

**Emergency Services Committee**  
**January 19, 2023**

**Call to Order:** The meeting began at 6:30PM at Township Building with the following Members in attendance: Michael Foltz, Chair, Keith Gabel, Rodney Wagner, Robert Kline, Michael Zomolsky, Frank Burzynski, and Terry Jones. Also in attendance was Troy Bingaman, Township Manager

**Approval of Notes:** Mr. Bingaman distributed notes for the November 17, 2022, meeting. Mr. Foltz asked if anyone had any concerns or changes. Hearing none, notes were approved.

**Open Issues:** Mr. Foltz reviewed the following open issues from the September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- a) Status update on progress of standardized SOG's/SOP's – The fire department representatives indicated they continue to work on these items. Several members of the committee asked to see some fruits of their labor – i.e.: provide the committee with the drafts thus far for review and discussion. A lengthy discussion ensued, it was decided a unified set of SOG & SOP's shall be developed for both stations to be operating under the same guidelines and procedures. This should make operations clear for all volunteers as they are typically on scenes together. Chief Zomolsky & Chief Gabel indicated the regional fire zone is re-vamping equipment SOG's and this may affect their work. It was agreed this should not hold up progress on other items.
- b) Progress of obtaining Tax ID for Amity Township Emergency Services to address Workers Compensation issues for various companies – Mr. Bingaman indicated the Solicitor's office is working through that process on behalf of the Township.
- c) Update on ISO Rating – Mr. Zomolsky stated they have completed the process with the ISO representative. Mr. Gable stated they have a meeting scheduled for 2/21.
- d) Update on Drug & Alcohol Policy – There was a question as to whether this could be handled under the existing agreement the Township has with Tower Health. Mr. Bingaman will reach out to his contact at Tower Health.
- e) Professional Fundraiser for buildings/equipment – This item was deferred as Mr. Simser requested it be placed on the agenda and was unable to attend this meeting.
- f) Full-time Fire Marshal - This item was deferred as Mr. Simser requested it be placed on the agenda and was unable to attend this meeting.
- g) EMS services for Amity – It was noted Western Berks EMS will cease serving Amity on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Jones stated the Board is working with TowerDIRECT to solidify an agreement to provide services effective on the date Western Berks EMS ceases. There was some concern about their location and the issue of transports. Mr. Bingaman stated they hoped to be somewhere along the 422 corridor as that is where the bulk of the responses occur. He also stated, a communication had already been made regarding the dedicated unit NOT being used for routine transports. TowerDIRECT indicated it would not be possible for the Amity unit(s) to conduct transports at this time due to the call volume. Mr. Jones asked the Fire Chief's to respect the Supervisors decision to do what is best for the residents.
- h) Eliminating policy on voting on new members – discussion was held subsequent to the recommendation of the 2021 Strategic Planning documents as provided by VFIS about eliminating the existing policy of voting in new members to the fire company. It was

decided the current policy will remain and no further action will be had on this recommendation.

- i) Volunteer Tax Incentives – Mr. Bingaman provided the Committee with the requirements for eligibility to receive a real estate tax and/or earned income tax credit. There was a discussion about the fact that this will not apply to many, particularly at Monarch as the bulk of the volunteers do not live in Amity. Mr. Bingaman stated there would be nothing prohibiting the Fire Dept from implementing the credits internally and approaching the surrounding municipalities for consideration. Mr. Zomolsky stated they were already talking to Douglass Township. Mr. Bingaman also distributed proposed parameters to be used for eligibility. After discussion ensued, it was agreed the following would be proposed to the Board of Supervisors for consideration:

**Volunteer Firefighters (VFF) / Fire Police (FP) – VFF** required to hold FF1, VRT or EMT certification and **FP** required to have Basic Fire Police Training & Sworn Officer status:

- a. Member for 1 year
- b. 20% total call volume response

**Fire Fighting Administrative / Executive & Fundraising Volunteers**

- c. Member for 1 year
  - d. Active Participation at the discretion of the Company Chief
- j) Mr. Foltz recommended the Fire Dept. representatives and other Committee members revisit the goals and objectives recommended in the report to determine what can be accomplished in the near term, along with the SOP's & SOG's. There was a discussion on not advancing the recommendation to eliminate the “voting on new members” requirement.

**Action Items:**

- a) Fire Companies to provide samples reflecting the progress made on the unified SOG's.
- b) Common Tax ID for Amity Township Fire Dept.
- c) Future Meeting Dates: 2/16 & 3/16.

**Adjournment:** Mike Foltz adjourned the meeting at 7:26 PM.

**Notes for the meeting submitted by:** Troy Bingaman