

**YORK AREA UNITED FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 16, 2010  
APPROVED**

The York Area United Fire and Rescue Commission held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2010 at 7 p.m. at the Springettsbury Township Offices, 1501 Mt. Zion Road, York, PA.

**MEMBERS IN**

**ATTENDANCE:** Bill Schenck, Chairman  
John Fullmer  
Don Bishop  
Tom Warman

**MEMBERS NOT**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Austin Hunt

**ALSO IN**

**ATTENDANCE:** Robert McCoy, YAUFRC Chief  
Steve Hovis, Solicitor  
P. Fazzini, Assistant Solicitor  
Sandra Ratcliffe, Finance Officer/Assistant Treasurer  
Don Eckert, YAUVFC  
Jean Abreght, Stenographer

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

**A. Opening Ceremony**

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

**SCHENCK** Chairman Schenck called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. He led the Pledge of Allegiance. He announced that Mr. Hunt would not be present due to a previous commitment and Mr. Guyer was out of town. A Quorum was present.

**2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSIONS**

**SCHENCK** Chairman Schenck announced that an Executive Session was held following the last regular meeting, and none had been scheduled for this date.

**3. COMMUNICATION FROM CITIZENS**

There were no citizen comments.

**4. MANAGEMENT/ATTORNEY REPORTS**

**A. Steve Hovis, Solicitor**

**HOVIS** Solicitor Hovis stated that he wanted to provide information related to the Waiver of Indemnification associated with the smoke detectors. Some concern had been

expressed on behalf of the Commission as to whether it was too legalistic, etc. He stated that in such waivers the law indicated it needed to be something that called attention to exactly what is being done, and that there is an obligation to have the legalistic language. He suggested that it be made more receptive with a cover letter.

**B. Robert McCoy, Fire Chief**

**MCCOY** Chief McCoy provided two additions to his report. He noted that the department had been shoveling out hydrants since the second snowstorm. He spoke with a York Water Company representative who advised that they do not shovel out hydrants. An additional issue is the hydrant locators. They do have a GIS level of layers, communications with hydrants in order to locate them. However, as a department they will be searching for grants to provide additional wands to attach to the hydrants. Mr. Hunt had sent him an email and brought up the subject.

**SCHENCK** Chairman Schenck noted that the ones in specific zip codes were mentioned in his email.

**MCCOY** Chief McCoy responded that Mr. Hunt noted the closest hydrant to his residence is on the corner of Belmont and First Avenue, and the hydrant was buried. He went out and dug for it. He did some research on line and found the hydrant locators. Chief McCoy advised him what the department had done and what they want to do with regard to the hydrant locators and the wands. They are looking for a grant to purchase wands that bolt to the hydrant. He added that a press release had been sent out to ask residents to dig out their hydrant, and he observed that many residents had done so.

**SCHENCK** Chairman Schenck commented that the hydrant that serves his residence is buried. He had checked the Springettsbury website, but he did not see his hydrant on the GIS map.

**MCCOY** Chief McCoy stated that the layout is being finalized and should be available very soon. It has been plotted, and they are waiting for the map books.

**MCCOY** Chief McCoy reported that they had picked up the first load of smoke detectors and lithium batteries from Home Depot through the Pride Program. They did the first draw on the \$20,000. As soon as the snow melts they expect to begin going door-to-door, and Fox 43 will go out with a news crew the first day. They hope to be able to begin sometime in March depending on the snow.

**5. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

**A. Payable Listing as of January 31, 2010**

**MR. WARMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE PAYABLE LISTING. MR. BISHOP WAS SECOND. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**6. BIDS, PROPOSALS & CONTRACTS**

There were none for action.

**7. COMMUNICATION FROM COMMISSIONERS**

There were none for discussion.

**8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Negotiation Committee**

**SCHENCK** Chairman Schenck noted that there were no negotiations to report as far as YAUFRR is concerned.

**FULLMER** Mr. Fullmer responded that he was correct. He requested an Executive Session following the meeting.

**B. Volunteer Committee**

**ECKERT** Mr. Eckert reported that a meeting was arranged with Chief McCoy and the two police departments for the fire police. The Operating Procedures are in place for Springettsbury and Spring Garden police departments and the fire police, as well as the police van. As with YAUFRR they formed a regional fire police service. They are doing many things for the first time functioning as a regional department. There are two platoons for Springettsbury and two for Spring Garden, each having a captain and a lieutenant with proper chains of command and procedures as to who to report where. They have meetings to get additional help when it is needed. He indicated they are looking forward to it working well.

**SCHENCK** Chairman Schenck indicated that was good news and thanked Mr. Eckert.

**9. RESOLUTIONS AND AGREEMENTS**

There were none for action.

**10. ACTION ON MINUTES**

**A. Approval of Minutes: January 20, 2010 Fire Commission Meeting**

**MR. BISHOP MOVED TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 20, 2010. MR. WARMAN WAS SECOND. MOTION CARRIED. MR. FULLMER ABSTAINED AS HE WAS NOT PRESENT.**

**11. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Les Adams**

**MCCOY** Chief McCoy reported that he had two meetings with Mr. Adams, several phone calls, and a discussion on what the Commission and his thoughts were on what he presented and what was expected. They are working on the actual application process and roadblocks for a combination fire department. He had conveyed to Mr. Adams that DCED also was expecting a Fee Schedule for renting out YAUFRR services. They plan to present that in March.

**SCHENCK** Chairman Schenck asked if the Fee Schedule was in his Scope of Services.

**MCCOY** Chief McCoy responded that it was. Mr. Adams advised that there were several follow up conversations he wanted to have with some of the local municipalities. In addition, the Chief had been researching some Fee Schedules that FEMA had. There are many scenarios to review to figure out the best options.

**HOVIS** Solicitor Hovis noted that it could be a situation of a volunteer company currently being first due and they indicate that their company can no longer provide acceptable service. They want to hire YAUFRR to be the first due provider in that area.

**MCCOY** Chief McCoy responded that it could range from sending a pumper there with a crew; taking calls from a YAUFRR station to their area; just providing a driver. It all depends on the company's needs.

**HOVIS** Solicitor Hovis noted that there are mutual aid agreements that void and in this case they have no way to provide service.

**MCCOY** Chief McCoy responded that contracting YAUFRR services would be cheaper than hiring an employee.

**BISHOP** Mr. Bishop commented on another scenario where a company might just want coverage certain times of the day or week.

**MCCOY** Chief McCoy responded that it could be Monday through Friday, 7 to 3 or holidays. In addition, there could be times during a departmental funeral and the

entire fire department needs coverage. He commented that there are so many different scenarios that could branch out into so many different things. One item he was concerned with was having a mutual aid system where YAUFRR contracts services. When a department would request services and then if they provide mutual aid service back they are going to want to be paid for that service. Those are just some of the issues for review.

**HOVIS** Solicitor Hovis commented that it could become a manning issue where it will be necessary to have sufficient manpower to handle all the coverage areas.

**MCCOY** Chief McCoy added that there would be scenarios where overtime would be a concern.

**WARMAN** Mr. Warman noted that if the services were on a long-term contract with knowledge of regular schedules for providing a crew or manpower over a period of time, hiring staff could be done to handle that and it would not be on an overtime situation.

**MCCOY** Chief McCoy responded that if there were a steady commitment it would be contracted services that are on a two-day notice.

**WARMAN** Mr. Warman commented that would be what to look for in more of a long-term commitment rather than a fill in stop/gap kind of thing.

**MCCOY** Chief McCoy noted that most places where he knew of contract services are basically when they are interested in supplementing their service full time. Whether YAUFRR hires or they hire, it moves into that direction. Currently there are a lot of volunteer companies that are at the stage where they need assistance. Their biggest question is what the next step is and how much they can afford.

## **12. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Request Approval – Advertisement to Sell Eng. 89-2**

**SCHENCK** Chairman Schenck noted that Chief McCoy requested approval to advertise to sell Engine 89-2.

**MCCOY** Chief McCoy responded that Engine 89-2 should have been advertised along with Engine 89-3 just to get the information out based on the fact that the new pumpers could be received by April. They had received a few inquiries on Engine 89-3. He noted that the market is flooded with pumpers, and there is a good chance that they may have to be scrapped for parts, such as removing the metal, the generator, etc. He had received a parts estimate of \$27,000, which he did not think could be

obtained through a pumper sale. However, they will have to review all the options. His biggest issue is that there will be four trucks to house when the new pumpers are received.

**MR. WARMAN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF TO ADVERTISE TO SELL ENGINE 89.2. MR. FULLMER WAS SECOND. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**B. Sprinkler Presentation**

**MCCOY** Chief McCoy provided a PowerPoint presentation on residential sprinklers. He noted that this presentation would be the first to the Commission on subjects that the fire service deals with on a daily basis.

**SCHENCK** Chairman Schenck thanked Chief McCoy for an excellent presentation. The Chief requested that the Commission take a position on sprinklers, and Chairman Schenck suggested that it is a subject for consideration as a Commission.

**MCCOY** Chief McCoy mentioned that he was not sure of the timeframe as to when it will come from Harrisburg, but it could be months.

**SCHENCK** Chairman Schenck commented that the Builders Association will be in full force. He commented that perhaps the state will put sprinklers in the Code but make it optional for municipalities to adopt.

**MCCOY** Chief McCoy indicated that his understanding was that the state would initiate it and the local municipalities will have to adopt it, but the decision will be up to the municipalities.

**FULLMER** Mr. Fullmer stated that it is already in the Building Code for attached dwellings, townhouses, and multi-family homes. It had gone into effect January 1, 2010. The Pennsylvania Builders Association has sued to try to remove it.

**MCCOY** Chief McCoy indicated there are many arguments as to how much government is responsible to ensure residential safety. Everything new is likely to be sprinklered other than a single family house. He knew of one municipality where there is a mandatory option that, if an individual chooses not to take the option, a form must be signed. In addition, the home builder would not be prevented from installing that in a home.

**BISHOP** Mr. Bishop commented that no one in a single family home is prevented from doing that now.

**MCCOY** Chief McCoy responded that he was sure it could be done because it is basically just a domestic water feed.

**FULLMER** Mr. Fullmer noted that if it is mandated everyone will do it. If not, there are many myths including increased costs, excessive water damage, insurance costs, etc. Mr. Fullmer thanked Chief McCoy for an excellent presentation.

**SCHENCK** Chairman Schenck noted that the item would be carried over to the next agenda for further discussion.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

**SCHENCK** Chairman Schenck stated that Mr. Fullmer had requested a brief Executive Session regarding personnel. He adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Fullmer  
Secretary

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