

Emergency Services Committee

July 18, 2024

Call to Order: The meeting began at 6: 43PM at Township Building with the following Members in attendance: Michael Foltz, Chair, Ed Simser, Frank Burzynski, Barry Gross, Terry Jones and Kevin Keifrider. Also in attendance were Troy Bingaman, Township Manager and Special Counsel John Muir from Kozloff Stoudt Attorneys. Amity Fire Chief Mike Zomolsky arrived late due to a fire call.

Approval of Notes: Mr. Foltz drafted notes for the March 21, 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 meeting opened with an in-depth discussion on the creation of the Amity Township Fireman's Relief Association. Mr. Muir informed the committee that in April he met with Monarch Fire Company and in June with Amity Fire Company and explained to their membership the intentions of the new Relief Association. He further explained to those members how they can handle existing entities once the new Relief Association is organized. They also discussed concerns about the organizational structure of the new Association and agreed it would include a neutral member. The Committee then nominated Committee member Ed Simser to serve as the initial President of the Amity Township Fireman's Relief Association. Mr. Simser accepted the nomination. No other nominations were submitted, and the committee felt Mr. Simser was a great fit for a neutral party as he also currently serves both companies and the Township as Fire Marshal. The Committee voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Simser as the President of the Amity Township Fireman's Relief Association.

Mr. Muir addressed the committee with details on the proposed organizational make-up of the new Amity Township Fireman's Relief Association. He suggested the Association be made up of the following: President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary & Financial Secretary. Each company would then have (3) voting members and (1) alternate. The officers would be elected on staggered cycles to avoid a common turnover. President would serve a term of 3 years, other officers would be on 2-year terms.

Mr. Muir advised if the Amity Township Fireman's Relief Association is approved the by-laws would need to be finalized by July 30th. The first Relief funds would be deposited in mid-September and those funds must then be disbursed within 60 days of receipt. The Committee voted to recommend the formation of the Amity Township Fireman's Relief Association as proposed and agreed to have the address for this new Association recorded as the Amity Township Administration offices on Weavertown Road.

The Committee then discussed the proposed standardized Mission & Vision Statements covering the two Fire Companies. There has been no formal feedback by either company on the drafts provided by Frank Burzynski. Committee agreed to table this until the September meeting.

Mr. Muir addressed the suggested Dissolution Clauses for each company in the event they should dissolve their assets. He said neither company needs to dissolve their legacy Associations and since there is no merger of the two fire companies on the table, the Dissolution Clause is not applicable.

The Committee reviewed the proposed Records Retention policies as suggested in the study. Amity Fire Company has a policy in place. Monarch Fire Company was not present at the meeting. Mr. Muir will reach out to the Chief and have him provide a policy before the next committee meeting.

Mr. Foltz inquired as to the status of Amity & Monarch Fire companies participating in joint training as the Committee requested in the last meeting. Chief Zomolsky said that earlier in the month they had planned a training, but Amity defaulted due to a member's death. Chief Zomolsky said that there is a planned regional training coming up and both companies will be attending together. Fire Marshal & committee member Ed Simser said the proposed joint training with the PA State Fire Marshal did not occur. He said the State Fire Marshal is new and they have not been able to coordinate a date to conduct the training.

Mr. Muir advised that a legal review of both company's by-laws was completed and there were no issues.

Lastly, Mr. Foltz inquired on the status of the study's suggested elimination of the policies pertaining to voting on new members and discontinuing dues as a requirement for membership. Mr. Muir responded that charging dues for membership was antiquated but that voting on members was an acceptable practice and should be deferred to the legacy agencies (Monarch & Amity).

New Business:

No new business was discussed.

For the next meeting, The companies are requested to provide a standardized Mission/Vision statement.

Next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 19, 2024 at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment: Mike Foltz adjourned the meeting at approx. 7:50 PM.

Notes for the meeting submitted by: Michael Foltz