

**Emergency Services Committee**  
**March 21, 2024**

**Call to Order:** The meeting began at 6:30PM at Township Building with the following Members in attendance: Michael Foltz, Chair, Ed Simser, Rodney Wagner, Michael Zomolsky, Frank Burzynski, Barry Gross, Adam Ruffner, Kim McGrath, and Terry Jones. Also in attendance were Troy Bingaman, Township Manager and Special Counsel John Muir from Kozloff Stoudt Attorneys.

**Approval of Notes:** Mr. Foltz drafted notes for the January 18, 2024, meeting. Mr. Foltz asked if anyone had any concerns or changes. After a discussion about the notes, a motion was made and seconded to approve the notes as written. Mr. Foltz continued down the agenda.

**Open Issues:**

The committee opened the meeting with a lengthy discussion about objections and concerns of the fire companies members about the formation of a singular Fireman's Relief Association. The Committee was informed by Mr. Jones and Troy Bingaman that the Board of Supervisors approved to proceed with the formation of singular Fireman's Relief Association at their recent Board meeting. As such, Mr. Muir is in the process of developing recommended organizational set up so the process can proceed forward. The committee clarified with Mr. Muir that forming the singular Relief Association does not take away the proceeds currently held by the two separate Fireman's Relief Associations of Amity & Monarch Fire Companies, nor does it completely dissolve them. He said the only means to legally take those rights and profits away from the individual companies would be either through court order, actions of the PA Attorney General's Office or their own membership voting to do something with it. Mr. Burzynski expressed concerns that the township was forcing the fire companies into a single relief fund and should consider holding off and doing this after it is determined that the companies can function as a unit with both training and equipment needs as well as formulating standardized operational guidelines. Mr. Jones rebutted in reminding Mr. Burzynski that the committee previously discussed this and voted to recommend the action to form a single Relief Association to the Township. He said the Township listened to the recommendation of the committee and moved forward with it. Mr. Foltz rebutted stating that since this committee formed in early 2022, there has been little to no progress made as a result of the lack of commitment by the fire companies. Mr. Foltz referred to repeated requests for the companies to work together, draft and produce standard operating guidelines and report back to the committee, to date seeing no progress. Mr. Foltz further stated that when voting on the matter to recommend the formation of a single Fireman's Relief Association, that the majority voted in favor with no one on the committee openly objecting to the matter at that time. Mr. Burzynski said he abstained from the vote. During these discussions it was made known that the two fire companies still have not committed to joint training and they openly admitted to a lack of cohesiveness amongst leadership and members from the individual companies. The Committee admonished the Chief's for lack of leadership and pleaded with them to work through these issues for the benefit of the community.

The committee agreed to set goals and objectives for 2024. Mr. Foltz reviewed the Strategic Planning Actions provided by the 2021 VFIS study. The committee then agreed to work through the recommendations of this document throughout 2024. The action items agreed upon for the May 16, 2024, meeting was as follows:

1. Mr. Muir will develop a recommended organizational structure for the Township Fireman's Relief Association.
2. Mr. Wagner & Mr. Zomolsky will provide Mr. Muir with the list of their corporate officers for their current Relief Associations within the next 2-week period.
3. The fire companies will work together to develop a workable standardized Mission & Vision Statement and provide it at the May meeting.
4. Mr. Muir agreed to review and develop templates for a Dissolution Clause for each company as recommended in the VFIS study.
5. Mr. Muir agreed to research Record Retention policies for volunteer fire companies and provide a template policy for them to use as a draft in developing their own.

**New Business:**

Under new business, Mr. Simser offered to conduct training for both fire companies in conjunction with the PA State Police Fire Marshal. He requested the two Chiefs work together to coordinate a training date and he would accommodate a joint training.

**Adjournment:** Mike Foltz adjourned the meeting at approx. 7:45 PM.

**Notes for the meeting submitted by:** Michael Foltz