

**LACKAWAXEN TOWNSHIP FIRE COMMISSION
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 19, 2015**

The meeting of the Lackawaxen Township Fire Commission was called to order by President Kerkowski at 7:03 pm.

Present: Bob Beltramine, Kelly Cutrone, Ruth Daniels, Larry Dosch, John Kerkowski, Sheldon Langer, Mike Mancino, Rajiv Patel, Al Petrillo, Buddy Tascone, Bill Thomas

Excused: Ben Solowitz, Cathy Wargo

Absent: Jeremy Hart

Guests: Vito Manzione (Forest VFD)

President Kerkowski began the meeting by welcoming the guest from the Forest VFD. Larry Dosch introduced Rajiv Patel as the citizen representative for the Greeley VFD. President Kerkowski welcomed Rajiv and thanked him for accepting this position.

The minutes of the January 15, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously with a motion made by Bob Beltramine and seconded by Al Petrillo.

Committee Report:

Finance Committee: Ben Solowitz

President Kerkowski reviewed the financial report ending on February 17, 2015 that was submitted by Ben, a copy of which will be retained with these minutes.

Fundraising Committee: Al Petrillo

Since we have had issues with our previous printing company, Al has been investigating alternative companies. A viable solution might be to use Spenser Printing, which is the company used by Woodloch. Using 6500 as the number of comparative mailings, \$890 would be saved on one mailing alone. Spenser would charge us \$798 to create the labels and stuff the envelopes for us. All that we would have to do would be to bring the finished product to the Post Office. A motion was made by President Kerkowski and seconded by Buddy Tascone to use Spenser as our printing company for the Spring Fund Appeal. This was approved unanimously. Supervisor Mancino will help us get the CD that is needed for the addresses that we have been attempting to get from Gary Orben. We briefly discussed a possible theme for the new drive. We decided on writing a small spotlight on each fire department, stressing the fact that any one of the departments could respond to an emergency. This would, therefore, emphasize why the Commission is asked for donations to help all four departments. Al will put together a draft to show us.

Insurance Committee: John Kerkowski

The Joyce Insurance Group contacted John wanting to be considered for our next insurance proposal. We are currently under contract with Jim Davis for one more year. The question was raised about volunteers that belong to more than one department. We are actually paying for them twice. John asked that the departments let him know the names of these volunteers and that they should pick a primary department.

WAHS Emergency Services Club Committee: Sheldon Langer

The club will have a session with the Ski Patrol on Sunday February 22 at Ski Big Bear. The students will rotate between stations practicing bandaging, back boarding, splinting and other emergency situations. Sheldon submitted a copy of an article that appeared in the News Eagle on February 18th entitled "Students Meet with Dive Rescue Team," a copy of which will be retained with these minutes.

Equipment Asset Committee: Sheldon Langer

Camille has received needed information from both Forest and Greeley. It was pointed out that Camille can also use the information from our insurance policy.

Communication Committee:

A chair is still needed for this committee. President Kerkowski asked us all to consider this position.

Fuel Study Committee: Supervisor Mancino

President Kerkowski has been investigating the possibility of using AmeriGas as a consolidated proposal for the Commission, buying propane at the same price as Woodloch. The spot price is now sixty cents per gallon. There is no quantity commitment associated with this pricing. Collective usage is estimated at 6400 gallons per year. The price will be honored if we use over this amount. There will be a charge for not using all the gas, if we use less. For this reason, a lower estimation will be considered. Departments will have to make timely decisions since the price has been increasing steadily. Not all departments have to switch. Tank swaps can be made within an hour or less. Large tanks can be accessed by a crane; small tanks can be removed manually. AmeriGas will assume all normal change out costs. They will not assume a previous provider's termination fees. Billing can be done monthly as one centralized bill for all locations. The Commission will pay the bill when it comes due and each Department will reimburse the Commission. John has asked all Departments to let him know if they want to participate as soon as possible.

Grants Committee: Al Petrillo

Al filed the SAFER grant on Friday February 13, 2015. He had to redo the narrative so that it would be more specific to the questions asked by the Federal Government. The application period closes on March 6, 2015. The award dates are from June 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015. Al said that the majority of the available award money would more than likely go to urban areas. He does feel that we are in the running and that our chances remain good. Al is the point of contact to field any questions that might be asked once the grant application is received. President Kerkowski and Wayne Rosengrant are alternate contacts. John sent an article to the News Eagle about our submission of the grant as an "interest" group representing our departments. Al stated that if we are approved for any grant money he will need the total cooperation of the Chiefs and the departments to satisfy a two year performance window for the recruitment and retention promises that we made in the grant application. Some of these commitments include 54 firefighters joining the 4 companies within 2 years and a successful marketing campaign including electronic signs for each company. In addition, any Federal Grant money awarded after December 14, 2014 has the stipulation that the filer must have a procurement policy. Al is drafting ours. The Township must also have a procurement policy in place as well. President Kerkowski submitted for the minutes a copy of the article that appeared in the News Eagle on February 23, 2015 entitled "Fire Commission Seeking Grants for Firefighter Recruitment."

Forest and Greeley are currently using the I Am Responding system. If the Commission consolidates all departments into the IAR system we will all save money.

Al will be able to use a spreadsheet to obtain data for the Presidential Achievement Award.

Old Business:

At the last Township meeting, the Board of Supervisors confirmed the appointment of Rajiv Patel as the citizen representative for the Greeley VFD to the Commission.

The Forest VFD is ready to begin construction on its Live In Program, now only pending the improvement of the weather.

The National Park Service has decided to provide funding for up to \$1,000 for the installation of the Lackawaxen River location markers, including the personnel to install the markers. President Kerkowski submitted to the minutes a copy of the draft he sent to Peter Becker of the News Eagle entitled "National Park Service Agrees to Fund Safe River Program."

We are still waiting to be informed about 911 Sign Ordinance enforcement procedures.

The status of the Filing Station Signs will be on the agenda for the next Township meeting.

The status of the SOG revisions will be discussed at our next meeting.

Buddy is finalizing the corrections and additions to the current Commission Directory. Anything needed to be corrected or added should be sent to him as soon as possible.

New Business:

Jack McLaughlin has resigned from the Commission as a Student Representative. Colleen is looking for a replacement for him.

We will table the discussion of Commission and department audits until our next meeting.

Greeley is hosting a Corned Beef Dinner on Saturday March 21, 2015 at their firehouse from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The price is \$14 and includes take out as well.

Our next meeting will take place on Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the Municipal Building.

There being no further business to attend to, the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm by unanimous vote and a motion made by Larry Dosch and seconded by Al Petrillo.

Respectfully submitted,
Buddy Tascone
Secretary