

Emergency Services Committee
September 15, 2022

Call to Order: The meeting began at 6:30PM at the Township Building with the following in attendance: Members, Michael Foltz, Chair, Ed Simser, Keith Gable, Rodney Wagner, Michael Zomolsky and Frank Burzynski, Barry Gross and Pam Kisch, Township Secretary.

Roll Call: Mrs. Kisch stated Mr. Bingaman and Mrs. McGrath were attending a Municipal Law Forum. Mr. Jones notified staff on Tuesday after 4:30pm that he was unable to attend. Mrs. Kisch stated she was attending on behalf of the administration to take some notes and report back to the Manager.

Introductions: Mr. Foltz led the conversation by stating there weren't introductions at prior meetings; and he'd like to introduce himself, some background on his professional experiences and what brought him to serve on the Committee. Each member introduced themselves.

Approval of Notes: Mr. Foltz stated notes were drafted from the March 8, April 12 and May 16th meetings and asked if anyone had any concerns or changes. Hearing none, notes were approved. Mr. Foltz continued down the agenda.

Open Issues: Mr. Foltz reviewed the following open issues from the September 16th meeting:

- a) Status update on progress of standardized SOP's – Mr. Zomolsky stated the fire companies have finalized several of the SOG's. Mr. Burzynski stated he's forwarded SOG's to Chief Gabel and they have several finalized. Mrs. Kisch recommended the departments share any SOG's that have been finalized for the BOS and Committee so everyone can see the progress made.
- b) Progress of obtaining Tax ID for Amity Township Emergency Services to address Workers Compensation issues for various companies – Mr. Foltz stated he spoke to Troy and there was no update at this time. Discussion ensued about the need for drug and alcohol testing SOP's and written communication to area hospitals regarding authorization to request personnel be tested. Mr. Zomolsky asked who would be paying for the tests. Mrs. Kisch stated the BOS and staff are tasked with budgeting. If the department would like the Township to provide funding, a standard SOP could be drafted detailing when testing should be done helping to determine how much would be necessary to cover costs. Mr. Simser stated PD makes the determination on accident scenes regarding probable cause. Mr. Zomolsky stated they have limited volunteer resources, noting the Township already has a drug and alcohol policy for Township employees. Mr. Foltz stated staffing is a problem everywhere and recommended using the current employee policy as a basis for the SOG. Policy was provided to Mike Foltz via email on 9/16.
- c) Proposed Implementation of Emergency Services Fees – Backup.
- d) Inquiry into use of Township Open Space for erection of fire services facility – Mr. Foltz stated the Solicitor has confirmed the use would be permitted for the parcel at Morlatton and Old Airport Road.
- e) Inquiry into USDA funding for fire services facility – Backup.
- f) Discussion of Draft Act 72 Ordinance – Tax credits for Volunteer Firefighters – Mr. Foltz stated the draft was provided. Mrs. Kisch stated it was understood that the fire companies felt this incentive wasn't beneficial, as many volunteers do not live in Amity Township. After

brief discussion, committee members agreed it was a good incentive and wanted to proceed. Mr. Zomolsky stated he'd like to see the credit implemented. Once successfully implemented, he said he'd like to see the School Board do the same with school taxes. Mr. Foltz suggested checking with Douglass Township to see if they may also want to implement something similar to help volunteers who have property in Douglass, since the fire companies cover their municipality as well. BOS will consider adoption of this Ordinance, as drafted, at the October 19, 2022 meeting.

- g) Review of tagout/lockout process – Responsibility lies with the Twp. Building Code Officers. Mr. Zomolsky stated this hasn't been resolved. When a tagout/lockout has been issued in the past (noting a pellet stove that was improperly installed sending embers into a neighboring property), the fire company notified the Code Officer and who in turn, instructed the fire company to make the owner aware they needed to apply for a permit. Mr. Zomolsky stated he emailed, copied and blind copied people and nothing was said. Mrs. Kisch asked for the example. The Departments would like to see a form they can complete and have emailed to the Twp. Code Enforcement when there is a tagout/lockout. Troy agrees, as discussed, the follow-up would be with Codes, but would like to look at the example to make sure there were no extenuating circumstances. Waiting on this example from Mike Zomolsky. Township staff can work with the Fire Companies to create a standard form to be completed and presented to Codes.
- h) Update on ISO rating for Amity Township – None

New Business:

- a) SOG's for Drug and Alcohol Testing with Funding Recommendation – Fire Companies working on when to test, who makes that determination, agreements needed for local hospitals, etc. before presenting a unified request to BOS. *Copy of Township Policy was given to Mike Foltz via email 9/16 to use as a baseline.*
- b) 2 paid employees at the station, to ensure driver of truck isn't working truck and the incident – Fire Companies to work on details such as recommendation of hours to staff, proposed hourly wages, and how to cover these costs, possibly showing they cannot do this with existing funding, etc. before presenting a unified request to BOS.
- c) Increase in Funding – tied to the above request for additional staffing. Fire Companies to work on detailed recommendation, maybe include how funds are used today, so BOS can see the need.
- d) Township's Volunteer Firefighter's Policy – Copy was sent to Mike Foltz via email 9/16 if the group felt changes needed to be made, they should be recommended to the BOS.
- e) Mr. Foltz shared an email from Troy Bingaman regarding Act 1178 and said there were some good things to come from that.
- f) Meeting Dates: 10/20, 11/17 and 12/15.

Adjournment: Mike Foltz adjourned the meeting at 8:30PM.

Notes for the meeting submitted by: Pam Kisch