

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

**JANUARY 19, 2021
APPROVED**

The York Area United Fire and Rescue Commission held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. by Zoom technology, York, PA 17402

MEMBERS IN

ATTENDANCE: Austin Hunt, Chairman
Charles Wurster, Secretary, Springettsbury Township
Dan Rooney, Vice Chairman, Spring Garden Township
George Dvoryak, Springettsbury Township
Lisa Wingert, Manchester Township
John Inch, Manchester Township
Tom Gwilt, Spring Garden Township

ALSO IN

ATTENDANCE: Daniel Hoff, YAUFR Chief
Steve Hovis, Solicitor
Lisa Einsig, YAUFR
Laurie Noel, YAUFR
Jean Abreght, Stenographer

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Opening Ceremony
1. Pledge of Allegiance

HUNT Chairman Hunt called the Regular Meeting to order. He dispensed with the Pledge of Allegiance due to the virtual meeting.

2. Reorganization of 2020 Officers
- Chairman – Austin Hunt
 - Vice Chairman – Daniel Rooney
 - Treasurer – George Dvoryak
 - Secretary – Charles Wurster

MR. WURSTER MOVED TO NOMINATE AUSTIN HUNT AS CHAIRMAN OF THE YORK AREA UNITED FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION FOR 2021. MS. WINGERT WAS SECOND. BY ROLL CALL VOTE THE NOMINATION WAS CARRIED.

MS. WINGERT MOVED FOR VICE CHAIRMAN DAN ROONEY, TREASURER GEORGE DVORYAK AND SECRETARY CHARLES WURSTER. MR. ROONEY WAS SECOND. BY ROLL CALL VOTE THE NOMINATION WAS CARRIED.

3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

HUNT Chairman Hunt announced that an Executive Session would be held immediately following the meetings this date.

3. COMMUNICATION FROM CITIZENS

This item held until later on the Agenda due to some technical issues.

4. MANAGEMENT/ATTORNEY REPORTS

A. Solicitor Hovis

HOVIS Solicitor Hovis stated that he had nothing to report.

B. Daniel Hoff, Fire Chief

HOFF Chief Hoff reported that The Pennsylvania Fire Recovery service notified YAUFR of an additional \$700 in insurance reimbursements. The revenue from this service continues to result in additional funds.

Chief Hoff brought forward the sale of the American LaFrance ladder truck. There have not been any offers to purchase the apparatus. He would like to suspend the Fenton Fire Equipment listing for two to four weeks and re-list on Municibid for any movement. They have checked with local suppliers, and it appears that there is no market for it at this time.

HUNT Chairman Hunt asked about the cost to maintain it at this time.

HOFF Chief Hoff responded that it is equipment that could be put back in service so there would be the cost of insurance and to make it somewhat attractive to a potential buyer the aerial would have to be certified. The company that does the certifications would be coming to do all the apparatus so it would be a part of the package deal. Those are the primary costs: insurance of the aerial and certification, roughly \$2,000.

HUNT Chairman Hunt asked about the Workplace Safety Committee certification and whether there were union Firefighters participating.

HOFF Chief Hoff responded that participation is part of the requirement. There must be heavier participation on labor than on administration. He added that there is a very active Safety Committee with good involvement from employees.

HUNT Chairman Hunt asked whether turnout time is included in response time or whether response time starts after turnout time.

- HOFF** Chief Hoff responded that response time starts from turnout time to on-scene time which includes travel time.
- HUNT** Chairman Hunt commented that they're doing a great job getting out of the house, but response time has gone up significantly. He questioned whether using GIS would assist to see if the overall distance travel also went up or whether it would be attributed to construction and traffic.
- HOFF** Chief Hoff responded that it would be something to review.
- HUNT** Chairman Hunt noted that the response time has moved substantially away from the four-minute goal, which may come up during the Certification process. He noted that a lot of assistance comes from surrounding volunteer companies like Wrightsville, Hellam and Mt. Wolf, which is great. He asked whether their assistance is being acknowledged by offering some training participation.
- HOFF** Chief Hoff responded that whenever training is offered, especially certification-type training, they are invited to participate. The classes are at no cost to them. If there is an actual National Certification involved they would be responsible for that. They are invited to the twice annual burn sessions and really keep a line of communication open to them to make sure they know how much they are appreciated.
- WURSTER** Mr. Wurster questioned whether the YAUFR staff had communicated with Fulton Financial Advisors concerning the final approval done in December relative to the Investment Policy.
- HOFF** Chief Hoff responded that he was not sure if that was to be handled at his level. If so, he could make that happen.
- HUNT** Chairman Hunt questioned whether the Resolution is coming from the YAUFR Commission and not the Pension Board.
- HOVIS** Solicitor Hovis responded that it would be the YAUFR staff that needs to indicate that the YAUFR Commission approved it.
- HOFF** Chief Hoff responded that a copy of it will be sent to them tomorrow (1/20/21).
- HOVIS** Solicitor Hovis added that they will want something to document in their file, and they will need the Resolution as well.

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- HUNT** Chairman Hunt noted that the Resolution for the Pension Board lists all of YAUFR Commissioners by name, but it only states “and two Firefighters.” He questioned whether there is a parallel document somewhere that lists the Firefighters by name.
- HOVIS** Solicitor Hovis asked whether the appointments come from the Commission or whether they are elected or appointed.
- HOFF** Chief Hoff responded that the union notifies YAUFR as to who their appointments are and the only time they communicate otherwise is if it changes. They are standing representatives to the Pension Board.
- HUNT** Chairman Hunt questioned whether there is a governing body that states that says, “We appoint this Firefighter and that Firefighter.”
- HOVIS** Solicitor Hovis indicates that there needs to be a communication with the Pension Board that the two appointed Firefighters to the Fire Pension Board are as follows:. It should also state that they shall serve until further notice from a specific date. It should come from the union.
- HUNT** Chairman Hunt asked Solicitor Hovis if he recommended that YAUFR tighten up the Operating Procedure and suggest a draft Resolution to appoint the two members.
- HOVIS** Solicitor Hovis indicated that it was a good point to say as a Best Practice that they should implement that and then provide the evidence of that once it is adopted.
- HUNT** Chairman Hunt recommended that Chief and Ms. Einsig have it in the same file that once a year she pulls it out and requests confirmation of the two Firefighters. He asked Chief Hoff if they could pull together a draft Resolution.
- EINSIG** Ms. Einsig responded that they would create a draft and send it to Solicitor Hovis or Victoria Woods.

5. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

A. Payable Listing as of December 31, 2020

MR. DVORYAK MOVED TO APPROVE PAYABLE LISTING OF DECEMBER 31, 2020. MS. WINGERT WAS SECOND. BY ROLL CALL VOTE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

HUNT Chairman Hunt stated for the record that earlier during the meeting there were some technical issues but the Board was now confident that the correct Zoom link is on the public website, as well as Facebook and that all interested public parties know how to participate if they choose to.

3. COMMUNICATION FROM CITIZENS

There were no citizen comments.

6. BIDS, PROPOSALS & CONTRACTS

A. Approval of North York Service Contract Proposal

HOFF Chief Hoff reported that he had been notified by Borough Council President Rick Shank that the volunteers for North York Borough were going to cease operations effective January 31st; that that date had since been pushed back to February 11th. He had requested of Chief Hoff and Chief Deardorff from the City to submit a proposal if interested in providing service to the Borough of North York. Chief Hoff had communicated with Chairman Hunt and they worked on refining the proposal that YAUFR had put forth to them in 2019 when at that time North York Borough Council had considered shutting down their volunteer fire station.

Chief Hoff and Chairman Hunt had communicated the proposal to the Commission members and forwarded it to North York Borough Council. It included: First Year \$85,000 with 5% increase the second year and obviously offered the possibility to discuss a regional department as a possibility. With YAUFR Commission's electronic approval the offer was submitted at their Borough Council meeting. York City submitted their proposal as well, which was \$1,000 under YAUFR's proposal from 2019, which was \$71,000 and they came in at \$70,000. Borough Council did not take action at that meeting and scheduled a Special Meeting for January 21, 2021 to discuss some Zoning matters. They will make a decision as to who they want to provide service to the citizens of North York Borough. At the end of last week Chief Hoff was contacted again with a question as to whether YAUFR was willing to negotiate the proposal price. Chief Hoff indicated that he would discuss it with the YAUFR Commission this date.

The YAUFR Commission had a lengthy discussion concerning the subject, which is summarized:

- Costs very difficult to quantify.
- North York responses: less than 10 calls requiring multi-unit dispatches
- Most were medical, crashes, auto alarms, reported falls or single-engine responses.

- North York Borough has approximately 2,000 residents.
- Minimal tangible cost to YAUFR; no increase of manning or apparatus.
- YAUFR delivers exceptional service.
- Growing the region; expanding the excellent product is larger conversation.
- Overall budgets up about 2% each year; 85% of budget is labor and benefits.
- Volunteers from North York invited to join.

HUNT

Chairman Hunt stated three choices as options:

- Leave YAUFR's proposal as it is, a price substantially higher than York City,
- Match the City's financial offer.
- Understand the City's offer and sweeten it.

DVORYAK

Mr. Dvoryak added one additional comment. If YAUFR was willing to commit the financial resources toward charters, there are financial people out there who could put together a number in terms of what it would be expected to cost. At this time he was reluctant to commit to a multi-year agreement without fully understanding the financial impact. He would be inclined to leave the bid stand as it is.

MS. WINGERT MOVED TO RENEGOTIATE THE STARTING PRICE AT \$70,000 AND THEN EXTEND THAT FOR TWO MORE YEARS FOR A TOTAL OF THREE YEARS WITH AN ESCALATOR OF TWO PERCENT(2%) FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING TWO (2) YEARS. MR. ROONEY WAS SECOND.

WURSTER

Mr. Wurster commented that if the City's offer were to be matched, it effectively states that there is no premium value for YAUFR services. There should be a premium for YAUFR's services, and if the bid is too low the capital recovery/depreciation of assets as those 60 calls are handled would be funded by the other three member municipalities. The price is challenging, and he did not believe he could support the Motion as presented.

ROONEY

Mr. Rooney commented that there seemed to be an interest to bring North York Borough into the fold at least for a short term. He asked Chief Hoff what other values could be gained by YAUFR bringing them in for a two-three year period.

HOFF

Chief Hoff responded that there is no price tag available for the value. YAUFR was created to be a regional department. Spreading influence in regionalization is the commitment. He had struggled with this opportunity; however, if YAUFR is to be a department that others look to join and be a part of, that is the value – a regionalized effort for fire services.

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GWILT Mr. Gwilt noted that he liked the idea of the three-year option as an opportunity to start with a small offer. If it works, then go for a longer term with a 2% raise if they are willing to do that.

INCH Mr. Inch stated that he relies on Chief Hoff to drive the directive, and he agreed with him. He would lean more towards an aggressive approach to negotiate or to get the bid. A longer-term approach of a more regional effort might set up additional municipalities to join in the future.

WURSTER Mr. Wurster added to his comments which included the option of adding to the charter or extending a service contract, which are two separate and distinct decisions. He indicated that needed more energy, research, costing, and financial analysis and the Board should take this as a moment to think strategically and lay the groundwork for that proper financial analysis to make an informed decision as to how to expand charters.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE MOTION IS CARRIED 5/2. MESSERS. WURSTER AND DVORYAK VOTED OPPOSED; MS. WINGERT AND MESSRS. HUNT, WINGERT, ROONEY, INCH AND GWILT VOTED IN FAVOR.

7. COMMUNICATION FROM COMMISSIONERS

There were no Commissioner communications.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Volunteer Committee

HOFF Chief Hoff reported that they are attempting to have a virtual combined volunteer meeting on January 20th to get back on pace there because it's been so long

HUNT Chairman Hunt noted that regardless of what North York Borough Council decides, it would be appropriate for the volunteer companies to reach out to North York, to Liberty and just invite them to come on board.

HOFF Chief Hoff responded that the volunteers from Alert have already communicated with the group from North York.

9. RESOLUTIONS AND AGREEMENTS

A. 2021-01 Pension Fund Board Appointment.

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HUNT Chairman Hunt commented that the Pension Board appointments link the current members of the YAUFR Board to the Pension Board.

MR. ROONEY MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2021-01 AS SUBMITTED. MR. INCH WAS SECOND. BY ROLL CALL VOTE THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

10. ACTION ON MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes – December 15, 2020 – Fire Commission Meeting

MS. WINGERT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15, 2020 AS WRITTEN. MR. WURSTER WAS SECOND. BY ROLL CALL VOTE THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

11. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion – York Traditions Bank Signer and Business Bill Pay updates

EINSIG Ms. Einsig stated that she will request that Mr. Gwilt sign paperwork to be a signer at York Traditions Bank. She also asked for confirmation that Mr. Dvoryak will continue with the Business Bill Payment process along with Mr. Rooney filling in as needed.

DVORYAK Mr. Dvoryak confirmed that he would continue doing the Business Bill Payment process.

EINSIG Ms. Einsig noted that she would get the paperwork from York Traditions for Mr. Gwilt to make that happen.

B. Pension Board Meeting Schedule for 2021

EINSIG Ms. Einsig requested clarification that the Commissioners agreed upon the four dates throughout the year.

Consensus of the Commission was agreement to have four meetings during the year on the same date as the YAUFR meetings.

C. Discussion – February Employee Recognitions

HUNT Chairman Hunt noted that he and Chief Hoff had discussed the matter of employee recognitions which had been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was noted that the public meetings are important for the family members and the rest of the Firefighters to be in one room together; however, that is not possible at this time.

HOFF Chief Hoff noted that for the foreseeable future, meetings will continue to be virtual. He noted that he thought it was pretty important to recognize some of the employees and let them know that they are appreciated and that the things they had done for YAUFR and for the community over the course of last year are not going unnoticed. His thought was for the February meeting he could run the meeting from the meeting room and recognize the individuals to be recognized on Zoom but also livestream it to YAUFR's social media page. By doing that all the employees that are interested that can fit into the meeting room would be able to see the recognition. He asked for feedback from the Commission members.

HUNT Chairman Hunt stated he thought it was a great idea and to be certain that all the technical matters are well handled.

HOFF Chief Hoff noted that Battalion Chief Matt Arnold is good with IT, so he can play an instrumental role in helping this to go off without a hitch.

HUNT Chairman Hunt asked that everyone make an effort to read through the letter from Tobias.

HOFF Chief Hoff noted it was a pleasure to respond to that letter. He was issued a standing invitation to come for a visit as soon as there is an opportunity.

13. ADJOURNMENT

HUNT Chairman Hunt adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file at YAUFR Headquarters

Charles Wurster
Secretary

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