

Members in attendance were Chairman Martin Schreiber, Vice Chairman William Marsden, Keith Kachel, Renee Spaide, Don Raudenbush and Township Manager Carol Lewis.

**Call to Order** - Chairman Schreiber called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

**Approval of Minutes** – Motion by W. Marsden seconded by K. Kachel and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of November 5, 2014 as presented.

### Reports

- A. **Operational Report** – M. Schreiber presented the operational report for the month. There were 22 calls for the month and 162 calls for the year.
- B. **Membership Report** – There is one new member who is a resident of the Township.
- C. **Treasurer's Report** – K. Kachel presented the Treasurer's report. Ending balance for savings was \$612.68, ending balance for checking was \$8,791.76, ending balance for the truck fund was \$31,428.37 and ending balance for the property fund was \$10,069.48.
- D. **Fire Fund Budget Update** – A question was raised as to why gasoline diesel line item was so low. C. Lewis will check to see if charges are being applied to the right account.
- E. **Fire Relief Fund** – A report was not available.

### Old Business

- A. **Budget** – The Board of Commissioners have set the budget for publishing. There is not a raise to the Fire Tax this year.
- B. **Hydrant Update** – C. Lewis met with Superior Water. They are the middle of a big project which they claim will increase the water pressure to the hydrants. They have also hired a new person to help catch up on maintenance that has been put off due to projects. The Board requested the results from the last 2 pressure tests.
- C. **False Alarms** – The Chief is responsible for reporting false alarms to the Township administration office who will track them and send out notices and invoices. A false alarm is any event which does not require fire suppression. In the case of someone burning their supper resulting in an alarm going off, it is that person's responsibility to notify 911 that it is a false alarm.
- D. **Meeting Dates** – The Board discussed various dates and times. Thursdays are their training days but since information is being relayed better to the members this should not be a problem anymore. Motion by K. Kachel second by R. Spaide and unanimously carried to move the Fire Committee meeting dates to the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m.

### New Business

- A. **Phone Options** – K. Kachel has been looking into phone options for the Fire Company. Currently they have one phone line and an answering machine. It is hard to get messages to the appropriate people in a timely manner depending on schedules and who checks the answering machine. He is looking at a possible VOIP system with virtual mailboxes for members.
- B. **Reports** – M. Schreiber would like to see all monthly reports submitted in a timelier manner. Hopefully with the change in meeting dates, it will make it easier to do so.
- C. **Non-Emergency Call Outs** – Alan Myers, the subcontractor for PennDOT did not have enough flaggers on SR 100 resulting in long delays and multiple 911 calls. This

resulted in 5 companies being dispatched to flag traffic for an hour and a half. This is not their job. The companies will be sending invoices to PennDOT for their time. They request that the governing bodies of the various municipalities send a letter to PennDOT about this situation.

**Public Comment** – M. Schreiber welcomed Don Raudenbush, the new member to the Fire Committee.

Jeremy Wozniak, a dedicated volunteer of the Fire Company for over 5 years expressed his concern that there is no planning for future endeavors. There are many things the Fire Company does not do because they are not budgeted for such as testing of the equipment that other municipalities do. Call volume has greatly increased and our Company has an exceptional daytime response history. He was disappointed the Commissioners did not pass the increase in the fire tax. Expenses have gone up every year and there is no planning for new equipment or testing of current equipment. He is concerned this will lead to a serious injury. When asked for clarification he explained that if the open cab truck were in an accident, the firemen in it would be thrown and badly hurt. In addition, since they do not do hose and ladder testing, if a hose failed someone could be trapped in a fire without water. Lastly, due to the fact that there is no air conditioning in the bays, one of the batteries on engine 3 got too hot and almost exploded. M. Schreiber added that other municipalities who have a fire tax do not pay their hydrant rentals from it and many municipalities pay for their fire services right from the General Fund. J. Wozniak explained that they do fund raising but that money goes into the truck fund and community events. He feels it is unreasonable to expect volunteers to spend hundreds of hours in training, provide emergency services and fund their own company. They simply do not have the volunteers to do all of that. He would like to see the Township along with the Fire Company develop a 5 to 10 year plan for equipment and building upgrades. The heating system is 30 years old and the building has some structural issues that will need to be addressed eventually such as the fact that the floors were not designed for the trucks that are built today. The other concern the Fire Company has is their ability to get grants. The FEMA grant for a new truck requires a minimum of 25% matching fund which for a \$400,000 truck would be \$100,000. Due to the fact they do not have this, they are behind other companies applying for these highly competitive grants. He pointed out that emergency services are a proactive endeavor that need to be planned for, not fixed or replace dafter something happens.

In conclusion, J. Wozniak would like to see an open dialogue with the Commissioners and the Fire Company regarding budgeting and planning. He would also like them to observe the Fire Company in action. He invited the Commissioners to attend their regular training on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

Motion by M. Schreiber, seconded by K. Kachel and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:



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Carol R. Lewis, Township Manager