

**LACKAWAXEN TOWNSHIP FIRE COMMISSION
MINUTES
APRIL 16, 2015**

The meeting of the Lackawaxen Township Fire Commission was called to order by President Kerkowski at 7:00 pm.

Present: Bob Beltramine, John Kerkowski, Sheldon Langer, Mike Mancino, Ben Solowitz, Buddy Tascone, Bill Thomas, Cathy Wargo

Excused: Kelly Cutrone, Ruth Daniels, Larry Dosch, Al Petrillo

Absent: Jeremy Hart, Rajiv Patel

Guests: Joanne Cue and Tanya Engles (Greeley VFD), Jim Knapp and Wayne Rosengrant (Forest VFD)

The minutes of the March 19, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously with a motion made by Sheldon and seconded by Bob.

Committee Report:

Finance Committee: Ben Solowitz

Ben submitted the financial report ending April 16, 2015, a copy of which will be retained with these minutes. He received approximately 50 returned envelopes due to houses sold, foreclosures and owners who are temporarily away. Of the returned donations to date, 75% were from Hawley addresses and 25% were from Greeley addresses. We were also given a copy of the financial transaction report from April 17, 2013 through April 10, 2015, a copy of which will be retained with these minutes.

Fundraising Committee: Al Petrillo

President Kerkowski reported that Spenser Printing was used this year instead of our previous Milford Printing company, saving us \$750 as well as the total preparation of the mailing envelopes. Since the new company pre-addressed the envelopes and stuffed them with the flyers, no "stuffing party" was necessary. Each fire department will be given extra flyers to be distributed at their upcoming coin drops and events.

Insurance Committee: John Kerkowski

All paperwork for the new insurance policy has been given to each department. John asked us to review our policies and report any corrections that should be made. Inflation and the addition of new equipment have caused a small increase in our respective policies. The Commission policy is now primary to cover accidents that occur while driving to a call; personal policies are secondary. John is checking the cost of physical damage coverage for us.

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WAHS Emergency Services Club Committee: Sheldon Langer

The club is finishing its activities for this school year and will resume again in September. There will be a review of dam safety procedures and emergency situations, May 27, 2015, on Prompton Lake.

Equipment Asset Committee: Sheldon Langer

Vehicle maintenance and repairs will be a part of each department's review plan.

Communication Committee: Kelly Cutrone

No report.

Fuel Study Committee: John Kerkowski

AmeriGas will be sending us a revised proposal. Ben reported that he spoke to Heller's Gas Inc. and they are willing to lock in a price of \$1.09 for one year. Maintenance and service contracts would still have to be reviewed if we were to pursue a contract with them. Fuel oil consideration will be on hold until after we resolve the propane.

Grants Committee: Al Petrillo

Al left John with a report to read in his absence. He has checked the status of our SAFER grant; nothing reported yet. No new work to be reported on the Procurement Policy. The Commission can purchase a subscription for all departments to use the IAR. There are savings in the consolidated group subscription. The cost of a three year contract is \$5986 with a one-time set up fee of \$200. This cost can be paid over the period of three years, which is more possible within our current budget. The use of the IAR by each department will be key to the compiling of data for the Presidential Achievement Award. We discussed the possibility of the EMS being added to the IAR which would assist them in tracking hours for the Presidential Achievement Award. President Kerkowski will review the cost of this addition and our questions with the Emergency Services Marketing Corporation Inc. The current information is .28 cents per call, with a \$300 cap per department and a maximum of \$1500 for the Commission annually. The exact cost is based on 2 departments having over 100 calls and 2 departments having under 100 calls. There will be a prorated return for any department already in the program. President Kerkowski has asked for a primary and secondary contact name from each department. The overall benefit of the program is that it prevents waiting at the department's station wondering who is responding to the call, in other words, responding to the scene vs. responding to the station.

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Old Business:

The construction of the Forest Live In program should begin this Monday, April 20, 2015.

Al Petrillo and Tim Knapp rang doorbells together to continue the awareness of the Safe River Project. Additional letters were mailed. The National Park Service is continuing their assistance by ordering signs that should be in our hands in 2-3 weeks. The total cost of the sign purchase is \$1003, which will be covered by the Park Service. A copy of a news article entitled "Park Service to fund Safe River Program", which appeared in the News Eagle, on March 4, 2015, will be retained with these minutes.

Bob will find out the cost of the filling station signs, which will include posts and red signs with white letters.

The SOG revisions continue to be a work in progress.

Buddy will email the Commission members the latest revision of the Commission Directory by the next meeting.

President Kerkowski addressed the last Chief's meeting and asked if they had any suggestions for the future plans of the Commission including any items they wanted us to work on. No suggestions were given, but this was left open for future meetings.

There has been no replacement for Jack McLaughlin as a student representative to the Commission. President Kerkowski will check with Jeremy Hart and Colleen to see if Jeremy intends to retain his position for the new school year.

New Business:

John met with Jim Davis and discussed a "virtual fire department." It would set up a system where each department contributes a certain number of responders to a call. This could be coordinated with IAR.

Al Petrillo has applied to the Forest VFD as a fire fighter. His acceptance at Forest would not conflict with our By-Laws; this was seen as a plus since one of the primary reasons the Commission was founded was to help the departments find volunteers.

Greeley will be hosting its annual Roast Beef Dinner Dance on Saturday, April 25th from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Take outs will also be available.

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Forest will be hosting its 2nd Annual St. Baldrick's Head Shaving Event on Saturday, May 9th, beginning at 2:00 pm, for the benefit of childhood cancer research. The event is in memory of Jake Daniels.

A discussion was opened about the 4 way split of the millage by the Township, the possibility of future increases and the shifting of its initial funding to the Commission. New referendums would be needed to permit any changes. The discussion spoke to the awareness of the possible need to make these changes, the fact that changes such as these would take time and that the Commission should, therefore, start considering this as soon as possible. Any consideration such as this would require a continual accounting of each department's financial situation and would be easier if each department would be using the Quick Book's system. These topics will be tabled to future Commission meetings.

Our next meeting will take place on Thursday, May 21, 2015 pm at 7:00 pm in the Municipal Building.

There being no further business to attend to, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm by unanimous vote and a motion made by Sheldon Langer and seconded by Bill Thomas.

Respectfully submitted,
Buddy Tascone
Secretary