

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

**JUNE 15, 2021
APPROVED**

The York Area United Fire and Rescue Commission held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 7:07 p.m. by Zoom technology.

MEMBERS IN

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

NOT PRESENT: Tom Gwilt, Spring Garden Township

ALSO IN

ATTENDANCE: Daniel Hoff, YAUFR Chief
Steve Hovis, Solicitor
Brett Graham, Battalion Chief
Lisa Einsig, YAUFR
Laurie Noel, YAUFR
Sue Sipe, 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. ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

HUNT Chairman Hunt announced that an Executive Session would not be held following the meeting.

3. COMMUNICATION FROM CITIZENS

There were no citizen comments.

3. MANAGEMENT/ATTORNEY REPORTS

A. Solicitor Hovis

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HOVIS Attorney Hovis stated he received correspondence from Wellspan counsel concerning the property on Indian Rock Dam Road, which indicated Wellspan is not ready to make a final decision on the conveyance of the property until they can determine how to fully utilize the property across from Vito's. He noted they are in limbo until PennDOT gets back to them on whether they would provide the access the Township wants or whether they will go with the access that Wellspan is favoring.

HUNT Chairman Hunt asked if there were any deadlines imposed for Wellspan.

HOVIS Attorney Hovis replied the strategy for Wellspan is as a result of continued occupancy at York Hospital, as they are looking to decant certain services. The Kaltreider property was identified as a potential location to decant services. The whole strategy is if they are unable to use that property, they will need to use another property to move services from York Hospital to free up more bed space for other services.

HUNT Chairman Hunt asked if Spring Garden Township and/or Grantley is ready to move forward.

ROONEY Mr. Rooney stated in terms of purchase and feasibility study, Spring Garden was ready but held off until they were sure the property was under title. He noted once they get a cost estimate and determine what Grantley will contribute they will work out the details.

HOFF Chief Hoff indicated as he recalled from the last meeting, Grantley is committed to remaining part of YAUFR and contributing towards the building. They are still working on getting the reappraisal of the fire station done to know where they are as to contributing assets.

B. Daniel Hoff, Fire Chief

HOFF Chief Hoff noted an update to his report involves the damage to the SUV. He noted he will be meeting with the adjuster from VFIS to evaluate the vehicle and provide an estimate for the repairs.

HUNT Chairman Hunt indicated he had several questions in regards to Chief Hoff's report.
Item #4 – Volunteers – In regards to the signs that have been up for 3-4 months – has there been any response?

HOFF Chief Hoff stated there have been several responses in the Manchester Township area. There were three that were alerted to the possibility of volunteering from

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the signs at the Fire Station. Other applications still are from word-of-mouth. He noted he continues to place signs around the community.

HUNT Chairman Hunt noted on Item #6D – Chief Hoff listed an AFG Grant for freeing air compressor and P25.

HOFF Chief Hoff stated they applied for the grant and have not received it to date. P25 is the paging system for York County Emergency Services. He noted the current pagers are obsolete although they still function. The new pagers will allow them to receive text alerts and voice alerts as well.

HUNT Chairman Hunt asked if they do not receive the grant whether it should be included in the minor equipment purchases in the budget.

HOFF Chief Hoff stated yes, they will look at adding the pagers to the budget for 2022. He noted this request came from the County looking to do a bulk purchase, however, they introduced it in February after budgets had been set. He noted this request had been put on hold in the last several months due to other issues at the 911 Center which have taken priority over the paging system.

HUNT Chairman Hunt referred to the Strategic Planning minutes noting he was surprised to learn the 911 Center is at 40% staffing levels currently for 911 operators.

HOFF Chief Hoff noted on Saturday they operated the majority of the day under Phase 1 conditions which limits what the dispatchers will do for the Emergency Services Agency because of limited staffing. The Phase 1 condition was put into place even with administrative employees coming in to work on the floor. He determined it is a very serious condition.

HUNT Chairman Hunt asked Chief Hoff to expand on what the dispatchers are not doing that affects emergency services.

HOFF Chief Hoff stated in the event of storms they are not making notifications unless there is a life hazard for Met Ed. When they dispatch in an emergency in Phase 1, it is only for the first company to save on radio time because they have one dispatcher who is taking the call and dispatching it. He further noted when YAUFR has a working incident they do not have a dispatcher monitoring the operations channel.

HUNT Chairman Hunt asked if it is up to the incident commander to call for a second dispatch and back up.

HOFF Chief Hoff indicated if YAUFR requests it they will make the dispatch.

HUNT Chairman Hunt asked if they are not monitoring emergency traffic real time – do they have to proactively request an additional dispatch?

HOFF Chief Hoff responded once everybody is on the scene and the incident is taking place that is where they are not monitoring YAUFR activities. They have to go back to the main communications channel to make any requests or give additional information, which falls on the incident commander. He noted they have changed operations so when another chief officer shows up they are putting him in the command post with the incident commander in order to have that extra set of ears to listen to the radio and assist with phone calls and communications.

HUNT Chairman Hunt referred to Incident #7– billing on Chief Hoff's report asking if there is any way to determine when invoices will be collected in order to project billing to revenue.

HOFF Chief Hoff indicated he would need to consult with PA Fire Recovery. He noted he can look at the spreadsheet to see if a particular invoice has been through 1st, 2nd or 3rd notice but it does not tell him the time frame in between.

HUNT Chairman Hunt requested Chief Hoff to investigate it to determine a strategy. He suggested creating a policy of when it would drop off the account and also determine what percentage could be garnered for planning purposes.

4. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

A. Payable Listing as of May 31, 2021

HUNT Chairman Hunt commented on the budget noting Repair and Maintenance is ahead of budget for the year.

HOFF Chief Hoff stated items that were budgeted for apparatus were already completed.

MS. WINGERT MOVED TO APPROVE THE PAYABLE LISTING OF MAY 31, 2021. MR. WURSTER WAS SECOND. BY ROLL CALL VOTE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

5. BIDS, PROPOSALS & CONTRACTS

There were none.

6. COMMUNICATION FROM COMMISSIONERS

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HUNT Chairman Hunt indicated Spring Garden Township is now holding in-person meetings and Manchester Township is holding hybrid meetings. Springettsbury Township is still holding virtual meetings. He suggested the Fire Commission meetings remain virtual until all three charter municipalities are full live which is projected to be the July meetings.

WINGERT Ms. Wingert clarified that Manchester Township meetings are hybrid, however, all the commissioners are in attendance with a public hearing in May. She also noted at their meeting last week there were no attendees on Zoom.

HUNT Chairman Hunt indicated based on that information the July YAUFR meeting would be held live.

ROONEY Mr. Rooney asked to respond to the 911 40% staffing issue. He asked the Commission to consider pursuing discussion with the York County Commissioners to determine if they have any plans to deal with the issue.

HOFF Chief Hoff indicated a special meeting was held last Monday for the Fire Chiefs and Fire Fighters Association at the York County Fire School at which the York County Commissioners were invited. They laid out some of the initiatives they were going to try to improve conditions at the 911 Center.

Chief Hoff noted he had prepared comments representing the department and offered several suggestions to be considered. These included contracting for staff as well as examining the possibility of privatizing the 911 Center. His thought was they are at a crisis point and there should be no option left unexamined. He also asked the commissioners if they are already at 40%, what the plan would be when they can no longer even minimally staff the Center. He noted the Commissioners could not answer that question.

Chief Hoff stated they are already pulling people out of administrative functions to help on the floor as dispatchers. However, the administrative staff has between three and five vacancies in the administration of the 911 Center as well. He noted he stressed to them the fact they do not have the resources to monitor their fire grounds, and the potential for injury is great. He stated as incident commanders they rely heavily on that second set of ears. He noted he could cite examples of incidents that have occurred with firefighters who called for mayday and the incident commander was so busy with all the other fire ground chatter that he missed the mayday call. It was only the 911 dispatcher that picked up on it and was able to get the communication out to the fire ground commander.

Chief Hoff stated one of the reasons for the shortage of personnel is the rate of pay and dispatch hours. He noted starting pay is low for a job that is stressful.

They routinely graduate probably less than 50% of the people who start the training program move into full dispatch responsibilities. He further noted if a trainee does make it through, there is a culture at the 911 Center that does not encourage new employees.

HUNT Chairman Hunt suggested Chief Hoff compose a letter to be sent to the county commissioners, outlining the problems and ramifications of the commissioners not addressing this serious situation.

Chairman Hunt asked Solicitor Hovis if composing a letter would require formal action at a public meeting or whether it could be sent before the next meeting.

HOVIS Solicitor Hovis stated YAUFR could provide the authorization upon each Commissioner signing it to send it out.

WURSTER Mr. Wurster indicated he was in favor and suggested a report at the next meeting to be added to the agenda.

HUNT Chairman Hunt recommended the letter include a copy to the individual Township Managers and police chiefs. He clarified the letter would be sent on behalf of the YAUFR Commissioners under his signature. All commissioners acknowledged their consent.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Volunteer Committee

HOFF Chief Hoff indicated a meeting was held last month to reorganize and an additional meeting will be held June 23. With regards to the Grantley – First Capital EMS merger, he has been invited to attend a meeting tomorrow, June 25 with all three agencies to get an update on their progress and to sign a formal charter agreement. He will provide more information at the next YAUFR meeting.

8. RESOLUTIONS AND AGREEMENTS

There was nothing for action this month.

9. ACTION ON MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes – May 18, 2021 – Fire Commission Meeting

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MR. DVORYAK MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2021 AS WRITTEN. MR. WURSTER WAS SECOND. BY ROLL CALL VOTE THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

10. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval – 2022 YAUFR Budget Workshops and Joint Presentation

MR. WURSTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2022 YAUFR BUDGET WORKSHOPS AND JOINT PRESENTATION DATES AS SUBMITTED. MS. WINGERT WAS SECOND. BY ROLL CALL VOTE THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

12. ADJOURNMENT

HUNT Chairman Hunt adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file at YAUFR Headquarters

Charles Wurster
Secretary
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