

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

The meeting of the Lackawaxen Township Fire Commission was called to order by President Kerkowski at 7:10 pm. After the flag salute we observed a moment of silence in observance of the four marines that were killed in Tennessee.

Present: Ruth Daniels, Don Jahn, John Kerkowski, Sheldon Langer, Supervisor Mike Mancino, Student Representative Brian Nielsen, Ben Solowitz, Buddy Tascone

Excused: Larry Dosch, Al Petrillo, Bill Thomas

Absent: Bob Beltramine, Rodge Patel, Cathy Wargo

Guests: Tinya Engles, Joanne Cue (Greeley VFD)

President Kerkowski welcomed the two guests from the Greeley VFD. He also welcomed Brian Nielsen as our Student Representative. Brian was appointed into the Commission at the last Supervisor's meeting. President Kerkowski also welcomed Donald (DJ) Dosch as the Lackawaxen VFD Citizen Representative replacing Kelly Cutrone. Kelly had to resign her position on the Commission due to her new job responsibilities. Donald's appointment into the Commission will take place at the next Supervisor's meeting.

In the absence of a quorum the approval of the minutes of the June 18, 2015 meeting were postponed to the August meeting.

**Committee Reports:**

Finance Committee: Ben Solowitz

Due to the Honesdale National Bank's computer system going down, Ben handed each of us a copy of the bank statement ending May 31, 2015 with a handwritten update current to the date of this meeting; a copy of which will be retained with these minutes. The returns have been slowing down, with only 23 returns having been received since the last meeting. A total of 483 returns have been received to date. Distributions to each fire department have totaled \$5500 to date. Ben feels that people are still waiting for a mailing from "their" local department. As a result we will highlight each individual fire department in our next brochure.

Fundraising Committee: Al Petrillo

President Kerkowski received an email from Al prior to the meeting. Al is working on some thoughts for the Fall Appeal. Al asked that if anyone has any suggestions for the brochure to bring them to the next meeting so that he can begin producing a draft.

Insurance Committee: John Kerkowski

President Kerkowski received notification from Selective Insurance on July 2, 2015 regarding a claim for a motor vehicle accident on June 25, 2015. As of this date John has no knowledge of which department filed the insurance claim. Once again we are asked to report this information to John prior to the insurance company informing him. John also informed us that Selective keeps a Loss Report of our claims that may influence our future rates. Our current loss ratio is at an uncomfortable level.

Communications Committee: John Kerkowski

No report.

WAHS Emergency Services Club Committee: Sheldon Langer

Brian Nielsen reported that the club will reconvene again in September. A planning meeting will be scheduled by Colleen Edwards, the advisor, soon after school begins. The club usually meets 1 – 3 times each month.

Equipment Asset Committee: Sheldon Langer

Sheldon has looked over all of the information received from the departments. At the next Chief's meeting he will be looking for a volunteer(s) to start the process of inputting the information. A point of contact will also be needed from each department. Brian said that he has spoken to Ms. Edwards and she will also be seeking a volunteer(s).

Fuel Study Committee:

Exxon Mobil made an error in giving us the amount of the Woodloch discount as .24 cents instead of .06 cents. John has spoken to the company and they have agreed to allow us to have the reported discount of .24 cents for the next 90 days.

Tax rebate season ends in June. Each department will receive a rebate. The total rebate we are due is \$918, less a \$1.50 filing fee.

Woodloch is currently using Firmstone Oil in Lakewood. Firmstone has reported that since fuel oil prices vary each day they will give the highs and lows of the price per gallon. John compiled the report for the Lackawaxen VFD based on the figures they submitted. The same can be done for the other departments. Steve, from Firmstone is offering whatever the spot market price is on the day of delivery. A service agreement is a part of the package offered.

Grants Committee: Al Petrillo

We are still waiting for a decision on the SAFER Grant. Grant decisions are currently being posted. Al has received a request to complete an 1199A form to verify our bank account. Although the completion of the requested form does not guarantee a favorable decision, the request is encouraging.

We are also waiting for the revised IAR agreement adding the EMS.

Future Planning Committee: Cathy Wargo

No report.

**Old Business:**

Buddy reported that the initial housing shell for Forest's Live In building is complete. Much of the interior work will be done in kind by department members. Several members have already volunteered to be Live In members.

We have obtained both the signs and the posts for the Safe River Project. \$1378.98 has been paid to the Township by the Commission to cover the cost of the posts. The coordination with the owners along the river is complete.

Both signs and posts have been ordered for the Filling Station Project.

Sheldon reported that the Standard Operating Guidelines are now complete and the document has been formally adapted. Sheldon gave a copy of the document, including a CD, to each department and to President Kerkowski for the Commission. John thanked Sheldon for all the time and effort he put into the SOG document.

Supervisor Mancino has spoken with the other Township Supervisors regarding the implementation of the 911 Ordinance. They are aware that many property owners and communities are still not in compliance with the ordinance. On behalf of the Commission, President Kerkowski expressed our safety concern about the houses without signs. Supervisor Mancino pointed out that the last Township Newsletter stated that the probationary period is running out and that the next newsletter will outline the consequences for non-compliance.

**New Business:**

The alarm is still sporadically sounding at the Blue Heron cistern. The issue is still that the water level is dropping and that a well was never installed to keep it topped off. The Township Supervisors are reaching out to Kiley Associates for assistance. The homeowners are questioning their developer to check the initial terms of the community contract.

Supervisor Mancino reported that the work on the Towpath, including a 4 foot deep base repair and a surface of oil and chips, should be completed in 2016. He will also check the progress of the repair of the Satellite Road Bridge.

Lackawaxen VFD will host a Women's Mud Race and a 5K Obstacle Course on July 18<sup>th</sup>. Lackawaxen VFD will be hosting its annual Field Day on July 25<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 4:00 pm. Central VFD will be having a bus trip to Mohican Sun on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Forest VFD will be having a Blood Drive on Sunday August 9<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 5:00 pm at the Pike County Training Center. The Blood Drive will be held in memory of Jake Daniels. Greeley VFD will be hosting its annual Clam Bake on August 15<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 1:00 pm. Central VFD will be having its annual Golf Outing on August 31<sup>st</sup>.

As per Tom Cardinale, the VFW will host a Rib Barbecue on August 9<sup>th</sup>.

Our next meeting will take place on Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Municipal Building.

There being no further business to attend to and in the absence of a quorum, the meeting ended at 8:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Buddy Tascone  
Secretary