

LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Monday, June 12, 2023, at 2:30 PM
Room 174- Municipal Center

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Call to Order
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Approval of Minutes – (Jan. 2023)
- D. Public Comment
- E. Old Business
 - 1) Fire Study
 - 2) Flashing Lights
 - 3) Radio Replacement Grant
 - 4) Final Data Recruitment & Retention Grant (President Nicolas Roy Kimmel)
- F. New Business
 - 1) General Orders/SOGs/SOPs
 - 2) Training Opportunities
 - 3) Night Out for Public Safety- 8/1/23, 1700-2000
- G. Members Reports
 - 1) Lower Paxton Township Bureau of Fire
 - 2) Colonial Park Fire Company
 - 3) Linglestown Fire Company
 - 4) Paxtonia Fire Company
 - 5) South Central EMS
 - 6) Police Department
 - 7) Fire Marshal
 - 8) Emergency Management Coordinator
- H. Good of the Order
- I. Adjournment

NEXT MEETING Aug. 7th, 2023, at 2:30 PM

**LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

June 12, 2023

ATTENDANCE

Adam Kosheba	Director of Public Safety
Brett Graham	Bureau of Fire
Rich Needham	Fire Marshall
Jason Campbell	South Central EMS
Ralph Palm	LPT EMA - EMC
Tim Pramik	Colonial Park Fire Company
John Fogg (zoom)	Colonial Park 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
Josh Feeser	Paxtonia Fire Company
Rick Silvia	Linglestown Fire Company
Ken Peirson	Linglestown Fire Police
Sam Miller (zoom)	Lower Paxton Township

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 February 13, 2023. Mr. Dan Crum seconded the motion. A unanimous voice vote followed and the February 13, 2023, minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were heard.

OLD BUSINESS

Fire Study

Director Kosheba noted the MRI Fire Study was presented to the Presidents and/or Chiefs. There will be an email with the PDF of the 364-page document and the public reveal will take place at the Board of Supervisors meeting on June 20, 2023, at 1900 hours by Mr. Finley of the MRI group. Director Kosheba noted that this was an assessment, and the Director and Deputy Chief are preparing a summary of the study for Mr. Gotshall and Mr. Miller. Director Kosheba requested any questions or concerns be directed to himself or Deputy Chief Graham before the Board of Supervisors meeting.

Emergency Station Lights

Director Kosheba noted the permits were processed and installation should begin soon. Mr. DiSanto requested a copy of the permit for insurance purposes.

Radio Replacement Grant

Mr. Ross noted that there was no update. Director Kosheba noted that there is a 5-year shelf life for the batteries and the Police Department will be budgeting for them.

Final Data Recruitment & Retention Grant: Presented by President Nicolas Roy Kimmel

Mr. Kimmel summarized the retention recruitment grant and noted that he will be emailing the documents out for everyone to review. The grant awarded \$384,250.00 and \$261,389.66 was used. He explained the grant was broken into multiple categories including, marketing program, tuition assistance, a nominal stipend for fireman, and grant administrators and reviewed how the monies had been used. He explained that during the ending of the grant they filed for an amendment

but were informed the processing system was down and was down for six to seven months and there was no communication during that time frame on when or how they could apply for the amendment. Mr. Kimmel explained the initial grant manager was very efficient with communication and processing payments and through the process they received a new grant manager who was very unresponsive and slow to process payments. With only five months remaining it did not allow for an amendment to be made to be able to spend the money which allowed for \$122,000 of unspent money. Director Kosheba questioned if the report will show how many bodies came to the fire station and remained. Mr. Kimmel answered yes and explained how it would show in the report. Mr. Ross suggested that moving forward with a grant, research ahead of time to know where to budget funds so more of the monies can be used.

NEW BUSINESS

General Orders/SOGs/SOPs

Deputy Chief Graham is working to reformat the policies that are already in place and added that as issues arise new policies will be implemented noting to the background policy. Deputy Chief Graham noted the minimum staffing policy, and when going in route they are to be giving staffing. The application policy that went into effect April 1, 2023, five applications have been processed with two not being cleared. Mr. Pramik noted the companies' concern with the length of time to process the background check. Director Kosheba noted there is a maximum of thirty days given to complete the background. Mr. Pramik also noted concerns with the application as it could be in violation of HIPPA and concerns with the wait time for someone to join as a member to begin training. Deputy Chief Graham noted that the applications went under an extensive review process by all the companies and there was not an issue until now and reminded the committee that the applicant signs a release form. Mr. Pramik noted that the process may need to be reviewed as he compared this application with the Township's application. Director Kosheba explained the generalized application process, and every employee receives a background check if not by HR, then by the Police Department. Director Kosheba continued that this policy is in place to minimize a potential problem and if a company chooses to take on an individual that has not been recommended or denied they can as a social member of your fire company and added that we should not expect the standards to be lowered because we are volunteers. Deputy Chief Graham noted that Mr. Pramik commented that the concerns were concerns of all three companies and questioned Mr. DiSanto on his concerns with the application process. Mr. DiSanto noted past conversations of having a timeline and their documentation language may need clarified. Director Kosheba agreed that general orders are to be a living document that may need to have minor changes. Discussion followed with submitting applications for backgrounds and Director Kosheba noted the importance of the background's being done. Mr. Fogg questioned if the department will be using General Orders. Director Kosheba answered that moving forward they will be General Orders, noting that it must be rewritten. Currently, documents will be on Google drive but moving forward they will be discussing with the Manager and Assistant Manager to move everyone to Power DMS, a document sharing platform.

Training Opportunities

Deputy Chief Graham noted that after the last Chiefs meeting it was recommended that we look at Township wide training standards and a committee has been assigned to that. The committee members are Chief Fogg, Chief Moore, and Lt. Crum. Mr. Fogg explained that when the committee met and reviewed their documents that the requirements of each company is close. Deputy Chief Graham noted that he spoke to Mr. Perry at HACC regarding a basic sequence of officer development classes. Deputy Chief Graham spoke with Mr. DiSanto as the Relief President and Mr. DiSanto did not seem to think there would be an issue for relief to pick up that bill. Mr. DiSanto commented that he likes the idea of getting down to standards but does not want to push certifications over competency.

Night Out for Public Safety – 8/1/2023 from 1700-2000

Director Kosheba noted that Deputy Chief Graham will be in contact with each of the companies to determine what each group can do for the event.

Deputy Chief Graham noted an email that was sent out regarding the new patches and reported all the feedback was positive. Deputy Chief Graham made a motion to accept the new patch as the Bureau of Fire patch as the official patch replacing the current Township logo sleeve patch. Mr. DiSanto seconded the motion. Director Kosheba questioned the members to any discussion on the patch. No response was heard. Director Kosheba called for a voice vote and a unanimous voice vote was heard and the motion passed.

MEMBER'S REPORTS

Lower Paxton Township Bureau of Fire

Deputy Chief Graham noted that updated box alarm deployments were submitted to Dauphin County. The apparatus list is still a work in progress and the existing list will still be used and noted that based on the data, once these go into effect there will be no single engine responses. The apparatus committee meet and are moving forward and the recruitment committee are in the processes of forming members from each of the companies.

Colonial Park Fire Company

Mr. Fogg noted that the engine is still out of service for further testing. He explained that an amendment was written for the Health and Wellness Grant for gym equipment, noting he can send out an email with the information. Due to quarterly meetings, Mr. Fogg requested that dates for the awards ceremony and the combined banquet be scheduled farther in advance to help with the planning of the events.

Mr. DiSanto questioned when the Health and Fitness Grant will expire. Mr. Fogg answered at the end of August. He noted with the cost of equipment and amendment may have to be written for the price of the equipment or the amount of equipment.

Director Kosheba noted he will schedule the awards ceremony on May 15, 2024, from 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. He will check with Parks and Recreation to make sure that Hero's Grove is available.

Linglestown Fire Company

Fireworks will be held on July 3rd, and they will be having a meeting with all those involved. The building is completed and are planning an open house during fire prevention season. Mr. DiSanto questioned if the Public Safety Committee could have access to the GIS system for preplanning. Deputy Chief Graham noted that he has spoken to the person who runs the GIS, and he is willing to work with the committee. Discussion followed as to the benefits of being about to use this system.

Mr. Pramik noted that he is working with Mr. Miller on the IT contract, and Mr. Pramik questioned if the other companies would be interested in that as well. Mr. Miller noted that he could connect the companies to speak with Appalachia and they could compare rates.

Paxtonia Fire Company

No comment.

South Central EMS

No comment.

Police Department

No comment.

Fire Marshal

No comment.

Emergency Management Coordinator

No comment.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

No comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Campbell motioned to adjourn, and Mr. Dan Crum seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:48 pm. The next meeting will be held on August 7, 2023, at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kristi Focht, Recording Secretary

