

LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

February 13, 2023

ATTENDANCE

Adam Kosheba	Director of Public Safety
Brett Graham	Bureau of Fire
Rich Needham	Fire Marshall
Jason Campbell	South Central EMS
Tim Pramik	Colonial Park Fire Company
John Fogg	Colonial Park Fire Company
Ed Crum	Linglestown Fire Company
Dan Crum	Linglestown Fire Company
Nicholas DiSanto	Linglestown Fire Company
Dustin Ross	Paxtonia Fire Company
Nicholas Kimmel	Paxtonia Fire Company
Ryan Murphy	Paxtonia Fire Company
Rick Silvia	Linglestown Fire Company
Jeffrey Phillips	Linglestown Fire Company
Ken Peirson	Linglestown Fire Police
Ben Shields	Colonial Park Fire Company
Thomas Swank	Colonial Park Fire Company
Collin Weigle	Colonial Park Fire Company
Josh Feeser	Paxtonia Fire Company
Joey Smith	Paxtonia Fire Company
Jesse Strobak	Paxtonia Fire Company
Shawn Moore	Paxtonia Fire Company

CALL TO THE ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Director Kosheba at 2:30 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Kosheba led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Campbell motioned to approve the minutes from November 2022. Mr. DiSanto seconded the motion. A unanimous voice vote followed, and the November 2022 minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No response was heard.

OLD BUSINESS

Fire Study

Director Kosheba noted the representative from the Fire Study was hopeful to have a preliminary report done towards the end of February and a public version to be ready in March. The delay in the fire study was due to the need for specific data from the county. The question came up whether there would be a refund for the delay. Director Kosheba noted that discussion will probably take place between the Manager and Assistant Manager. Director Kosheba will within reason get the study to the fire companies before it is available to the public. It was questioned if there will be a review for accuracy. Director Kosheba answered that will come from the Manager and himself. He noted if there is something specific, he will let the companies know. Mr. DiSanto noted with the length of time the committee has worked on this study it would be nice to have a review and input since the study will impact them. Director Kosheba mentioned the committee could hold an executive meeting but noted public comments will happen during an open township meeting.

Insurance

Director Kosheba noted the correspondence between the three companies and the Township. Mr. DiSanto noted the information they submitted to the Assistant Township Manager, and questioned if the Township wants it to be insured that way, then they will ask for the difference to be reimbursed. Mr. DiSanto questioned how the other companies fared on their pricing. Mr. Pramik answered similarly. Mr. Pramik suggested that if they are going to continue to insure it this way, they should figure out why they are not the same and pay the average fee. Mr. DiSanto noted the exercise the companies went through was good so that they know what the Township is looking for. Director Kosheba will take all three of company's packets to the Township.

Emergency Station Lights

Director Kosheba gave an update from Tim Nolt. Penn DOT gave approval for Paxtonia and Colonial Park. He did not hear about Linglestown so Director Kosheba will follow up with Mr. Nolt.

Box Cards

Mr. Dan Crum suggested that as they wait for the Fire Study to be completed this would be the time to form the committee. Director Kosheba requested each company to meet with Deputy Chief Graham.

Mr. Dan Crum questioned if there was any movement on the apparatus replacement process. Director Kosheba answered no and suggested a general discussion about that but would like to wait until the results of the fire study. Mr. DiSanto questioned if it will be a Township level committee or company level committee. Director Kosheba responded by indicating it will be a Township level committee that will include the Deputy Fire Chief of the Bureau of Fire, the three chiefs or their designee from each and himself. Director Kosheba noted they need to begin to look at the unification of equipment and building similar apparatus or being redundant with the apparatus.

Mr. Fogg noted under new business he has a \$10,000 bill for Engine 33. Mr. Ross noted that two of the pieces of equipment that are up for replacement are also two of the busiest pieces. Mr. Ross noted he felt they should be starting talks about replacement and feels the fire study will show that and noted the time delay in building. Mr. Fogg noted his concerns regarding Engine 33. Director Kosheba explained he is not opposed to a meeting but is waiting for the fire study. Director Kosheba noted they can schedule a meeting with just the chiefs and the presidents. Mr. Dan Crum noted he would like them to be prepared once they have the results of the study. Deputy Chief Graham noted he would send out an email to schedule an initial meeting. Mr. Kimmel questioned the clarity and expectations of the committee, noting the statement that the committee may look different than the last, he questioned how to prepare as an organization and work towards that process. Director Kosheba noted they can work together during the meeting to have a spec and ask for quotes, noting that will be the outcome until there is a decision to buy. Director Kosheba expressed that he wants everyone to have input moving forward.

Additional Comments

Mr. Fogg questioned Chapter 59 and the Knox Box. Director Kosheba noted he will follow up with the attorney and explained Sgt. Needham is receiving emails regarding Knox boxes.

Mr. Fogg questioned the grant that was closed out. Mr. Kimmel reviewed information, the financial audit is completed, and checks are being issued.

NEW BUSINESS

Radio Grant Replacement

Director Kosheba, Chief 35 and the Deputy Fire Chief attended a meeting to begin the groundwork with the County. Mr. Ross updated that the grant was submitted on Friday, was in the amount of \$1,105,995.00 for complete radio replacement for the three fire companies. Mr. DiSanto explained the meeting with the County stating a lot of suggestions were presented. He noted the next discussion needs to be with the Chief's Association.

Unified Application Process

Director Kosheba noted to move in the direction of a unified application like the Lopax Fire one. He explained they could offer a preliminary background, more in-depth than the PA Patch, and once the background has been completed, the packet and recommendation would be given to the individual company on whether to vote for the member in. Director Kosheba noted he feels this is the best process moving forward to make sure it is done properly. Mr. Pramik questioned the application. Director Kosheba explained that volunteers are strapped with their time, so we will pick up the work of the preliminary background check and hand it back over to the company when it is completed. Deputy Chief Graham noted the application will be one application with all three companies listed. Mr. Pramik commented that they are three different individual organizations and questioned if they would need to come up with a generalized standard application.

Mr. Dan Crum questioned if they could continue the process they have been doing and have a master application they can transfer the information onto for the background to be done. Mr. Fogg questioned the application sheet. Director Kosheba questioned why the three companies seem to have an issue of having one application that looks the same. Director Kosheba clarified that they are looking for a unified application process. Mr. Ross noted he is in favor of the universal background but explained that each fire company has a different classification. Deputy Chief Graham noted it is important to have a disclosure form with the application. Mr. Kimmel questioned the time frame of a background, noting their bylaws have a one-month period. Director Kosheba noted they would only be doing a piece of the background and the rest would be up to the company complete. Mr. Ross suggested the presidents may need to have a meeting with Deputy Chief Graham.

Director Kosheba noted that if the three presidents can meet with Deputy Chief Graham and create a new application that covers all three entities, this will assure there is consistency from one entity to the next. Mr. DiSanto is not opposed to the background check; he feels this could do more harm and deter some from joining because of the background process, and noted his concern about a unified application when they are three separate companies. Discussion followed on the joint application verse the individual company applications. Director Kosheba requested that in the interim, please notify the Deputy Chief and he will come get the requested information (name, date of birth, and social security number) from your company. Director Kosheba noted this will be temporary until a new unified background is in place. Further discussion followed on membership time frames. Director Kosheba reiterated that no one wants to take the identities of the three departments away.

Additional Comments

Mr. Fogg questioned the application of the Safer Grant. Mr. Kimmel noted he does not want to manage but will resubmit. The grant closes March 17th.

Mr. Fogg noted an email with the school tax credits. Mr. Pramik noted that they will have to involve all the fire companies under the Central Dauphin School District.

Deputy Chief Graham noted he registered for a recruitment and retention certification.

MEMBER'S REPORTS

Colonial Park Fire Company

Mr. Fogg noted to a bill for Engine 33, springs and bolts cracked, for catastrophic failure. They would like to send the tower to Light up Hershey.

Linglestown Fire Company

Mr. Dan Crum noted the building project is near completion and are looking to plan a housing event during Memorial Day. There will be a wildland certification class being held, contact Linglestown if you would like additional information.

Paxtonia Fire Company

Mr. Ross noted Dauphin will be borrowing the squad in March. The open house date has been set for October 8, 2023.

South Central EMS

No comment.

Police Department

No comment.

Fire Marshal

No comment.

Emergency Management Coordinator

No comment.

Deputy Chief Graham

Deputy Chief Graham explained home base, a temporary fix to know the staffing availabilities of the companies. It was noted all three chiefs have agreed to this model or a one similar and are all interested in one township wide RMS system. Deputy Chief Graham noted the unified mission is to provide good service to the residents of Lower Paxton.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Pramik noted the electronic message board is up and running. If any of the companies have a fundraiser or event, they will post on their board.

ADJOURNMENT

The next Public Safety Meeting will be May 1, 2023, at 2:30. Sgt. Needham motioned to adjourn, and Mr. Dan Crum seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristi Focht

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Recording Secretary