

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

A special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Upper Macungie Township was held on September 8, 2014, in the Municipal Building, at 7:00 PM. Those present were Chairman James M. Brunell, Vice-Chairman Samir P. Ashmar, Secretary Kathy A. Rader, and Fire Commissioner Grant Grim.

Chairman James M. Brunell opened the meeting and asked all present to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States.

SWEARING-IN OF FIRE POLICE – Chairman Brunell administered the Oath of Office to the following Fire Police:

Station 8 – Glenn Angstadt, Jacque Creamer, Edward Earley, Brian Kuhns, & Paul McNemar

Station 25 – Bryan Bassett, Dennis Bower, Roger Conrad, Kyle Dietrich, Calvin Fetherolf, William Gillespie, Forrest Hausman, Dennis McArdle, Fred Polash, Jamie Roberts, George Roth, Mason Rumble, Brian Schultz, Ryan Seckington, Scott Weber, Arlan Wright

Station 56 – Samir Ashmar, Michelle Conley, James Ellermann, John Ellermann, Giovanna M. Gonzalez Girau, Leroy Gross, Shohn Montano, Roger Wendling, Grant Grim

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL (NVFC) – Volunteer Fire Company Retention / Recruitment / Fundraising – Secretary Rader reviewed the handouts on the table:

Firemen's Association of the State of Pennsylvania – Recruitment & Retention Programs and Recruitment & Retention Strategic Plan...these can be found on the website at <http://pafirefighters.org>

U.S. Fire Administration – Retention and Recruitment for the Volunteer Emergency Services...this can be found on the website at <http://www.nvfc.org>

Fundraising – Fogelsville Volunteer Fire Company is running a bus trip to NYC on November 29th to the Radio City Christmas Spectacular.

Different possible fundraising events were discussed for Station 56, since there is no commercial kitchen at that station.

Fundraising events, for all three companies, will be posted on the Township Website and in the Township Newsletter.

Calvin Fetherolf brought up that when talking to new residents of the Township, most think that Allentown Fire Department covers this area and do not know that they have a volunteer fire company. Charles Deprill suggested that flyers go out in January, with the trash bills to save postage, explaining to the public about the volunteer fire companies.

The letters for annual fund drive, for the three volunteer fire companies, should be in the mail in the near future.

Jacque Creamer suggested a changeable message sign. VC Ashmar suggested using signs like Lower Macungie Township fire companies' signs and similar in size like that of election yard signs. These signs could be placed around the Township asking for support for the volunteer fire companies. Upon a motion by VC Ashmar, seconded by Chairman Brunell, and unanimous, it was decided to purchase 300 yard signs to promote the fire companies.

GRANTS – Secretary Rader reported that information has been received from State Representative Gary Day's office for Capital Budget Requests. This one page application needs to be completed and returned to Rep. Day's office by September 11th. Other grant & loan opportunities that were discussed can be found on the State Fire Commissioner Homepage and at the National Volunteer Fire Council website.

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES (SOG's)/ REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - (RFP) UPDATE – Waiting for SOG's to be completed. Fire Company Officers and Atty. Andrew Schantz must go over SOG's for any legal issues. Draft then goes out for approval by members of all three fire companies, then to the Board of Supervisors. Some issues of the SOG's were discussed. Jeff Grim questioned any flexibility with the SOG's. Any legal questions will be referred to Atty. Schantz. Time frame for putting out RFP discussed.

SALE OF FORD EXPLORER – New vehicle for 5691 is in service. A list of equipment and the location on the new vehicle will be given to the other fire companies. The old Ford Explorer (former 5691) is ready to be sold. Commissioner Grim will get a trade in value.

SALE OF 811 – The delivery date for the new truck is slated for December. The old 811 is ready to be sold.

Upon a motion by VC Ashmar, seconded by Chairman Brunell and unanimous it was decided to liquidate both the Ford Explorer and the old 811 Fire Truck.

STATUS OF COMMAND VEHICLE – UMT is partnering with South Whitehall Township on the purchase of a Command Vehicle. A tentative joint public meeting is set for October 16th at Upper Macungie Township. Ryan Seckington questioned the need for a vehicle of this type within the past 5 years. Some examples were cited.

VC Ashmar asked if any of the fire companies had an interest in sending a representative to the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC). Chiefs will go back and discuss with members and get back to the Board of Supervisors with a response as to who may attend.

SET NEXT MEETING WITH THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS – After some discussion it was decided to set quarterly meetings for 2015. Upon a motion by Secretary Rader, seconded by VC Ashmar and unanimously approved, the public meetings with the fire company chiefs and presidents will be held on the second Monday of the month: January 12th, April 13th, July 13th, October 12th, 2015, at 7:00 PM, at the UMT building.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gary Gorr – The stream bed of the Iron Run Creek is eroding into the Goodwill Fire Company #1 Trexlertown property. Keystone Consulting Engineers, Inc., will be asked to see what can be done to address this problem. Also, two of Lehigh County Authority's (LCA) manhole covers on the fire company's property are not secured and raw sewage escapes. Secretary Rader will contact LCA about the problem.

Brian Kuhns – The locks on the LCA fire hydrants in the Fogelsville area are a hindrance for fire fighters. During one fire a bent lock could not be opened and therefore could not be used. Secretary Rader will report to LCA.

Glenn Rader questioned why the call boxes were changed and now some stations are first call out when there is another station that is closer, why Station 56 runs on most calls. Commissioner Grim answered that it was set up that way to insure a better response time. Additional personnel is needed. Rader asked if it was true that UMT employees, who respond to fire calls, must respond from Station 56, not necessarily from the closest station. Grim said that it was not true.


Several additional comments on the relationships between the three fire companies and the Township were made by Jeff Grim, Chuck Deprill, Paul McNemar, Brad Rader, Brian Kuhns, Calvin Fetherolf, Roger Conrad, Shohn Montano, Dennis McArdle, Mike Young, Bill Gillespie, and others.

Chairman Brunell read from an article in the Morning Call that stated the two reasons why people quit a volunteer fire company is petty politics or lack of leadership. He also stated that we need to recruit more volunteers.

VC Ashmar encouraged all fire company members to work together and get along to help our volunteer fire service survive.

Secretary Rader reported that the wives of some of the UMT police officers are holding a bingo fundraiser for cancer patient Candace Nickisher, wife of UMTPD Lt. Peter Nickisher, on Saturday, September 27, 2014, at the Trexlertown Fire Company.

Upon a motion by Chairman Brunell, seconded by Secretary Rader and unanimous, the meeting is adjourned at 8:53 PM.


Kathy A. Rader
Secretary