

LACKAWAXEN TOWNSHIP FIRE COMMISSION MINUTES

NOVEMBER 19, 2015

The meeting of the Lackawaxen Township Fire Commission was called to order by President Kerkowski at 7:02 pm.

Present: Bob Beltramine, Larry Dosch, Bill German, Donald Jahn, John Kerkowski, Sheldon Langer, Supervisor Mike Mancino, Student Representative Brian Nielsen, Al Petrillo, Buddy Tascone, Cathy Wargo

Excused: Ruth Daniels, Ben Solowitz, Bill Thomas, Michelle Thompson

Guests: Dave Ruby (Nationwide Insurance), Fred Suljic

The minutes of the October 15, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously with a motion made by Sheldon Langer and seconded by Cathy Wargo.

Since our insurance policy will end its 3 year term next year we will be entertaining proposals for a new policy. Formal proposals will take place in March, 2016. Todd Klein from Joyce Insurance in Pittston was supposed to speak tonight but did not attend this meeting. Dave Ruby the representative from Volunteer Fire Insurance Services, Nationwide Insurance, gave us his presentation which touched on vehicle coverage, general liability, management liability, portable equipment coverage, physical property coverage and coverage for special events.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee: Ben Solowitz

President Kerkowski reviewed the monthly financial statement ending October 29, 2015 a copy of which will be retained with these minutes as well as an updated statement ending November 28, 2015. A motion was made by Sheldon Langer and seconded by Al Petrillo to distribute \$4,000 to each fire company; approved unanimously.

Fundraising Committee: Al Petrillo

The Fall Fundraising campaign brochures have been mailed.

Insurance Committee: John Kerkowski

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The three underwriters that are presently under consideration are Jim Davis, Selective Insurance, DGK, Todd Klein, ESIP, McNeil Agency and Dave Ruby, Nationwide Insurance, VFIS. Todd Klein missed our cutoff date by not attending this meeting. In addition, he represents a multiple tiered agency. A motion was made by Sheldon Langer and seconded by Bill German to only consider Jim Davis and Dave Ruby for our upcoming policy renewal; passed unanimously. Jim Davis will be attending the next Chief's meeting discussing Workmen's Compensation including a member being at a scene in an official capacity but not necessarily in an official vehicle.

Communications Committee: Bill German

Bill has volunteered to assume the role of chairman of this committee. The present goal is to let the community know what emergency responders do.

Grants Committee: Al Petrillo

The current considerations for the Safer Grant are signage, marketing, equipment and retention. The cost of the LED sign will be approximately \$24,000. Al has narrowed the vendors to Mac Signs, Dragonfly, and Watchfire; leaning in favor of Watchfire as the company of choice. Al will give us a comparison chart of all 3 companies. His primary consideration is their ability to manufacture, install and maintain the sign. Once a vendor is selected, they will go to Forest for a site visit. Chief Rosengrant is checking to see if Forest will require additional insurance coverage for the sign. Our two year performance period for the grant started on October 26th.

WAHS Emergency Services Club Committee: Sheldon Langer

The club had a good session with the Woodloch Safety Services department. Mary Allen and Anthony Manzione described what occurred during last August's flood. Brian Nielsen is setting up the meetings for the club at the school. He continues to recruit volunteers. Al Petrillo suggested that many of the club's undertakings can be a part of the marketing campaign under the guidelines of the SAFER Grant. Presentations could take place in the school's auditorium and at football games. Junior firefighters could assist in the presentations stressing the many jobs that need to be filled in addition to firefighting.

Equipment Asset Committee: Sheldon Langer

Sheldon reviewed equipment asset at the last Chief's meeting. He is still in need of a point of contact from each of our departments and will once again make this request at the next Chief's meeting.

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Future Planning Committee: Cathy Wargo

Cathy will be resigning from the Commission effective this meeting. Even though she will be moving out of state, she has still offered to assist our departments with their QuickBooks standardized chart of accounts. On behalf of the Commission, President Kerkowski thanked Cathy for her many contributions to the Lackawaxen EMS, the Central Volunteer Fire Department and the Commission. Her work and her contributions will be missed.

Old Business:

Forest's Live In facility now houses 5 firefighters. The success of the program is seen in the fact that the trucks are ready and waiting for off property firefighters as soon as they arrive to the building, decreasing response time.

The Filling Station Sign project is still a work in progress.

The Blue Heron cistern does not seem to be a problem to the community any longer.

The Safe River Project continues to be on the agenda for the Chief's meetings. Sign installation has been split between the Township and Forest. The Township will install the signs along the road and Forest will install the signs along the river. The river installation must be done first. The National Park Service will assist the installation as soon as we begin.

New Business:

At the last meeting we unanimously passed a motion to decrease our membership quorum from 8 to 7 members. This would go into effect at the present meeting unless there were objections noted. No objections were noted today; therefore our new membership quorum will be 7 members.

President Kerkowski asked if there were any new nominations for Commission Officers. None were noted. He then asked the current slate of officers if they would be willing to serve another one year term. All agreed to do so. A motion by Sheldon Langer and seconded by Bob Beltramine to keep the current slate of officers the same for another year was approved unanimously; President – John Kerkowski, Vice-President – Al Petrillo, Secretary – Buddy Tascone, Treasurer – Ben Solowitz.

Forest will hold its annual Gun Raffle on November 27, 2015.

Lackawaxen will hold its 8th annual Tree Lighting on November 28, 2015 and its Appreciation Dinner on December 11th.

Central will hold its annual Breakfast with Santa on December 12, 2015.

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The Commission does not meet in December; therefore our next meeting will take place on Thursday January 21, 2016. President Kerkowski wished all members a happy and healthy holiday.

There being no further business to attend to, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm by unanimous vote and a motion made by Sheldon Langer and seconded by Al Petrillo.

Respectfully submitted,

Buddy Tascone

Secretary