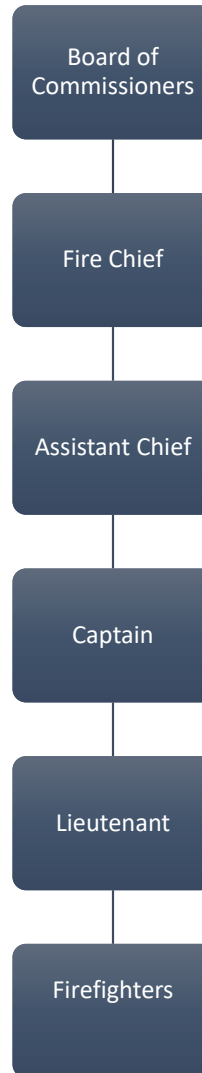
JFP/krs

cc: Loretta Grzzara, Fire Commissioner - Fire District No. 1
File

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Although Lieutenants and Captains may have assigned responsibilities through by-laws or standard operating guidelines, the ultimate responsibility and accountability for maintaining complete readiness of the Fire Company (training, certifications, proper equipment, etc.) lies with the Chief Officers of the Company.

The Board of Commissioners has the responsibility and accountability for the entirety of fire safety and suppression within the Fire District.

The Commissioners must ensure the Chiefs are adhering to standards prescribed by the agencies that provide oversight (PEOSH, DFS, NFPA, etc.).

Serious Concerns Raised by Line Officers in March 2020

On March 25, 2020, Asst Chief Joseph Kaspar sent an email to Chief Rick Coraluzzo, Jr. expressing his concerns regarding the Fire Company. Here are some excerpts from that email.

----- Original Message -----
From: "josephkaspar .." <josephkaspar@comcast.net>
To: enricocoraluzzo@gmail.com
Date: 03/25/2020 7:46 PM
Subject: company

Hi Rick

This is a very hard email to write to you because it means I'm risking this being taken the wrong way and losing everything at the firehouse. I am overwhelmed with frustration with how things are at the firehouse. I am watching a company that I love fall apart at the seams. I alone am not the only one feeling this way. Many of the (Landisville group) meaning not the Newfield group of 7 people, (Judy and Lindsey are part of Newfield) are feeling the same way. Several have looked into leaving or joining Minotola. If this happens Newfield will have taken over. It wouldn't be long before Bill and friends would come after you. Being how they group together, they would decide on if the company lives or dies. To be honest with you, anyone looking to join a new fire company would not join Landisville. Brian and I have a friend that is a Vineland FF and was looking for another company to join. We said come to Landisville. His reply was "you guys don't do anything. You don't even go to other departments calls and can't get trucks on the road". What could we say. He's right. We're not being taken seriously as a company. Even if we did get a new member that is seasoned from somewhere else they wouldn't stay due to the lack of rules and structure. We don't even have legal officers and so many state DFS, and PEOSH violations along with none of the mandatory's that were due in Jan. I know you don't care too much about the state and PEOSH problems but others do. The response to this is always "were vol so we don't need to, or no one else does all of that or we will worry about that when it happens". These are all excuses for not doing what we need to. The truth is other departments are doing these things. We in turn look like a clown show for not doing them. It gets harder and harder to defend these things. It makes those of us in leadership look like idiots. The other side to that is by not complying with state DFS and PEOSH regs you are putting yourself, line officers, and executive line at personal legal risk. People should not have to decide between the firehouse and undue risk of losing everything they have worked for. It's true we cannot protect against everything but we should be making that risk as low as possible. I know we have had a history and that you didn't want me as asst chief but I have always had one goal. To help better this company in any way I can. I want this company to succeed and become a company that other company's look up to and aspire to be. This will take a lot of work and time to do. Business as usual will not do it. Something very sad to hear from people not only from within the company but also outside of the company, is the belief that the company will not be around in 5 years. I don't know if you know this but, the state shuts down firehouses with less than 10 active members. Active as in running calls and drills. It has happened to 2 firehouses in the general area. One was able to reopen. The fire service today is not the service of the past and requires a different approach to running a house, getting members, keeping members and the legal mine field that is today's fire service. The time and

Serious Concerns Raised by Line Officers in March 2020

effort that a chief needs to put in is like never before in history. Large town or small, fire, state, victims and lawyers know no difference. 10 members or 100 members, regs and responsibility is the same. I am in no way questioning your commitment to the company or your service. Bottom line is I believe you are a good man with a big heart with the best wishes for the company. I don't sleep at night now thinking about the company falling. My frustration is coming out at home. I am lost on how to help right the ship knowing, deep down as to what needs to be done to rebuild the company but not be in the position to do anything about it. I don't want to leave the company and neither do the others, but how long do you watch the ship sink before getting off? So I'm going to ask you to consider something that I know will not be easy. Would you consider letting me take the wheel as chief, even if its only for a few months to see how things go. It would take the pressure off of you with Newfield, the state and PEOSH and other things. At anytime you wanted, I would step away and leave the company if you wanted. I'm just asking for a chance. I know this email will probably be taken the wrong way and it's something I'll have to risk. If after reading this you no longer want me as the asst chief I understand and will step down. I only want to see the company do well and I believe I have the tools, time and drive. Please do not take this as an attack on you. This is definitely not meant to be that. If you are willing to consider this I will await your response. I have no plans of leaving the company either way at this time.

1st Chief Change – May 4, 2020

Chief Rick Coraluzzo, Jr Resigns

- Chief Rick Coraluzzo, Jr. resigns at the May 4, 2020, Commissioners Meeting and recommends to the Commissioners that Asst Chief Joseph Kaspar be appointed Chief of Landisville Fire Company.
- Commissioners vote 4-0 to accept Coraluzzo, Jr.'s resignation and to approve Joseph Kaspar as Fire Chief of Landisville Fire Company
- Commissioners ratify Kaspar's Line Officer Appointments
- Meeting minutes are written by Chairman Paul Lucchesi, Jr. to assure the minutes reflect a true transcription of the Chief change. (Per July 8 meeting)

*Fire District 1
Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2020*

Landisville Volunteer Fire Company

Commissioner's Meeting

The monthly Commissioner's meeting of the Landisville Volunteer Fire Co., Inc. was held online via Zoom and was called to order at 7:00 PM on May 4th by Chairman Paul Lucchesi Jr

Present were X Paul Lucchesi Jr (Chairman) X Richard DeMarco

A Ricky Coraluzzo, Sr X Loretta Gazzara X Joe Santagata

Chief's Report:

- I spoke to Chief Coraluzzo today and effective 12:01AM May 5th he will be stepping down as chief. I told him with great regret I would accept his stepping down as chief but stated he will remain as an active member and firefighter. A formal letter would be forth coming to the Commissioners on this request from him. I told Chief Coraluzzo, on behalf of the Commissioners and entire membership, I thanked him for over 5 years of being our chief and his unmatched devotion and always doing the right thing for the community, our fire company and its membership. At Chief Coraluzzo's request I present to the Commissioners for their approval the accepting of Joe Kaspar, currently our Assistant Chief to now become the acting/interim Chief. Joe, with your approval, will assume all the authority and powers of that position effective 12:01AM. As following our bylaws, Joe will fill this position until the Commissioner's December 2020 meeting and at that time a decision will be made for Joe to move from acting/interim to that of permanent Chief effective January 1, 2021. Also following our bylaws, today I spoke to Joe since the Chief is responsible to appoint line officers. Joe has requested the following
 - Assistant Chief – Louis Nardone
 - Captain – Brian Rowan
 - Lieutenant – Frank Scancella

Commissioners, I make a motion to you to authorize these requested changes - I will do a roll call vote:

Ricky Coraluzzo, Sr.-absent, Richard DeMarco-yes, Loretta Gazzara-yes, Paul Lucchesi-yes, Joe Santagata-yes

Critical Leadership Failures

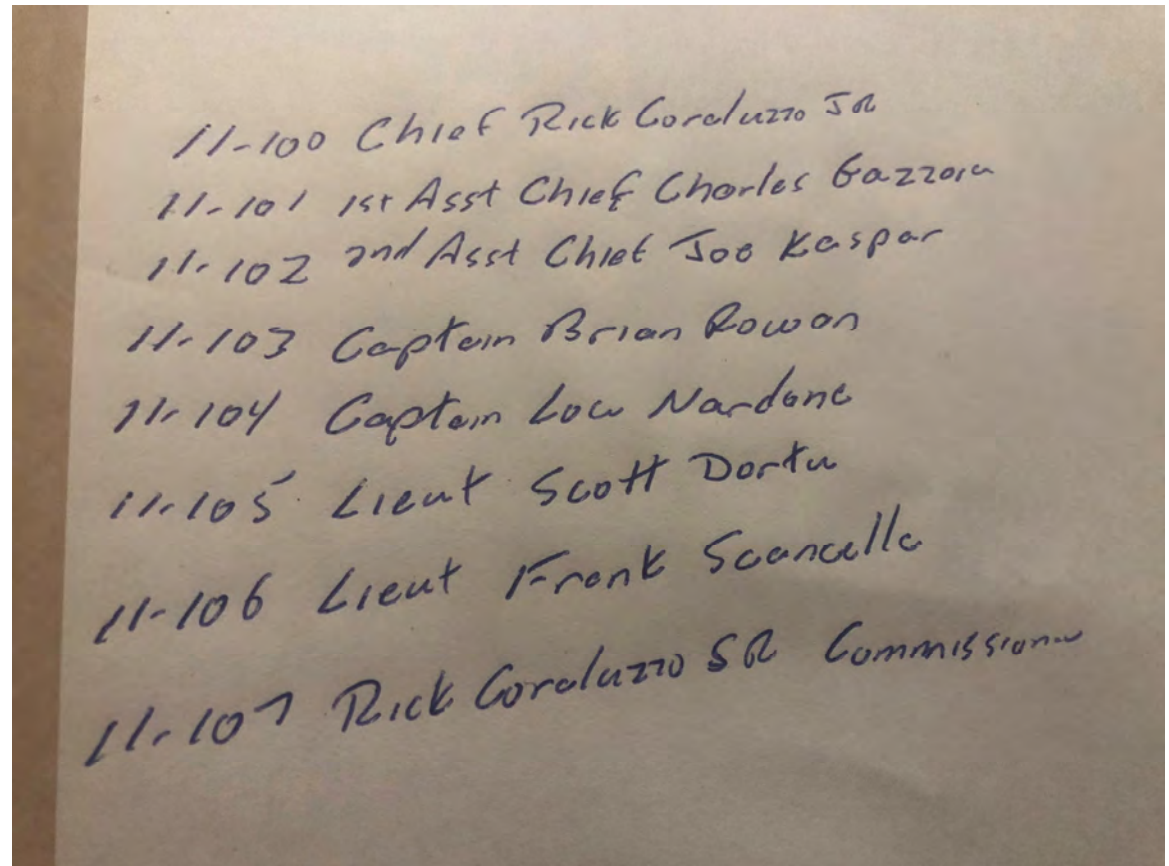
Illegal Line Officers

- On May 4, 2020, newly appointed Chief Kaspar immediately removed two illegal Line Officers.
- These officers were appointed by Chief Rick Coraluzzo, Jr. and ratified by the Commissioners, in spite of their lack of required training and credentials, per Landisville Fire Company Bylaws 12.2 Line Officer ***“The Commissioners shall ratify line officers appointed by the Chief.”***
- As a side note, when Chief Coraluzzo, Jr. was appointed Chief for the third time in 2020, which I will explain shortly, he appointed another illegal Line Officer, which resulted in a Cease-and-Desist Order from the NJ Division of Fire Safety.

*Landisville Fire Company
Line Officer
List Provided By
Chief Coraluzzo, Jr
3/12/2020*

11-100 Chief – Rick Coraluzzo, Jr
11-101 1st Asst Chief – Charles Gazzara*
11-102 2nd Asst Chief – Joe Kaspar
11-103 Captain – Brian Rowan
11-104 Captain – Lou Nardone
11-105 Lieutenant – Scott Dortu*
11-106 Lieutenant – Frank Scancella
11-107 – Rick Coraluzzo, Sr.

*Unqualified Line Officer



A photograph of a handwritten list on a piece of paper. The list contains seven entries, each with a number and a name and title. The handwriting is in dark ink and is slightly slanted. The entries are: 11-100 Chief Rick Coraluzzo Sr, 11-101 1st Asst Chief Charles Gazzara, 11-102 2nd Asst Chief Joe Kaspar, 11-103 Captain Brian Rowan, 11-104 Captain Lou Nardone, 11-105 Lieut Scott Dortu, 11-106 Lieut Frank Scancella, and 11-107 Rick Coraluzzo Sr Commissioner.

11-100 Chief Rick Coraluzzo Sr
11-101 1st Asst Chief Charles Gazzara
11-102 2nd Asst Chief Joe Kaspar
11-103 Captain Brian Rowan
11-104 Captain Lou Nardone
11-105 Lieut Scott Dortu
11-106 Lieut Frank Scancella
11-107 Rick Coraluzzo Sr Commissioner

Landisville Fire Illegal Line Officers

- 1st Assistant Chief
Charles Gazzara
- Lieutenant
Scott Dortu
- Neither had the qualifications
for Incident Management Level 1

NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY FIRE OFFICER REQUIREMENTS

N.J.A.C. 5:73-1.6 states, that no person shall be promoted, assume or assigned (including elected) any fire service position, the duties of which include the management of emergency operations. Unless, that person has obtained, at a minimum, Incident Management Level 1 Certification issued by the Division of Fire Safety.

In order to qualify for Incident Management Level 1 Certification, a person must meet the following requirements:

- Obtained Firefighter 1 Certification issued by the Division of Fire Safety;
- Have three years of documented experience in the fire service. (This means three years as a firefighter and does not include time spent in an Explorer or Junior Firefighter Program);
- Attended a 12 hour classroom based Basic Incident Management Course (I-200) offered or approved by the Division of Fire Safety.

A certification application must be submitted to receive the Incident Management Certification. This means that every fire officer, career and volunteer MUST have, at a minimum, Incident Management Level 1 Certification issued by the Division of Fire Safety. We have heard a number of times that some volunteer fire departments believe that these requirements do not apply to them. This is incorrect. Failure to comply may result in violations being issued to the fire company, municipality and the individual holding the office.

2nd Chief Change – July 6, 2020

Commissioners Remove Chief Kaspar

- July 6, 2020, Chairman Paul Lucchesi, Jr., phoned me, the Director of Public Safety, to inform the Borough that Chief Kaspar has unexpectedly resigned as Chief for personal reasons, and that Rick Coraluzzo, Jr. had been reappointed Chief of Landisville Fire Company.
- When asked by the Mayor, Chief Kaspar indicates that he did not resign, but was told that he was removed by the Commissioners after a 4-1 vote in a closed session during the July 6 Commissioners meeting.
- Concerned by this sudden change, Mayor Zappariello immediately requests a meeting with representatives from Fire District #1. On July 8, 2020, myself, along with the Mayor met with the Commissioners.

Meeting with Commissioners

July 8, 2020

- Chairman Lucchesi indicates that the Commissioners made “the right decision” regarding Chief Kaspar’s removal on July 6th and “Each of the Commissioners felt strongly about the decision to do what they did on Monday night (July 6th).”
- Lucchesi’s statement clearly contradicts his original version of events namely that Chief Kaspar resigned. It is clear that the Chief change was made by the Commissioners.
- During the same meeting, Commissioner Coraluzzo, Sr. states that Kaspar was removed because “they have something good going now, I want to leave it alone and let it stay the way it is. I’m not going to take any bull from him or anybody else.”

3rd Chief Change of 2020 – July 9, 2020

- During that July 8, 2020 meeting with representatives of Landisville Fire Company and Fire District #1, the Mayor indicated further informational inquiries into the operations of Landisville Fire Company and District #1 would be forthcoming.
- Surprisingly the next day, on July 9, 2020, Chairman Paul Lucchesi, Jr. phoned me to inform the Borough that, after consultation with its Attorney, the Board of Commissioners of Fire District 1 had “acted prematurely” in their removal of Joseph Kaspar as Chief of Landisville Fire Company.
- Chairman Lucchesi indicated their own attorney told him that Chief Kaspar could not be removed without cause and should remain in his position until December 31, 2020.

Mayor Zappariello requests info from Landisville Fire Company July 10, 2020

- List of all active members as defined by your bylaws.
- Copies of BLS-CPR cards for all active members.
- Copies of Firefighter 1/2 Certificates for all active members who hold them.
- List of Line Officers and their Incident Management Level 1 Certificates.
- List of members who have current annual SCBA Fit Testing.
- SCBA cylinder records.
- Copies of current ladder tests, pump tests and hose tests.
- Copies of annual training records for Hazmat, Exposure Control and Right-to-Know.

On Jul 10, 2020, at 11:22 PM, David Zappariello <mayordave@buenaboro.org> wrote:

Paul and Joe,

Paul, thank you for meeting with Councilman D'Alessandro and me this week.

As stated, I am going to be asking some very direct questions due to the seriousness of the matter. It is unfortunate we are at this juncture and I must reiterate my concern for the immediate condition and long-term sustainability of the fire department, but even more importantly, the Borough's exposure and liability should something go awry.

In an effort for me to begin at the most basic level, I am going to request for the following documents to be produced by close of business, Monday, July 13. It is my understanding these documents are part of normal operating procedures and should be on file. If certain items cannot be produced, please submit what is immediately available.

- List of all active members as defined by your bylaws.
- Copies of BLS-CPR cards for all active members.
- Copies of Firefighter 1/2 Certificates for all active members who hold them.
- List of Line Officers and their Incident Management Level 1 Certificates.
- List of members who have current annual SCBA Fit Testing.
- SCBA cylinder records.
- Copies of current ladder tests, pump tests and hose tests.
- Copies of annual training records for Hazmat, Exposure Control and Right-to-Know.

Thank you.

Dave

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In an effort for me to begin at the most basic level, I am going to request for the following documents to be produced by close of business, Monday, July 13. It is my understanding these documents are part of normal operating procedures and should be on file. If certain items cannot be produced, please submit what is immediately available.

Information Received from Landisville Fire Company July 13, 2020

- List of all active members as defined by your bylaws.
 - **List of Members Received**
- Copies of BLS-CPR cards for all active members.
 - **BLS-CPR certifications were expired for all but one member**
- Copies of Firefighter 1 & 2 Certificates for all active members who hold them.
 - **Certificates Received – Not all members responding to fire calls had FF1 or FF2**
- List of Line Officers and their Incident Management Level 1 Certificates.
 - **List of Line Officers and Incident Management Level 1 Certificates Received**
- List of members who have current annual SCBA Fit Testing.
 - **List was received and one-third (1/3) of members had not Fit Tested**
- Copies of current ladder tests, pump tests and hose tests.
 - **Hose Tests – Current, Ground Ladder – Current, Aerial Ladder Test – Past Due, Pump Tests – 5 Years Past Due**
- Copies of annual training records for Hazmat, Exposure Control and Right-to-Know.
 - **NO valid training records available, partial records from 2014, and the last full set of training records were from 2011**
- **SCBA cylinder records.**
 - **All 36 SCBA Bottles were expired by at least 10 months**

Leadership Issues

- When the Mayor asked Chief Coraluzzo, Jr. how many members Landisville Fire Company had, he was unable to answer. Commissioner Loretta Gazzara indicated “30 something”. After some discussion among the group, it was determined that there were around 16 members.
- The Mayor asked if all members were SCBA fit tested. Chief Coraluzzo, Jr. answered that not all members were current because “they didn’t want to show up because of internal issues”. It was noted that certain members stopped responding to calls once Chief Kaspar was appointed.
- Chief Coraluzzo, Jr. admitted he had no knowledge of how many members were fit tested in 2020 because the fit testing did not occur during his tenure as Fire Company Chief from 1/1/2020 to 5/4/2020.

Leadership Issues

- The Chief stated they were exempt from fit testing because of the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. The DCA never issued waivers indicating that SCBA fit testing was not required.
- The Mayor and I were easily able to get the correct information from the NJ Division of Fire Safety, however no one from District 1, including Chief Coraluzzo, Jr., thought to contact the DCA for clarification on this critical requirement.

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) as of July 2020

- All thirty-six (36) SCBA Cylinders at Landisville Fire Company were beyond the 15-year expiration date (and were still in service).
- Annual SCBA Regulator Flow Testing was two (2) years past due
- One-third of the Landisville Fire Company's members had not completed required annual SCBA fit testing

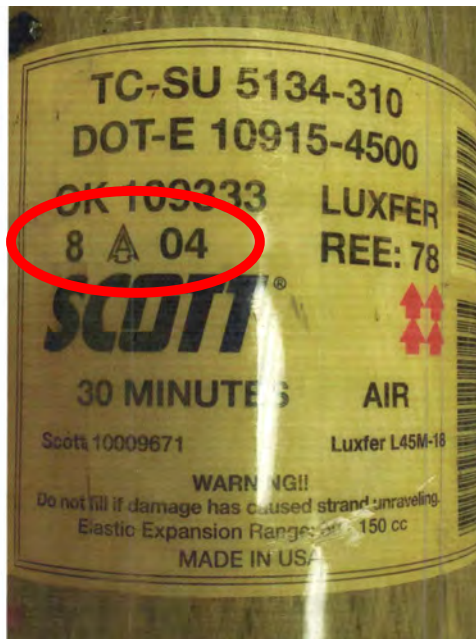
36 Expired SCBA Bottles (Air Bottles)

- All composite SCBA cylinders have a maximum service life of 15 years, provided they are hydrostatically re-tested on a regular basis, in accordance with DOT regulations. At the end of the 15-year service life, composite cylinders must be removed from service and destroyed (to ensure that they cannot be used again).

36 Expired SCBA Bottles Were Still in Service on July 13, 2020

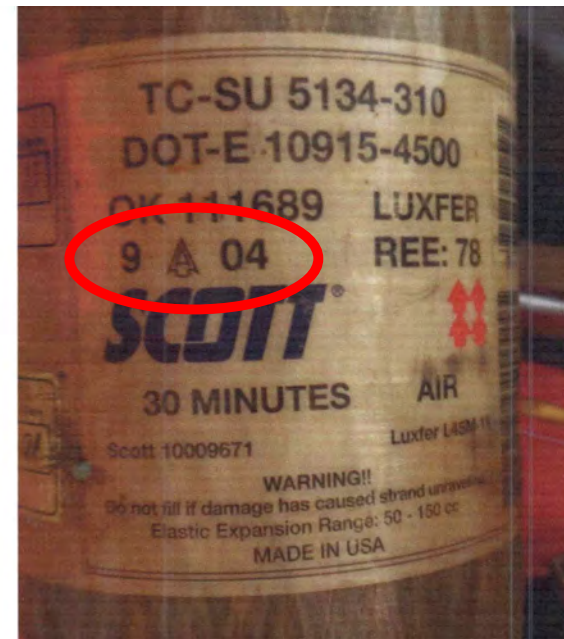
Lot 1 – Mfg Date 8/2004

Must be removed from service by 8/2019



Lot 2 – Mfg Date 9/2004

Must be removed from service by 9/2019



SCBA Regulator Flow Test Two (2) Years Overdue

Annual SCBA Regulator Flow Test
Performed on 5/22/2017
Last Ordered by Chief Coraluzzo, Jr.

Manufacturer	Model	Unit ID	Location
Scott	Air-Pak 4.5	09	Landisville Fire Co
Test Due Date: 5/22/2018 2:52:18 PM			
5/22/2017 2:52:15 PM - Mike Heacock: Unit ID added			

Functional Test test performed on: 5/22/2017 2:52:17 PM by Mike Heacock
All required tests were performed
All required tests that were performed passed

Manufacturer	Model	Unit ID	Location
Scott	Air-Pak 4.5	E-1	Landisville Fire Co
Test Due Date: 5/22/2018 11:02:18 AM			
5/22/2017 11:02:10 AM - Mike Heacock: Unit ID added			

Functional Test test performed on: 5/22/2017 11:02:17 AM by Mike Heacock
All required tests were performed
All required tests that were performed passed

Annual SCBA Regulator Flow Test
Performed on 7/14/2020
Ordered by Chief Kaspar



Scott
Air-Pak 4.5
Unit ID: E-1

Posi3 USB Test Results
Functional Test

7/14/2020 11:49:00 AM

Landisville Vol. Fire Company

Posi3 USB serial # L04224 - Calibration was up to date when the test was performed

Auxiliary IDs		Functional Tests			
Regulator	REG0410016915HH	Exhalation Pressure	Pass	2.1	"H2O
Reducer	RED0410018578AA	Facepiece Leakage	Pass	0.1	"H2O
-	-	Positive Pressure	Pass	0.8	"H2O
-	-	Primary Lockup	Pass	90.2	PSI
-	-	Primary Creep	Pass	-0.1	PSI
-	-	Air Saver Switch Activation	Pass	-3.6	"H2O
-	-	Transfer	Pass	1061	PSI
Visual Inspection		Secondary Lockup	Pass	164.2	PSI
Facepiece	Not Perform	Secondary Creep	Pass	1.3	PSI
Backframe/Harness	Pass	High Pressure Leakage	Pass	10	PSI
Cylinder	Not Perform	Secondary Pr. at High Cylinder	Pass		
Low Pressure Warning	Pass	Purge	Pass	180	L/min
Hoses	Pass	Alarm Activation Pressure			
Manifold Volume: 0.075		HP Vibralert	Pass	1061	PSI
Gauge Accuracy					
HP Numbers		Pass			
1000 PSI	2000 PSI	3000 PSI			
Pass 895	Pass 1820	Pass 3084			

Report clearly establishes Test Due Date of 5/22/2018

Two SCBA Regulators Failed Flow Test

- **Two regulators FAILED their Flow Tests because of faulty O-rings** and were repaired by Mid-Atlantic Fire & Air on July 14, 2020.
- A faulty regulator could result in the serious injury or death of a firefighter. Since it regulates the airflow from the air cylinder to the SCBA mask, any fault in the regulator could result in a rapid loss of all air in the cylinder or a diaphragm stuck closed could result in no air passing into the SCBA mask. Either way, no breathable air.

Criticality of SCBA Maintenance and Training

Per the **U.S. Fire Administration/Technical Report Series (FEMA)**
Special Report: **Prevention of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus**
Failures/November 2001

“Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) are one of the most important items of personal protective equipment used by firefighters and rescue personnel. SCBA allow firefighters to enter hazardous environments to perform essential interior operations including offensive fire attack, victim search, rescue and removal, ventilation, and overhaul. They are also used at non-fire incidents involving hazardous materials and confined spaces where there is a threat of toxic fumes or an oxygen-deficient atmosphere.”

“There have been several well-documented incidents during the past 10 years where SCBA failure may have been a contributing factor in the deaths or injuries of firefighters.”

Leadership Issues

- On July 8, 2020, Chief Coraluzzo, Jr. admitted that he does not keep track of annual training and certification requirements, showing clear negligence of his responsibilities as Fire Chief.
- Per Chief Coraluzzo, Jr., he implemented agreements for automatically scheduled annual testing, so no annual training, inspections or certifications are missed, thereby transferring his responsibility of compliance to outside vendors.
- Chief Coraluzzo, Jr. stated that the Fire House's SCBA cylinder filling station is set up for automatic annual service with their vendor
 - PEOSH later cited Landisville Fire Company for deficiencies related to the SCBA cylinder filling station.

Deficient Annual Fire Truck Pump Testing

- An annual pump test is a documented procedure to prove an apparatus can perform at its rated capacity. The chassis, drivetrain, pump, pump transmission and associated plumbing are run through a progressive series of tests that are designed to prove the system is in sound working order.
- Annual pump testing allows for safer operations and firefighter safety

Deficient Annual Fire Truck Pump Testing

Pump Test Last Performed 2015



Pump Test Performed July 2020





Deficient Annual Fire Truck Pump Testing

- Fire District #1 took delivery of an apparatus that cost the taxpayers approximately \$250,000.00 and never tested the pump in over three (3) years to ensure it functioned properly.
- Chief Kaspar ordered the pump test in July 2020, which resulted in a pump failure after seven (7) minutes of operation.
- The failure was determined to be a manufacturing defect and the apparatus was returned to the factory for repair.

Examples of Expired BLS-CPR Cards

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT BASIC LIFE SUPPORT

BLS Provider

PEEL HERE

The above individual has successfully completed the course with the curriculum of the American Heart Association.

Issue Date: _____

Record #: _____

Training Center Name: Kennedy Health TC ID #: NJ00555

TC Info: 2201 Chapel Ave West TC Phone: _____
Cherry Hill, NJ 856-488-6889

Course Location: Landisville

Instructor Name: Malinda Mangero Inst. ID #: 03112328533

Holder's Signature: _____

© 2015 American Heart Association Tampering with this card will alter its appearance. 15-1805

This card contains unique security features to protect against forgery.

15-1805 11/16

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT BASIC LIFE SUPPORT

BLS Provider

PEEL HERE

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Issue Date: _____

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Holder's Signature: _____

© 2015 American Heart Association Tampering with this card will alter its appearance. 15-1805

This card contains unique security features to protect against forgery.

15-1805 11/15

BLS-CPR Certifications
for all but one
member
of Landisville Fire
Company expired
January 15, 2020

Importance of CPR Training

- Landisville Fire Company had an incident in September 2019, when a member of the Fire Company suffered a Cardiac Arrest on an active fire scene.
- Members of the Landisville Fire Company immediately began performing Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation on the fallen member.
- Because of the rapidly administered, high quality CPR performed, the stricken member survived the event.

Lacking Proper Certifications

- When asked at the July 8, 2020 meeting, if all the members had proper certifications, Chief Coraluzzo, Jr. answered with “You have a couple of guys who are strictly Engine Operators and drive the truck...they aren’t going to pack-up and go in.” Some of the members do not have the required Firefighter 1 certification.
- This contradicts Landisville Fire Company’s Standard Operating Guideline 11-17 Driver Training/Documentation, as directed by Chief Coraluzzo, Jr., requires that any member submitting an Apparatus Operator Application must have NJ Firefighter 1 Certification.
 - When questioned about this discrepancy Chairman Lucchesi said that they are **“following all of the criteria as closely as we can”**.

Landisville Volunteer Fire/Rescue Company SOG 11-17

SECTION 1 APPLICATION

1. Any member seeking to become an operator of apparatus and/or vehicles operated by the Landisville Vol. Fire Company shall complete an Apparatus Operator Application in full. This application shall be approved by a Chief Officer.
2. Members seeking to be trained as apparatus operators shall provide copies of the following credentials:
 - a. Copy of their current & valid N.J. driver's license.
 - b. Copy of their EVOC or CEVO certification;
 - c. Copy of N.J. Firefighter 1 certification
 - d. Copy of Basic Pump Class
3. While there are many similarities between apparatus, each make of apparatus has their own nuances. An application shall be completed for each type/make of apparatus that the candidate is seeking to be trained on. (i.e.; pumper, ladder, mini-pumper).
4. Training should be tailored to each type of apparatus in the fire company.

Leadership Concerns

- It is the duty of the Fire Commissioners of District 1 to provide proper oversight of all aspects of fire safety and suppression in the District.
 - On Monday, July 6, 2020, at 22:42:37 there was a call for service at Buena Gardens. Chief Coraluzzo, Jr. responded in the Command Vehicle, along with two (2) fire trucks, staffed with a total of four (4) members of Landisville Fire Company. All five (5) responding members had either NOT BEEN fit tested or were missing required turnout gear. Therefore, none of the five (5) members would have been able to perform interior firematic functions.
 - Chief Coraluzzo, Jr. confirmed the accuracy of the aforementioned statement when questioned during the July 8th meeting.

Budgeting Concerns

- Records provided by Landisville Fire Company indicate that the majority of required annual testing was never completed and historically deferred.
- It raises the question, where did the budgeted funds go and how were these funds used?

Budgeting Concerns

- **Fire District #1 is quick to point out its surplus is over \$300,000.00 and has no debt.**

Budgeting Concerns

- District #1 has built up its surplus by...
 - Not completing required annual training
 - Not performing annual equipment testing
 - Not replacing expired SCBA cylinders
 - Not replacing expired gear

Some Steps Towards Compliance

- During Chief Joseph Kaspar's brief tenure, years of mismanagement and neglect, at the highest levels of the Fire Company, were beginning to be corrected:
 - SCBA Fit Testing was performed
 - SCBA Regulator Flow Testing was completed
 - Expired SCBA Cylinders were decommissioned and new were put into service
 - After five (5) years the required annual Pump Tests were completed
 - CPR training was completed
 - Two (2) long serving illegal Line Officers were removed

Example of Commissioners Involvement with the Fire Company

- The Mayor and I attended the September 8, 2020, Commissioners Meeting and witnessed the following event.
- In May 2020, Chief Kaspar suspended, with the approval of Chairman Paul Lucchesi, Jr., a member and referred the matter to Landisville Fire Company's Personnel/Grievance Committee, as required by Landisville Fire Company's By-Law 16.8 Personnel/Grievance Committee.

Example of Commissioners Involvement with the Fire Company

- *16.8 **Personnel/Grievance Committee.** The Personnel Committee will consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Chief and line officers. At least five (5) members of the Committee must be present to conduct any company business or review any personnel items. It will be the responsibility of this Committee to review all applications, handle any personnel matters to include disciplinary actions or complaints of any member.*

Example of Commissioners Involvement with the Fire Company

- The Personnel/Grievance Committee met and upheld the member's suspension and provided a memo regarding the matter and their decision to the Board of Commissioners.
- Both Chief Kaspar and President Jones consulted with the Fire Company's attorney to confirm they were following proper personnel procedures.

Example of Commissioners Involvement with the Fire Company

- During the September 8, 2020, Commissioners Meeting, Commissioner Coraluzzo, Sr. chastised Chief Kaspar and reminded him that he was instructed, by the Commissioners, to write and sign a letter nullifying the suspension.
- Chief Kaspar argued that the Fire Company and the Fire District are two separate entities, and the personnel matter is a Fire Company issue as defined by the Company's by-laws.

Example of Commissioners Involvement with the Fire Company

- Several members of the Board of Commissioners admitted in the meeting that **they had never read the by-laws until this matter came up.**
- **The Commissioners involved themselves in a Company personnel matter by overriding the Personnel Committee's decision.**

***Letter from
Landisville
Fire Company
Personnel
Committee***

8 September 2020

To: Landisville Vol. Fire Company Commissioners

From: Personnel Committee

Re: [REDACTED] - Suspension

Memo:

Please be advised that on August 17, 2020 the Personnel Committee met regarding issues brought forward by member [REDACTED]. Some of these issues were presented in a letter during the August 10th meeting. It is the determination of the committee that the suspension of [REDACTED] by Chief Joseph Kaspar on May 19, 2020 was within Landisville Vol. Fire Company policy as determined by our current Bylaws and Standard Operating Guidelines. Based on this determination, no credits will be given to Mr. [REDACTED] for his absence. A certified letter and a letter sent via regular mail was sent to [REDACTED] stating the same. However, even though our Bylaws do not mention anything in regards to an appeal, the committee felt it was only right to afford Mr. [REDACTED] an appeal to this decision by meeting with the Personnel Committee in person if he so chooses.

Sincerely,

Captain Brian Rowan

Commissioners Argue with Members over Training Expenses

- September 8, 2020, Commissioners Meeting – Commissioner Coraluzzo, Sr. questioned Chief Kaspar about a \$450 invoice for required annual Bloodborne Pathogen training. Captain Rowan explained that the annual training in question had not be performed since 2011.
- Coraluzzo, Sr. stated, “It doesn’t matter, you cost us \$450. If it was up to me, I would have denied payment of the invoice.” Chief Kaspar replied, “Lawn cares costs \$650 per month, so required training takes a back seat to the lawn?”

Commissioners Argue with Members over Training Expenses

- The invoice in question was authorized by former Chairman Paul Lucchesi, Jr. prior to his abrupt resignation on July 22, 2020.

Commissioners Argue with Members over Training Expenses

The Board of Fire Commissioners
had well over **\$350,000.00** in
their bank accounts while
disputing a \$450 invoice for
required annual training.

Only 25 SCBA Bottles in Service

September 8, 2020

- Later in the meeting, Chief Kaspar informed the Commissioners that although Landisville Fire Company had purchased 10 new SCBA cylinders and had acquired 15 loaners, **40 were required** to keep all four fire trucks in proper response condition. NFPA requires a cylinder and a spare for each assigned riding position in the fire truck.
- Commissioner Coraluzzo, Sr. stated “you don’t need that many. We started with **20 and that should be sufficient.**”
 - **20 cylinders is not enough for two fire trucks to legally respond to calls.**
- Commissioner DeMarco added that Buena Boro is a seven (7) square-mile town with two fire companies and that’s a lot of cylinders. He stated “You want to operate like it’s Chicago!”

4th Chief Change of 2020

September Commissioners Meeting

- At the Commissioners Meeting during the public portion, Firefighters Bill Mason and Ken Barbagli demanded the Commissioners take action to remove Chief Kaspar because the bylaws state the Fire Chief should live in the Borough.
- Ken Barbagli stated, **“If you can’t run it right. I would close you up. Run it right!”**

4th Chief Change of 2020

14 ELIGIBILITY TO HOLD OFFICE.

14.1 Officers. In order to hold the office of President, Vice President, Chief or a line officer position, an individual must be an active member for three (3) years, prior to the election.

14.2 Fire Chief. To be eligible to hold the position of Fire Chief, the member must be an active member in good standing. The Chief shall be a resident of the Boro of Buena and must have prior experience as a line officer for four (4) years. If there are no qualified residents of the Boro, the Commissioners may seek a qualified member outside of the Boro of Buena or may waive one or more qualifications.

14.3 Assistant Fire Chief. To be eligible to hold the position of Assistance Fire Chief, the member must be a resident of the Boro of Buena and must be an active member in good standing and must have had prior experience as a line officer for three (3) years. If there are no qualified residents of the Boro, the Commissioners may seek a qualified member outside of the Boro or may waive one or qualifications.

4th Chief Change of 2020

- Commissioner Coraluzzo, Sr. stated that Ken Barbagli is right and the Chief needs to live in the Borough.
- The Board of Commissioners entered into executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

4th Chief Change of 2020

- Upon returning to the open meeting, **Commissioner Rick Coraluzzo, Sr. made a motion to nominate his son, Rick Coraluzzo, Jr. for Fire Chief** and a second was made by Commissioner Richard DeMarco.
- The Board of Commissioners voted 5-0 to remove Chief Joseph Kaspar and install Rick Coraluzzo, Jr. as Fire Chief of Landisville Fire Company.

*Landisville Fire Company
Line Officer List
Provided By Chief Rick Coraluzzo, Jr.
September 2020*

**Chief – Rick Coraluzzo, Jr.
Asst Chief – Ken Barbagli
Captain – Frank Scancella
Lieutenant – Raymond Jones**

In spite of several requests for copies of new Line Officers certificates, none were provided.

Landisville Fire Illegal Line Officer

- **Lieutenant
Raymond Jones**
- **Cease and Desist Order
issued by NJ Division of Fire
Safety (10/8/2020)**
- Was determined by DFS &
PEOSH that Raymond Jones
did not posses the
qualifications for Incident
Management Level 1

Sir,

The Division of Fire Safety has received a complaint in regards to command officers not having the proper incident management certification required by the State of NJ. I would like to schedule a meeting with board of commissioners to discuss and investigate this complaint. Please forward me your availability for a meeting. Information supplied to the Division of Fire Safety stated a Raymond Jones is currently a Lieutenant for the Landisville Fire Company. My preliminary investigation and review of the Division's training report for Landisville states Raymond Jones has no certifications this being the case, please cease and desist having Raymond Jones perform the role of fire officer and firefighter.

Sincerely,

Robert Tharp
Delaware/Shore Regional Fire Coordinator



**NJ State Fire Marshal's Office
NJ Division of Fire Safety
PO Box 809
Trenton, NJ 08625**

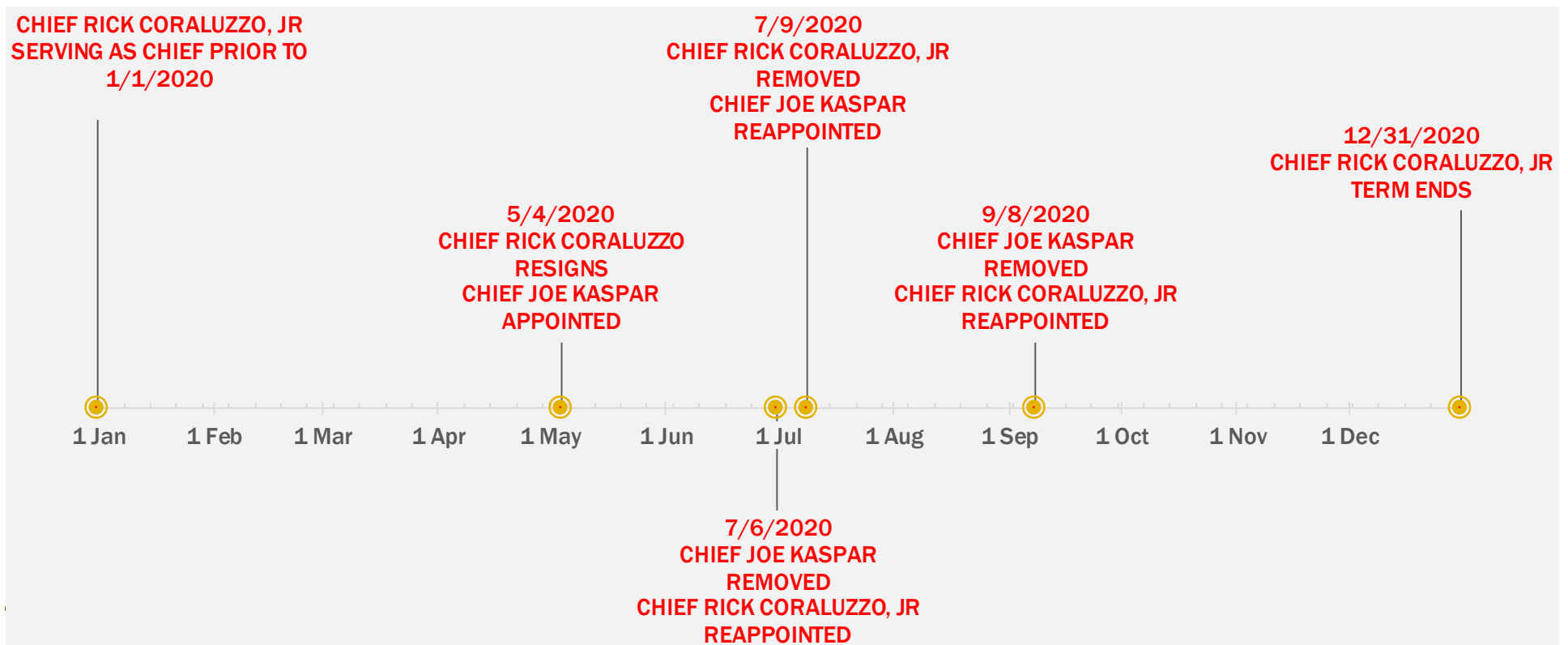
Landisville Fire Illegal Line Officer

- Landisville Fire Company ignored the NJ Division of Fire Safety's order that stated, "please cease and desist having Raymond Jones perform the role of fire officer and firefighter."
- Raymond Jones still appeared as a Lieutenant on Landisville Fire Company's response app, which would lead members to believe that Raymond Jones was still a line officer
- Raymond Jones responded on Engine 11-11 on the MVC on 10/9/2020 22:08:00

Alarm Info		10/9/2020, 22:08:00
N HARDING HWY AND N BREWSTER RD LANDISVILLE NJ 08326		
MVC - MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH{2} N HARDING HWY/N BREWSTER RD LANDISVILLE NJ 08326 CROSSSTREET1 :- CROSSSTREET2 :- COMMONNAME :- UNITS:		2 1
Responding		Station
Ray Jones	EXT, OFC, DRV, LT, SO	01:13
K. Barbagli	INT, EXT, DRV, ASST CHIEF	03:33

2020 Fire Chiefs

Landisville Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company



Selection of Fire Chief

- The New Jersey State Association of Fire Districts' Fire Commissioner's Handbook states, "A Fire District and Fire Company are separate entities with each providing fire protection services to the public. Each has its own officers and its own bylaws. It is important to recognize this distinction in serving as a Commissioner."
- N.J.A.C. 40A:14-70.1 states "the appointment or election of the chief of the volunteer fire company shall remain the prerogative of the membership of the fire company as set forth in the company's certificate of incorporation or bylaws."

Leadership Concerns

- Up until this point, internal issues have been the focus of this presentation.
- I'd like to note one important incident that involved several mutual aid partners.

Incident 02/07/2020

Chief Coraluzzo, Jr. 11-100

Violation of Landisville Fire Company

Standard Operating Guidelines

A FDID <u>05011</u> State <u>NJ</u> MM <u>02</u> DD <u>07</u> YYYY <u>2020</u> Station <u>4</u> Incident Number <u>20-0000197</u> Exposure <u>000</u>		☐ Delete ☐ Change ☐ No Activity	NFIRS -1 Basic
B Location* ☐ Check this box to indicate that the address for this incident is provided on the Wildland Fire Module in Section 8 "Alternative Location Specification". Use only for Wildland fires.			
☒ Street address <u> </u> <u>MARTINELLI</u> <u>AVE</u> ☐ Intersection Number/Highway Prefix Street or Highway Street Type Suffix ☐ In front of Apt./Suite/Room City State Zip Code ☐ Rear of <u>Minotola</u> <u>NJ</u> <u>08341</u> ☐ Adjacent to ☐ Directions Cross street or directions, as applicable			
C Incident Type * <u>445</u> Arcing, shorted electrical Incident Type		E1 Date & Times Midnight is 0000 Check boxes if dates are the same as Alarm Date. ALARM always required. Month <u>02</u> Day <u>07</u> Year <u>2020</u> Hr <u>20</u> Min <u>01</u> Sec <u>30</u> Arrival <u>20:01:30</u> ARRIVAL required, unless canceled or did not arrive ☒ Controlled <u>02</u> <u>07</u> <u>2020</u> <u>20:30:00</u> CONTROLLED Optional, Except for wildland fires ☒ Last Unit Cleared <u>02</u> <u>07</u> <u>2020</u> <u>20:30:38</u> LAST UNIT CLEARED, required except for wildland fires	
D Aid Given or Received* 1 ☒ Mutual aid received 2 ☐ Automatic aid received 3 ☐ Mutual aid given 4 ☐ Automatic aid given 5 ☐ Other aid given N ☐ None		E2 Shift & Alarms Local Option Shift or Platoon <u>01</u> <u>4</u> Alarm District E3 Special Studies Local Option Special Study ID# <u>6000</u> <u>3</u> Special Study Value	
F Actions Taken * <u>81</u> Incident command Primary Action Taken (1) <u>86</u> Investigate Additional Action Taken (2) <u>73</u> Provide manpower Additional Action Taken (3)		G1 Resources * ☒ Check this box and skip this section if an Apparatus or Personnel form is used. Apparatus <u> </u> Personnel <u> </u> Suppression <u> </u> EMS <u> </u> Other <u>0001</u> <u>0013</u> ☐ Check box if resource counts include aid received resources.	
G2 Estimated Dollar Losses & Values LOSSES: Required for all fires if known. Optional for non fires. None Property \$ <u> </u> <u>000</u> <u>000</u> Contents \$ <u> </u> <u>000</u> <u>000</u> PRE-INCIDENT VALUE: optional Property \$ <u> </u> <u>000</u> <u>000</u> Contents \$ <u> </u> <u>000</u> <u>000</u>			

A FDID <u>05011</u> State <u>NJ</u> MM <u>02</u> DD <u>07</u> YYYY <u>2020</u> Station <u>4</u> Incident Number <u>20-0000197</u> Exposure <u>000</u>		☐ Delete ☐ Change ☐ No Activity	Complete Narrative
Narrative: On 02/07/2020 at 20:01:30 dispatched To <u>MARTINELLI AVE /Minotola, NJ 08341</u> . The location is a single family dwelling. The incident was determined to be a Arcing, shorted electrical equipment. 20:08:58 arrived on scene. IC REPORT: 401 responded with 201, arrived and met by 12-201 advised of electrical issue and to have crew investigate, <u>once back feeding was confirmed and found entire house energized, 11-100 refused to shut down panel and wanted to investigate further</u> , 401 ordered L4's crew out of dwelling due to unsafe operations, crew stood by and 401 requested to be released by command. All VLD units released. The following actions were performed on scene: Incident command Investigate Provide manpower Units responding were: Unit L4 responded. Mutual aid received: Minotola Fire Department 20:30:38 all units back in service 02/07/2020 22:35:33 <u> </u>			

*Incident 02/07/2020
Landisville Fire Co
Chief Coraluzzo, Jr 11-100
Violations of Landisville Fire
Standard Operating Guidelines*

Violation of SOG: 11-44
Policy:

No member of the Landisville Vol. Fire Company shall attempt to mitigate any electrical emergency, regardless of their training or occupation, unless the life of another person is threatened, and electric company personnel are not readily available.

Chief Coraluzzo violated his own SOG, see signature.

Landisville Vol. Fire/Rescue Co. OPERATING GUIDELINE			
Procedure No: 11-44			
ELECTRICAL EMERGENCIES			
DATE ISSUED: 3-28-2016	DATE EFFECTIVE: 3-28-16	REVISED: original	PAGE: 1 of 1
PURPOSE:	To provide guidelines to members who may respond to or supervise the scene of a reported electrical emergency.		
SCOPE:	This guideline shall apply to all fire company members who respond to electrical emergencies.		
POLICY:	No member of the Landisville Vol. Fire Company shall attempt to mitigate any electrical emergency, regardless of their training or occupation, unless the life of another person is threatened and electric company personnel are not readily available.		
SECTION 1	When downed wires occur, the electric company shall be notified to respond immediately via Gloucester County Communications. The OIC will give the Alarm Room the number of the nearest electric pole that can be obtained without endangering any personnel.		
SECTION 2 Security	1. Pedestrians shall at all times, be kept away from downed wires or wires hanging in trees or other obstructions until an electric company representative arrives and places the situation under control. 2. The OIC shall insure that a safe area around the equipment is marked off with caution tape. If the area can not be secured, a fire company unit shall remain on location until the electric company arrives. 3. The scene may be turned over to a responsible party by the OIC once the person taking charge of the situation is advised of the conditions and precautions to take.		
SECTION 3 Safety to members	1. At no time should a member look directly into a live wire arc or transformer due to possible damage to their eyes. 2. NO MEMBER, REGARDLESS OF THEIR TRAINING OR OCCUPATION SHALL ATTEMPT TO MITIGATE ANY ELECTRICAL EMERGENCY UNLESS A LIFE IS THREATENED AND ELECTRIC COMPANY PERSONNEL ARE NOT READILY AVAILABLE.		
Chief:	Ricky Coraluzzo Jr.	<i>Ricky Coraluzzo Jr.</i>	Date: 3-28-16

Mishandling of COVID-19 Exposure

Protocol for a Member Contracting COVID-19

- i. Response to a member contracting COVID-19
 - i. Proper reporting to other members and public health officials
 - ii. Initiate in house contact tracing /Cooperate with Public Health Officials in contact tracing and other means of mitigation
 - iii. Alert Mutual Aid of Fire Company's that will be out of service do to quarantine
 - iv. Decontamination of building and ALL Equipment. The department will be placed out of service until contact tracing, decontamination and all persons needing quarantine is complete and health department has cleared to return to service

COVID-19 Protocols

- A member of Landisville Fire Company tested positive for the COVID-19 virus in October 2020.
- Exposure to other members occurred at the Fire House
- Notification was made to those members who were in direct contact with the known positive person.
- This event should have triggered several actions by Landisville Fire Company if they followed their COVID-19 Guidelines.

COVID-19 Protocols

- i. Response to a member contracting COVID-19
 - i. Proper reporting to other members and public health officials
 - ii. Initiate in house contact tracing /Cooperate with Public Health Officials in contact tracing and other means of mitigation
 - iii. Alert Mutual Aid of Fire Company's that will be out of service do to quarantine
 - iv. Decontamination of building and ALL Equipment. The department will be placed out of service until contact tracing, decontamination and all persons needing quarantine is complete and health department has cleared to return to service
- Notification was **NEVER** made to membership, nor to public health officials
- Mutual Aid partners – Franklin Twp Police, Minotola Fire Co and Buena EMS were **never** notified by Landisville Fire Company
- Landisville Fire Company did not put themselves out of service.
- The building was professionally cleaned, but no mention of apparatus or equipment.

COVID-19 Protocols

LVFC COVID-19 SOG

Joseph D'Alessandro <buenaoem@buenaboro.org>

Sun 10/18/2020 10:45 PM

To: Ricky Coraluzzo <enricocoraluzzo@gmail.com>

Cc: kb3nfe@comcast.net <kb3nfe@comcast.net>; chiefjrs@aol.com <chiefjrs@aol.com>; David Zappariello <mayordave@buenaboro.org>

 1 attachments (274 KB)

Landisville FC COVID-19 SOG 031720.pdf;

Gentlemen,

This evening I was informed by Chief Coraluzzo, via telephone, that a member of Landisville Volunteer Fire Company tested positive today for COVID-19. Please see attached LVFC's COVID-19 Standard Operating Guidelines that were sent to Buena OEM on March 17, 2020 to address Fire Operations at LVFC during the COVID-19 Pandemic State of Emergency.

Please review your attached SOG with particular attention to ***Section i: Response to a member contracting COVID-19***, which indicates your adopted procedures and guidelines for a member testing positive for COVID-19.

Please confirm ASAP that procedures/guidelines in the attached SOG are being followed to ensure the health and safety of the members of LVFC, the residents of the Borough of Buena and Mutual Aid partners. Please keep me updated on 11-1's operational status as it relates to this event.

Regards,

Joseph A. D'Alessandro, III
Director of Public Safety
Emergency Management Coordinator

COVID-19 Protocols

- COVID-19 testing guidance recommends that individuals with a known exposure to a positive should wait 3-5 days before testing to allow for the potential viral load to be great enough to be detected.
- This information was relayed to Chief Coraluzzo, Jr., who replied that the members received negative tests and were fine. They did not need to quarantine nor take any other preventative measures.
- The Landisville Fire Company members who had been exposed but tested negative on Day 2 (**not** 3-5 days) of exposure continued to respond to calls.
- One exposed member entered a residence on a CO Alarm call, only one day after testing, potentially exposing the residents and Landisville Fire Company's mutual aid partners to COVID-19.
- Earlier the same day, there was a fire that, once again, put some of the exposed members of Landisville Fire Company in contact with the public and their mutual aid partners.

Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Inspections

*New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Office of Public Employees' Occupational Safety and Health (PEOSH)*

- Mayor and Council were notified by PEOSH that a former line officer from Landisville Fire Company had filed a complaint with PEOSH alleging several areas of concern regarding the members' health and safety.
- The NJ Division of Fire Safety (NJDFS) also contacted the Mayor and I to inform us that NJDFS was investigating allegations regarding an unqualified Landisville Fire Company Line Officer.

New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development Office of Public Employees' Occupational Safety and Health (PEOSH)

Department of Labor Findings: 9 Violations (6 Serious and 3 Other-than-Serious)

Citations issued on November 18, 2020

- 9 Citations (6 Serious and 3 Other-than-Serious)
 - Illegal Line Officer (demoted on the spot)
 - Lack of Accountability Tags
 - Lacking documentation of Pump Testing, Aerial Testing and Roadworthiness for Trucks
 - Improper Head Protection
 - Helmets lacking proper Eye Protection
 - Not providing proper equipment to firefighters
 - Bunker Pants missing thermal layer

Violations were abated and the Department of Labor case was closed on January 7, 2021.

New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development Office of Public Employees' Occupational Safety and Health (PEOSH)

Department of Health Findings: 19 Violations (13 Serious and 6 Other-than-Serious)

Citations issued on November 18, 2020

- No evidence of an effective Emergency Response Plan
- Landisville Fire Company did not provide yearly First Responder Operations refresher training
- Not all members were fit tested on SCBA masks
- Lack of annual SCBA respirator training
- Deficient Hepatitis B Program
- Members lacking annual Bloodborne Pathogen training
- Bloodborne Pathogen training did not include the Exposure Control Plan
- Several chemicals stored in improperly labeled containers
- Lacking proper Safety Data Sheets for hazardous chemicals stored at the Fire House
- Landisville Fire Company did not provide Hazardous Communication training for all members
- Landisville Fire Company did not provide Hazardous Communication training that included information on the Company's Written Program and Safety Data Sheets
- Landisville Fire Company was lacking training for (SCBA) air cylinder filling station
- Landisville Fire Company was lacking records for filling of SCBA cylinders and lacking manual for filling equipment

Violations above in RED are still not corrected and unabated as of today, over six (6) months since issuance.

*New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Office of Public Employees' Occupational Safety and Health (PEOSH)*

- The Borough of Buena provides Liability Insurance coverage for Fire District #1 through the Municipal Joint Insurance Fund. Due to the volume and severity of the PEOSH violations, Mayor and Council, in consultation with our professionals, decided the safest and most prudent course of action was the suspension of operations of Landisville Fire Company.

*New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Office of Public Employees' Occupational Safety and Health (PEOSH)*

- On two separate occasions, December 14, 2020, and March 12, 2021, Mayor and Council passed resolutions suspending the operations of Fire District 1 and the Landisville Volunteer Fire/Rescue Company.
- As of today, the PEOSH NJ Department of Health enforcement case remains open and six (6) Serious Violations remain unabated.

*New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Office of Public Employees' Occupational Safety and Health (PEOSH)*

- PEOSH's enforcement case with Landisville Fire Company remains open and active until the NJ Department of Health revisits the Fire House, conducts their inspection and issues a closeout letter.
- Reinspection does not guarantee compliance and may even trigger additional citations.

Police Report Filed By Asst Chief Barbagli

- Landisville Fire Company required all members to return any company property by 5pm on December 23, 2020.
- On December 16, 2020, a Landisville firefighter returned Landisville Fire Company property to Borough Hall where I received on behalf of the Fire Company.
- On December 21, 2020, I notified the Chief, the President and Chair of the Fire Commission that Landisville's property had been dropped off at Borough Hall and was available for pickup.
- On December 23, 2020, Assistant Chief Ken Barbagli filed a Police Report for theft of Landisville Company property that was at Borough Hall.

Police Report Filed By Asst Chief Barbagli



Report Date: 02/03/21 09:08

Reported	12/23/20 17:54	Reported Location:	102 W Arbor Ave (Landsville Fire Company-04)
Priority	2	Event	
Call#	-	Units	P1158 - ML181 - Locliente, Nicholas H
Stashed	12/23/20 17:56		
Dispatched	12/23/20 17:57		
Arrived	12/23/20 18:06		
Finished	12/23/20 18:12		
Disposition	Clear No Report Required		

Unit Ref	N
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Names				
Activity	Name	DOB	Address	Phone#
Caller	Barbagli Ken		35 Southwest BLVD, 1 Newfield, NJ 08344	W:(856) 617-2522

Contact Numbers:

Work

Barbagli Kem (856) 617-2522					
Unit History					
Unit	Unit Time	Activity	Officer	Dispatcher	Disposition
P1158	12/23/20 18:12:20	IC	NLI181		Clear No Report Required
P1158	12/23/20 18:06:09	OS	NLI181		
P1158	12/23/20 17:57:47	EN	NLI181		
P1158	12/23/20 17:57:46	DI	NLI181		

Txt Dttm	Unit Ref	Notes
12/23/20 17:56	KW6228	Names Added : Barbagli Ken
12/23/20 17:54		FD GOT SHUT DOWN AND ONE PERSON DID NOT TURN IN THERE GEAR TODAY // ORDINANCE FROM THE BOROUGH //
12/23/20 17:54		Call Back Information : 8566172522
12/23/20 17:57		Dispatched: P1158
12/23/20 18:11	P1158	failed to return gear to fire station by 5pm
Names		
Activity	Name	DOB Address Phone#
Caller	Barbagli Ken	35 Southwest BLVD,1 Newfield, NJ 08344 W:(856) 617-2522
Contact Numbers:		

2020 Response Rates

Landisville Fire Company 2020

Response Rates

- Response rates can be confusing. Technically, a Chief's Command Vehicle (usually an SUV) is generally considered a piece of fire apparatus.
- According to this definition, when a Chief, in his/her Command Vehicle gets on radio and advises the dispatch center that he/she is responding, that counts as the company "responding". When that Chief arrives on the location of the incident, then the company has "arrived".
- For our purposes, the Borough looked at the response and arrival component differently. The Borough is more concerned with the response and arrival time of the fire trucks – actual apparatus that can fight a fire.

Landisville Fire Company 2020 Response Rates

- The Borough of Buena operates on a Dual-Station Dispatch meaning that both Landisville and Minotola Fire Companies are dispatched for every call for service within the Borough of Buena.
- Irrespective of the District from which the call originates, **both** Companies receive the same dispatch.
- The response and arrival information that follows is based on 111 Calls for Service received by Landisville Volunteer Fire/Rescue Co and Minotola Volunteer Fire Co during 2020 (01/01/2020-12/14/2020).

Landisville Fire Company 2020 Response Rates

- The data that has been compiled is taken from the CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) Summary reports from Gloucester County Emergency Response Center, which dispatched all Landisville Fire Company's calls for service in 2020.
 - There are two exceptions, the TS Isaias calls on 8/4/2020 & the unprecedented thunderstorms and flooding that ensued on 8/7/2020.
 - These two dates were excluded because of the sheer volume of calls for service in the area and the lack of accurate times from the Dispatch Center.

Landisville Fire Company 2020 Response Rates

Borough-Wide Dual-Station Dispatch

- Total 111 Calls for Service
- Fire Truck Responded on 66 Calls
- Truck Response Rate of 59.5%
- 9.45 Minutes for Truck to Respond
- Fire Truck Arrived on location on 47 Calls
- Fire Truck on Location Rate 42.3%
- The difference (19 calls) between response and arrival is because of recalls by crews already on location.
- 13.1 Minutes to Arrive on Location after initial dispatch

Dwelling Calls in the Borough in 2020

- There were 5 Dwelling Calls (House Fires) in the Borough in 2020
- Landisville Fire Company responded with a Fire Truck to one (1) of the five (5)
- 20% Response Rate to Dwelling Calls
- The one call that Landisville Fire Company made took 15 minutes to get the Fire Truck on the road and **17 minutes to arrive on location** after Command Issued a Reduce Speed order.
 - Ladder 11-16 was the 6th and final Fire Truck to arrive on location, which was only 1.4 miles from Station 11-1

Landisville Fire Company 2020 Response Rates

Calls for Service in District 1 - Landisville Section

- 40 Calls in Landisville Section
- Fire Truck Responded to 26 Calls
- Truck Response Rate of 62.5%
- 8.4 Minutes for Truck to Respond
- Fire Truck Arrived on location on 22 Calls
- Fire Truck on Location Rate 52.5%
- The difference (4 calls) between response and arrival is because of recalls by crews already on location.
- 11.2 Minutes to Arrive on Location after initial dispatch

Borough-Wide Response Rates

Calls for Service – September 8, 2020 – December 14, 2020

Landisville Vol Fire Co

- 8.2 Minutes for a Truck to Respond
- 10.7 Minutes to Arrive on Location after initial dispatch
- 2.69 Firefighters/Call
- Truck Response Rate of 45.5%

Minotola Vol Fire Co

- 5.5 Minutes for a Truck to Respond
- 6.87 Minutes to Arrive on Location after initial dispatch
- 4.48 Firefighters/Call
- Truck Response Rate of 96.6%

Landisville Fire Company 2020 Response Rates

Calls for Service in District 1 – Landisville Section

September 8, 2020 – December 14, 2020

Under the Command of:

Chief Coraluzzo, Jr., Asst Chief Ken Barbagli & Capt Frank Scancella

- 11 Calls in Landisville Section
- Fire Truck Responded to 6 Calls
- Truck Response Rate of 45.5%
- 8.2 Minutes for Truck to Respond
- Fire Truck Arrived on location on 3 Calls
- Fire Truck on Location Rate 27.2%
- 10.7 Minutes to Arrive on Location after initial dispatch

27.2%

Truck on Location Rate

Disinformation & Misinformation

Disinformation/Misinformation

- “Mayor and Council are trying to get their hands on Landisville’s money and building!”
 - The Borough of Buena does not “get” the money. If District 1 is dissolved, District 2 will be expanded and will assume all assets and liabilities of District 1 to continue to provide fire safety services to the residents.
- “All violations have been abated. We are waiting on the State!”
 - As of today, there are still six (6) Serious Dept of Health Citations outstanding from November 2020.
- “I do not consider violations related to antique vehicles or elderly member’s equipment that do not actively fight fires to be serious violations.”
 - There were no citations issued by PEOSH relating to “antique vehicles or elderly member’s equipment.”

Disinformation/Misinformation

- “Mayor and members of council have not been in touch with the department since the violations were issued to discuss a resolution or to see with their own eyes the violations that were issued and how they have been corrected.”
 - Mayor and Council members have met with the Commissioners on at least three occasions since PEOSH opened their investigation.
 - October 15, 2020, to discuss the NJ Division of Fire Safety’s Cease & Desist Order regarding an illegal Line Officer
 - December 8, 2020, to discuss all of the PEOSH violations and plans for correction
 - January 20, 2021, at the request of the Commissioners and their Attorney to discuss their situation. Once the Fire District retained Counsel, all communication with the Fire District has been between the attorneys.

Disinformation/Misinformation

- “The six (6) Serious PEOSH Violations that remain uncorrected are due to the restrictions on gathering that are in place because of the COVID-19 Pandemic.”
 - FACT: EO-196 issued 11/16/2020 indicated that training and meetings for First Responders are not subject to the ten-person limit. (See Memo from NJ Division of Fire Safety Director dated 11/19/2020)



Department of Community Affairs



Division of Fire Safety

Director's Office

To: All Fire Personnel

From: Director Richard Mikutsky *RLM*

Re: Executive order 196

Date: November 19, 2020

Considering the recent issuance on November 16, 2020 of Governor Murphy's Executive Order # 196, trainings and meetings for first responders are not subject to the ten-person limit. However, they should follow the 25% capacity limits of the room, not to exceed 150 people and continue to follow health and safety protocols including daily health checks. If these meetings/trainings are not for first responder's then they would be subject to the ten-person limit.

Please direct any questions to DFS Training and Certification Unit supervisor Kent Neiswender 609-341-3473.

Disinformation/Misinformation

- Press of AC article dated May 6 indicated that Landisville Fire Company has more than 20 members.
 - The number of members does not equal the number of certified firefighters.
 - The Borough of Buena received 3 different lists of firefighters on March 10 (9), April 23 (13), and April 26 (11).
 - The lists received lack consistency and not all members listed appear to have Firefighter 1 Certification.

“Know the Real Facts”

“Financial audit ordered of Landisville Fire Department (Report Released at 4/12/2021 Council Meeting - Only 3 Clerical Procedures Noted and Procedures Have Been Revised to Comply)”

The financial audit of Borough of Buena Board of Fire Commissioners District 1 was not an attempt by the Borough of Buena to find wrongdoing. The Borough had no expectations of finding financial improprieties. The audit is simply a step required in the dissolution process, prescribed by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Local Finance Board.

“Know the Real Facts”

“Mayor Zappariello and Councilman D’Alessandro visited select Boro residents at their homes explaining to them that LVFD received many violations that resulted in the Boro being responsible for paying hefty fines as a result of those violations.”

Neither Mayor David Zappariello, nor Councilman Joseph A. D’Alessandro, III have ever told residents that Landisville Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company had incurred fines as a result of the active and ongoing investigation currently being conducted by the New Jersey Department of Health (PEOSH). The Borough of Buena would not be responsible for any fines incurred by the Borough of Buena Board of Fire Commissioners District 1 and Landisville Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company, even if they have been issued.

“Know the Real Facts”

“Mayor Zappariello stated at the above council meeting that he and Councilman D’Alessandro met with LVFD on multiple occasions regarding these violations when THEY DID NOT!”

Mayor David Zappariello, Council President Rosalie Baker and Councilman D’Alessandro have met with the Borough of Buena Board of Fire Commissioners District 1 and Landisville Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company on at least eight (8) separate occasions since July 2020 regarding various issues, including, but limited to the current PEOSH investigation. (7/8/2020, 7/13/2020, 9/8/2020, 9/9/2020, 10/5/2020, 10/15/2020, 12/8/2020, 1/20/2021)

“Know the Real Facts”

“Landisville Volunteer Fire has resolved all violations and is awaiting action from the State to be officially cleared to reopen. Delays were incurred due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.”

Borough of Buena Board of Fire Commissioners District 1 and Landisville Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company are in the midst of an investigation by the New Jersey Department of Health. The outstanding violations cited by the NJ Department of Health have not been resolved and will not be resolved until the NJ Department of Health conducts a reinspection of Borough of Buena Board of Fire Commissioners District 1 and Landisville Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company. The correspondence received throughout the ongoing NJ Department of Health investigation has not referenced COVID-19 as a reason for the delay in compliance, but rather a continued lack of required training. Governor Murphy issued Executive Order 196 (11/2020) which stated that training and meetings for first responders are not subject to the ten-person gathering limit.

“Know the Real Facts”

“Does the Mayor & Council want the building for another purpose or just their fat bank account?”

The Borough of Buena’s application to the Department of Community Affairs specifically states the Borough of Buena is dissolving Borough of Buena Board of Fire Commissioners District 1 and expanding Borough of Buena Board of Fire District 2. The assets and liabilities will be transferred from Fire District #1 to Fire District #2. The Borough of Buena does not take possession of any of Fire District #1’s assets. Fire District #1’s assets will continue to serve the residents of Fire District #1 but will be administered by the Fire Commissioners of Fire District #2.

“Know the Real Facts”

“Eliminating one department will result in the BORO PAYING A FEE by requiring neighboring fire departments to cover our town when our fire department is on an active call.”

The Borough of Buena does not pay for mutual aid, just as the Borough’s first responder agencies do not charge neighboring municipalities for mutual aid. Communities work together to provide mutual aid to each other to supplement their municipalities resources, such as manpower and equipment.

“Know the Real Facts”

- It has been stated time and again that dissolving Fire District #1 will increase property taxes.
- **2020 Fire Tax Rates:**
 - Fire District #1: 10.1¢
 - Fire District #2: 15.5¢

“Know the Real Facts”

- **Estimated annual savings** (Financial Analysis by Ford, Scott & Associates):
 - **\$102,684.00 per year**
- **The New Estimated Borough-wide Fire Tax Rate after dissolution of District #1 & expansion of District #2:**
 - **9.52¢ = Fire Tax Savings for the Entire Borough**

Deficiencies of the Fire Commissioners

- The Fire Commissioners of District 1 knew of the many irregularities within the Landisville Fire Company and its line officers.
- Leadership does not take responsibility for the actions of the membership.
- Leadership has not consulted appropriate State rules and/or laws that pertain to the daily operations of the Fire District.