

LACKAWAXEN TOWNSHIP FIRE COMMISSION
MINUTES
March 19, 2015

The meeting of the Lackawaxen Township Fire Commission was called to order by President Kerkowski at 7:05 pm.

Present: Bob Beltramine, Kelly Cutrone, Ruth Daniels, Larry Dosch, John Kerkowski, Sheldon Langer, Mike Mancino, Al Petrillo, Ben Solowitz, Cathy Wargo

Excused: Jeremy Hart, Rajiv Patel, Buddy Tascone, Bill Thomas

Guests: Jim Knapp, Tim Knapp, Vito Manzione, Wayne Rosengrant (Forest VFD)

President Kerkowski began the meeting by welcoming the guests from the Forest VFD.

The minutes of the February 19, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously with a motion made by Sheldon Langer and seconded by Al Petrillo.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee: Ben Solowitz

Ben provided copies of the Financial Report for the Fund Appeal account. Returns are at 6.8% trailing slightly behind historical trends of 8%. However, net revenue is about the same since we received more contributions that were significantly above the \$25 average. Ben reported only one check made from the account for the USPS permit renewal in the amount of \$220. John Kerkowski raised the issue of reporting check numbers that are cut during the period to be included in the minutes for reference purposes. This will be instituted going forward.

Fundraising Committee: Al Petrillo

Al reported that Spencer printing is well along with working through the Spring Fund appeal letter. The resident name/address list provided by Mike Mancino from the county has been scrubbed and corrected with previous return mail problems. Al reported that Spencer Printing is now in a position to add the name and address to the outside mailing envelopes, thus eliminating the need to generate labels and hand correct. This will also forego the need to have a stuffing party as Spencer Printing will sort/stuff and mail the Spring 2015 appeal letters and return envelopes. A check for \$1,000 was given as a deposit to Spencer and an additional check made payable to the US Postmaster will be submitted to Spencer Printing for the cost of mailing in the amount of \$1,001.94 for 6290 names. The balance will be due upon completion of the mailing. There was a concern that the mailing date would bump up against the April 15 tax filing date. Al indicated that as long as we can provide Spencer with sign off by Friday March 20, the appeal letter will go out one week prior to the tax deadline.

Insurance Committee: John Kerkowski

John indicated that the insurance renewal is in progress with more to come. Copies of the Surety Bond renewal were distributed to Central and Forest VFDs as well as the EMS. Greeley and Lackawaxen VFDs are on a different schedule. Payment will be due with the master policy renewal in April.

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WAHS Emergency Services Club Committee: Sheldon Langer

Sheldon reported that the Club had a session with the Ski Patrol on Sunday February 22 at Ski Big Bear. The students were rotated between stations practicing bandaging, back boarding, splinting and other emergency situations. Sheldon indicated it was a busy day, but all the activities were well received by the students. Al Petrillo reported on his session with the Club at the Wallenpaupack Area High School on Wednesday March 18. Al reported that he had created a training program based on the Regional Catastrophic Planning taskforce simulation game called "Lightning Bolt." The purpose of the session was to provide a picture of what opportunities are available in Emergency Service beyond local fire, EMS and police. The session was well received and Colleen Edwards, High School Career Counselor, thanked the Commission for providing this invaluable service.

Equipment Asset Committee: Sheldon Langer

Camille has equipment information that was provided from the insurance policy and SAFER Grant application. She is currently working on getting it all into the system so it can be verified by the respective departments.

Communication Committee:

Kelly Cutrone has volunteered to chair the Communication Committee. John welcomed her into the new role and will work with her to get this effort moving.

Fuel Study Committee:

President Kerkowski has identified the possibility of using AmeriGas as a consolidated propane supplier for the Commission, buying fuel at the same price as Woodloch. The spot price is now \$1.41 per gallon and would have been guaranteed for a year. While collective usage is estimated at 6400 gallons per year, it seems interest in the program will be less than 800 gallons, roughly 400 for the EMS and 400 for Central VFD. AmeriGas is working up a new proposal based on this usage. The other departments will have an opportunity next year to make a determination as to whether they will take advantage of this offer. The suggestion was made to Forest VFD to consider using AmeriGas for the new Live In facility as a way of gauging the savings. They are looking into whether a new tank will be needed for the Live In facility, at which point they may go with AmeriGas for comparison purposes. President Kerkowski said he will pursue heating oil next to see if it may be financially advantageous for the Central, Greeley and Lackawaxen VFDs to switch suppliers.

Grants Committee: Al Petrillo

Al had nothing new to report at this juncture. He indicated that there should be some word back from FEMA in the June/July period.

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Old Business:

The Forest VFD is ready to begin construction on its Live In building; 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. Supervisor Mancino provided a listing of the names and addresses of all the property owners along the river where the signs will be installed. Al Petrillo and Tim Knapp will visit each local resident to get their approval and send a letter to those who do not live in the Township. The letter will be signed by the Commission, Board of Supervisors and the River Conservancy.

We are still waiting to be informed about 911 Sign Ordinance enforcement procedures. The Township has included compliance reminders in the "Lackawaxen Connection", but no other action has been taken.

The status of the Filing Station Signs was removed from the agenda at the Supervisor's meeting and therefore was not addressed. Supervisor Mancino will follow up on what happened, but if there is a problem getting the signs installed, the Commission will pay for them.

The status of the SOG revisions will be discussed at the March 23 Chief's meeting.

New Business:

Al Petrillo indicated that at the last Emergency Responders Club meeting where he made a presentation, he was advised that there are two students interested in replacing Jack McLaughlin as the Student Representative on the Commission. Jeremy Hart will interview each and in coordination with Colleen Edwards, the faculty advisor, make a suggestion to the Commission for a candidate.

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. Greeley is also hosting a Roast Beef Dinner on April 18, 2015.

Central is having a Sportsman's Flea Market on Saturday, April 4, 2015, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Our next meeting will take place on Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the Municipal Building.

There being no further business to attend to, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm by unanimous vote on a motion made by Ben Solowitz and seconded by Al Petrillo.

Respectfully submitted,
Buddy Tascone, Secretary