

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

**FEBRUARY 21, 2023  
APPROVED**

The York Area United Fire and Rescue Commission held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at YAUFR Headquarters, 50 Commons Drive, York PA

**MEMBERS IN**

**ATTENDANCE:** Dan Rooney, Chairman, Spring Garden Township  
Deb McCune, Vice Chairman, Manchester Township  
Andy Seebold, Treasurer  
Thomas Gwilt, Secretary, Spring Garden Township  
George Dvoryak, Springettsbury Township  
Charles Wurster, Springettsbury Township  
John Inch, Manchester Township (via Zoom)  
Craig Miller (via Zoom)

**ALSO IN**

**ATTENDANCE:** Daniel Hoff, YAUFR Chief  
Walter Tilley, Solicitor  
Don Bishop, Springettsbury Township (via Zoom)  
Paul Grubbs  
YAUFR Battalion Chiefs/Firefighters  
William Kramer (via Zoom)  
Randall Hanifen (via Zoom)  
Roy Winston (via Zoom)  
Sue Sipe, Stenographer

**CALL TO ORDER**

A. Opening Ceremony

1. Pledge of Allegiance

**ROONEY** Chairman Rooney called the meeting to order. He led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Recognition Ceremony

**HOFF** Chief Hoff recognized Mr. Bill Schenck who was the original chairperson, for his outstanding leadership during his service to YAUFR.

Recognition of firefighters who have achieved a significant anniversary:

Firefighter Ross Raber – 5 years  
Captain Chris Shearer – 10 years  
Lieutenant Aaron Eckert – 15 years  
Firefighter Ed Morin – 15 years  
Firefighter Tony Sawyer – 20 years  
Firefighter Rich Godfrey – 20 years  
Firefighter Jerry Stroble – 20 years

Recognition and swearing in for four lieutenants:

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Lieutenant Dave Kane – 17½ year veteran of YAUFR and a veteran of the U.S.  
Army

Lieutenant Aaron Eckert – 16 yr. veteran of YAUFR

Lieutenant Chris Mowry – 14½ yr. veteran of YAUFR

Lieutenant Todd Kroh – 14½ veteran of YAUFR and a veteran of the U.S.  
Marine Corp

**Recognition and swearing in of two Battalion Chiefs**

Battalion Chief William Blackwell

- Joined the Manchester Twp. Fire Dept. in 2003
- Promoted to Captain in July 2017
- Active in Department Safety Committee and will now serve as Chairman

Battalion Chief Todd Heilman

- Began his fire service career in York County in 1992
- Originally hired as a firefighter for the Alert Fire Company
- Promoted to Captain in 2010 as one of the original Manchester Twp. captains
- Retired from Manchester Twp. January 13, 2023
- Began second career as Battalion Chief on January 14, 2023
- He will be handling fire prevention and public education and transition to Public Information Officer

Chief Hoff recognized Battalion Chief Heilman for his retirement from Manchester Twp. Fire Company and for his 31 years of service. He was presented with his Retired Captain Badge, a Certificate to acknowledge his years of service and a shadowbox commemorating his service.

**2022 Battalion Chief Award**

Chief Hoff stated the Battalion Chief Award is presented as recognition for a firefighter who goes above and beyond in the furtherance of the Department's mission and seeks areas for self and departmental improvement. The award is nominated by company level officers on each shift and decided by the battalion chiefs. This year's award was granted to Firefighter John Findley.

- Came to YAUFR in January 2019
- Exemplifies YAUFR mission and values
- Demonstrates a commitment to professionalism with strength in dealing with the public served
- He is a respected leader on his shift and within his station

**2022 Fire Chief Award**

Chief Hoff indicated the Fire Chief Award is presented annually to a company officer who demonstrates exceptional leadership and a desire for self and professional improvement. This year's recipient was Captain Matthew Brown.

- Began his professional fire service career in 2003 with Manchester Twp. Fire Company
- Promoted to Captain in February 2020

- Captain Brown brings a level-headed approach to solving problems, a calm demeanor and considers all possibilities before committing to a decision
- Leads by example
- Demonstrates a strong desire to improve and makes every shift a learning opportunity for growth

Chief Hoff recognized Battalion Chief Brett Graham who will be leaving YAUFR to take on a position as Deputy Chief of Lower Paxton Township Fire Department.

- Began his career with YAUFR in 2012
- Promoted to Captain in 2014 at Station 894
- Promoted to position of Battalion Chief in 2019
- Responsible for the redevelopment of the department training curriculum and the development of the annual training plan
- Striving for professional improvement he obtained his bachelor's degree and began master's level work

Chief Hoff stated YAUFR is grateful for his contributions and wished him well in his new position.

Chief Hoff recognized Mr. Austin Hunt, YAUFR Retired Commissioner

- Mr. Hunt and Mr. Schenk were instrumental in forming an Ad Hoc Committee to evaluate the feasibility of regionalization. This resulted in the formation of YAUFR in 2005 with representation from Springettsbury Township and Spring Garden Township.
- Mr. Hunt served as a YAUFR Commissioner for 18 years.
- His leadership and thoughtfulness have made an impact on YAUFR as well as to Chief Hoff.
- His interest in the employees and learning more about how they do their jobs has been inspiring and appreciated.
- Chief Hoff offered his personal thank you for his guidance, counsel and leadership.
- In appreciation, Mr. Hunt was given a command staff jacket as well as a leadership coin and certificate of appreciation.

Chief Hoff thanked the families in attendance for their commitment and support of the firefighters. He also thanked the employees for their dedication and efforts and for recognizing that everything done as a department, in the stations and on the street reflects on every single one in the YAUFR organization.

## **2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSIONS**

**ROONEY** Chairman Rooney announced there would not be an Executive Session following the meeting.

## **3. COMMUNICATION FROM CITIZENS**

There was none.

**4. MANAGEMENT/ATTORNEY REPORTS**

A. Solicitor Walter Tilley

**TILLEY** Solicitor Tilley indicated he had no further report.

B. Daniel Hoff, Fire Chief

**HOFF** Chief Hoff had nothing to add to his report.

**DVORYAK** Mr. Dvoryak asked about the status of the SAFER Grant.

**HOFF** Chief Hoff indicated the period for the SAFER grant opened and is on the agenda.

**DVORYAK** Mr. Dvoryak asked about the recent warehouse fire in Red Lion. He read in the newspaper 30 stations responded from six states.

**HOFF** Chief Hoff clarified the stations were from six counties. He noted the fire chief from the Red Lion Fire Company was in charge of handling that fire.

**WURSTER** Mr. Wurster commented in the monthly stats report there was a GIS Map overlayed with the incidents calls. He asked if it would be possible to outline the YAUFR service area.

**HOFF** Chief Hoff stated with the new records management system that information could be imported into the GIS software.

**WURSTER** Mr. Wurster commented on the Ohio train derailment, questioning if any incident occurred in the YAUFR service area, would YAUFR respond.

**HOFF** Chief Hoff confirmed YAUFR would respond as the fire department. He noted from a hazardous materials standpoint, YAUFR firefighters are trained to the operational level to damming, diking and diverting hazardous runoff. They also have members of the department who have attained technician level training which would be needed to make entry into the hot zone, stop the leak and attack any fire.

**5. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

A. Payable Listing as of January 31, 2023

**MR. DVORYAK MOVED TO APPROVE THE PAYABLE LISTING AS OF JANUARY 31, 2023. MR. WURSTER WAS SECOND. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**6. BIDS, PROPOSALS & CONTRACTS**

There were none.

**7. COMMUNICATION FROM COMMISSIONERS**

**DVORYAK** Mr. Dvoryak thanked Chief Hoff for meeting with him and providing a basic breakdown on fire operations. He encouraged everyone especially newer Commission members to schedule a time with Chief Hoff to obtain additional knowledge on this subject.

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Volunteer Committee**

**GRUBBS** Mr. Grubbs stated the committee held a meeting last month. Discussion was held regarding recruitment and retention to include a website and road signs on the periphery on municipal borders, as well as an electronic billboard.

Mr. Grubbs noted they discussed tax relief for volunteers which could also be used as a positive recruitment tool.

Mr. Grubbs indicated a design is being considered for the billboard to be used as a logo through Lamar Advertising as a public service to YAUFR.

**9. RESOLUTIONS AND AGREEMENTS**

**A. 2023-01 Pension Fund Board Appointments**

**MR. DVORYAK MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2023-01 FOR THE PENSION FUND BOARD APPOINTMENTS. MR. WURSTER WAS SECOND. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.**

**10. ACTION ON MINUTES**

**A. Approval of Minutes – January 17, 2023 - Fire Commission Meeting**

**MR. DVORYAK MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 17, 2023 FOR THE FIRE COMMISSION MEETING AS SUBMITTED. MR. SEEBOLD WAS SECOND. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.**

**11. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Discussion – Staffing Study**

**ROONEY** Chairman Rooney noted questions were submitted to the Commissioners. He suggested allowing time for the consultants to respond to the questions.

**CRAMER** Mr. Cramer indicated his team is agreeable to coming to the March meeting to review the questions and provide input on the content of the report which was previously submitted.

**MR. DVORYAK MOVED TO POSTPONE DISCUSSION OF THE STAFFING STUDY QUESTIONS UNTIL THE MARCH 21, 2023 YAUFR MEETING. MS. McCUNE WAS SECOND. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.**

**B. Update – Personnel Committee**

**WURSTER** Mr. Wurster indicated he met with Mr. Seebold and Ms. McCune to discuss the Personnel Committee. They established the first Tuesday of the month for meetings on the subject of the Personnel charge to examine overall compensation package as it relates to the battalion chiefs and administration staff. He noted they reached a unanimous perspective on the research topic. A discussion was also held with Chief Hoff to obtain additional information and input.

**C. Approval – SAFER Grant**

**HOFF** Chief Hoff reiterated the time frame for submission of the grant application noting it will expire prior to the March meeting. He indicated they have been working with a professional grant writer with experience in writing fire service grants. She is a full-time resident of Spring Garden Township. Chief Hoff explained the federal grant involves two projects – SAFER has a recruitment and retention component for volunteers and also has the hiring component. He noted they plan to apply for both projects.

**MR. WURSTER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE CHIEF HOFF TO FILE A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE SAFER GRANT WHICH WILL PROVIDE THE COMPENSATION FOR THREE FIREFIGHTERS FOR THREE YEARS TO INCLUDE ALL SALARIES AND BENEFITS. MS. McCUNE WAS SECOND. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.**

**DVORYAK** Mr. Dvoryak questioned if there were any other steps to be taken the increase the chance of success, i.e., contacting elected officials in Washington D.C. to advise them of the application.

**HOFF** Chief Hoff stated with the assistance of Battalion Chief Madzellan, Scott Ryno and himself, along with the local grant expert, they will contact federal representatives to gain support.

**12. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Traditions Bank signor updates**

**HOFF** Chief Hoff stated signatures are needed from the Commissioners as well as a copy of driver's license and social security numbers.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

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**ROONEY** Chairman Rooney adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Signature on file at YAUFRR Headquarters*

Thomas Gwilt  
Secretary/ses