

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

**MARCH 21, 2023  
APPROVED**

The York Area United Fire and Rescue Commission held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, March 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  
Thomas Gwilt, Secretary, Spring Garden Township  
George Dvoryak, Springettsbury Township  
Charles Wurster, Springettsbury Township  
Craig Miller (via Zoom)

**NOT PRESENT:** Andy Seebold, Treasurer  
John Inch, Manchester Township

**ALSO IN**

**ATTENDANCE:** Daniel Hoff, YAUFR Chief  
Sarah Doyle, Solicitor  
Don Bishop, Springettsbury Township (via Zoom)  
Bob Gundlach  
YAUFR Battalion Chiefs/Firefighters  
William Kramer (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.

**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 Sarah Doyle

**DOYLE** Solicitor Doyle introduced Jason Sabol who recently joined the practice of Stock & Leader.

She had no further report.

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B. Daniel Hoff, Fire Chief

**HOFF** Chief Hoff reported the SAFER Grant was submitted last week. He indicated he solicited letters of support from every governmental level. All three Townships voted unanimously to support the application.

Chief Hoff indicated the Assistance to Firefighters Grant was submitted. They are also working on the Fire Prevention and Safety Grant through FEMA.

He reported on a project that resulted from the change in the records management system called Community Connect. He noted this is a feature which allows private citizens and business owners to sign in and provide information that will automatically be added to the records management system and be available to crews when accessing the mapping software when responding to calls.

**5. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

A. Payable Listing as of February 28, 2023

**MR. DVORYAK MOVED TO APPROVE THE PAYABLE LISTING AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2023. MR. WURSTER WAS SECOND. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**6. BIDS, PROPOSALS & CONTRACTS**

There were none.

**7. COMMUNICATION FROM COMMISSIONERS**

There were none.

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Volunteer Committee

**HOFF** Chief Hoff reported for Mr. Grubbs, noting the committee will hold a meeting on March 22, 2023.

**9. RESOLUTIONS AND AGREEMENTS**

There were none.

**10. ACTION ON MINUTES**

A. Approval of Minutes – February 21, 2023 - Fire Commission Meeting

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**MS. McCUNE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 21, 2023 FOR THE FIRE COMMISSION MEETING AS SUBMITTED. MR. GWILT WAS SECOND. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.**

**11. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Discussion – Staffing Study**

**ROONEY** Chairman Rooney noted questions were submitted to Mr. Cramer. Mr. Cramer was in attendance via Zoom to provide input and answers to the questions.

**DVORYAK** Mr. Dvoryak thanked Mr. Cramer for his time in responding to the questions.

Mr. Dvoryak asked Mr. Cramer in his role as fire chief did he report to a volunteer board of directors.

**CRAMER** Mr. Cramer stated he did not.

**DVORYAK** Mr. Dvoryak asked if Mr. Cramer or his team have ever served in an elected position where they were responsible for not only fire service budgets but a variety of budgets, i.e., police, sewer and water, general fund, etc.

**CRAMER** Mr. Cramer confirmed they did not.

The following discussion ensued regarding specific questions as identified by Mr. Dvoryak to Mr. Cramer.

**Question #5**

**DVORYAK** During your presentation you offered an opinion that YAUFR had plenty of room in its budget to increase its financial commitment to get closer to the standards, where you had done some actual calculations of what that meant financially in order to get to a recommended three per apparatus. How many hires is that, what is the cost and the tax increase required?

**CRAMER** This was more of a macro perspective based on the growth in your taxation rates across all three townships.

**DVORYAK** Is it fair to say that is more of an opinion that the Townships can handle the increased tax increase?

**CRAMER** I believe it is a very solid opinion and supported by at least two of the townships.

**Question #6**

**DVORYAK** Where did the numbers come from which reflected the drop in volunteers – 300,000 in the 1970's down to 38,000 currently. What is the source for that information?

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**CRAMER** Those are widely publicized numbers.

**HOFF** Chief Hoff reported in the last 14 years there have been two studies on emergency services in the Pennsylvania – one in 2014 Senate Resolution 60. 2018 there was an SR6 Committee which looked the same thing. Both of those documents are the references for those numbers.

**Question #7**

**DVORYAK** In regards to mutual aid, Mr. Dvoryak indicated he spent some time with Chief Hoff who explained the box card system. From his understanding they submit the box cards listing the responding 5 stations to 911. He noted in looking at surrounding municipalities many of those only have one station which respond to fires. He believed they are probably listing other responding stations, including YAUFR. It seems the mutual aid response would be disproportionate. Does mutual aid impact the staffing Mr. Cramer relayed, coming from the perspective it seems YAUFR would be called upon for mutual aid more so than other municipalities based on the box card system.

**CRAMER** Mr. Cramer noted the frequency of structure fires including both the YAUFR district and all the surrounding areas adjacent that might be involved in a jurisdictional response agreement. The total number of fires will be relatively small and YAUFR forces are much closer within the district and they do draw back-up help and backfilling of YAUFR stations requested with mutual benefits.

**DVORYAK** Mr. Dvoryak affirmed YAUFR is committed to intermunicipal cooperation. However, the question really is in your analysis of staffing, did you look at the level of mutual aid offered vs. received to arrive at any conclusions as to whether it is out of balance with any of our mutual aid partners.

**CRAMER** He did not believe it was out of balance because the less populated areas need YAUFR far less in terms of frequency than YAUFR needs them.

**Question #11**

**DVORYAK** Mr. Dvoryak asked for clarification on if we respond to a structure fire would OSHA not approve going into that structure for a rescue if there were only two or three firefighters on the scene.

**CRAMER** Mr. Cramer stated OSHA has the requirement of two-in, two-out which indicates anytime a two person entry team goes in, there should be a two person team available on the outside. This comes from the term IDLH – Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health. This standard existed before it was transferred into the fire service. As it relates to fire professionals it is superseded by their own standard which requires four people but which makes an exception that two people can enter if there is an immediate danger to life and safety at a scene. The three-person crew still permits the two person crew to enter since there will have to be one person operating a pump, charging a hose line and controlling water supply from outside the building while the two person crew goes in. Also, a second team would essentially be arriving to back up the first team.

**DVORYAK** To clarify if a crew show up on a structure fire with three firefighters and two of three effect a rescue in the building and something happens to one of those two, OSHA would forgive that because it was a rescue?

**CRAMER** Mr. Cramer felt additional research is needed to determine the OSHA standard, since the fire department has adopted it and referenced it in their own NFPA standards, as to whether they have the same wiggle room that is published with the fire department standard, NFPA and 1710, 1720 in the 1200 standards. If OSHA has no wiggle room, then it's a judgement call. Would like to find out who the enforcing agent is.

**DVORYAK** Mr. Dvoryak noted he asked that question because a YAUFR staff member had a concern about that. He wanted to make sure we understand as a Board the implications if two responders prevented them from effecting a rescue and was of the opinion that a third would enable a rescue.

**Question #9**

**DVORYAK** You had a suggestion in your report about bringing EMS inhouse. You offered thoughts on why that was beneficial and responded here with two examples nationally where ambulance services went out of business or stopped providing service suddenly. The question was, did you look at our ambulance services specifically and make a determination that we were at risk of the ambulance service going out of business or not providing an adequate level of service.

**CRAMER** Your ambulance service is on solid footing financially although the quality can be questioned by some purists. Many fire departments have taken over the transporting of ambulance service and because of the billing they get from hospital transports, it allows them to cover the costs of additional people which is where in many cases real efficiency can be gained.

**DVORYAK** Mr. Dvoryak noted he took the concern of the ambulance service to the Springettsbury Township Manager, Mr. Hodgkinson and asked him to take a look any concerns he had. His response was he feels comfortable with the level of service in Springettsbury Township.

**ROONEY** Chairman Rooney thanked Mr. Cramer for his time. He stated it would be up to the Commission to determine what level of standards are attainable for YAUFR, and what level of staffing is required to meet that standard.

**CRAMER** Mr. Cramer noted he would be available for additional questions or comments. He indicated he would do some research on OSHA vs. NFPA standards as a gratis service.

**McCUNE** Ms. McCune stated although the Staffing Study was released to the public, it was not officially accepted by the Commission.

**MS. McCUNE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE STAFFING STUDY AS FINAL. MR. DVORYAK WAS SECOND. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

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**B. Update – Personnel Committee**

**WURSTER** Mr. Wurster recommended the Personnel Committee report be moved for the future under Committee Reports. The Commission concurred.

Mr. Wurster indicated he and Ms. McCune met and received data relative to the matter. They researched the data and discussed some of the trends and are determining the scope of the project and what needs to be accomplished. He noted the next step is to gain a greater understanding of the cash balance plan. The next meeting will be held on April 4, 2023. They hope to conclude the project by May-June.

**HOFF** Chief Hoff suggested the Personnel Committee be maintained to address other items by the Committee.

**C. Approval – SAFER Grant**

**HOFF** Chief Hoff provided his update during his report.

**12. NEW BUSINESS**

**McCUNE** Ms. McCune noted at Mr. Dvoryak's suggestion, she and Mr. Seebold met with Chief Hoff to review fire operations.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

**ROONEY** Chairman Rooney adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Signature on file at YAUFR Headquarters*

Thomas Gwilt  
Secretary/ses