

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

**NOVEMBER 21, 2023
APPROVED**

The York Area United Fire and Rescue Commission held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, November 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 Chairperson, Manchester Township
Andy Seebold, Treasurer (via Zoom)
Thomas Gwilt, Secretary, Spring Garden Township
Charles Wurster, Springettsbury Township
John Inch, Manchester Township (via Zoom)
Don Bishop (via Zoom)

NOT PRESENT: George Dvoryak, Springettsbury Township

ALSO IN

ATTENDANCE: Daniel Hoff, YAUFR Chief
Walter Tilley, Solicitor
Paul Grubbs
Lester Rhoads
Bill Bekanick, Battalion Chief
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

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

HOFF Chief Hoff introduced Mr. Bill Bekanick, representative from the Insurance Services Office who was in attendance to provide an overview of the ISO process and answer questions, as a result of a report he previously presented on the most recent ISO rating. Chief Hoff distributed copies of the ISO Summary Report.

BEKANICK Mr. Bekanick stated he is employed by Insurance Services Office (ISO). He has responsibility for 600 communities in Central Pennsylvania. He indicated he comes into communities and performs a risk assessment, an insurance tool which is then purchased by over 250 major insurance carriers in order to write both personal and commercial lines of fire insurance.

Mr. Bekanick indicated the average homeowner policy across the U.S. is about \$2100/year - \$700 is the fire peril portion of the home owner's policy. Underwriters will access data from their servers and based on the class number they then assign the fee schedule based on what the risks would be. For Class 1 or 2 – one set of numbers and Class 4 or 5 could be a different set of numbers, which is then up to the carriers to write the policies.

Mr. Bekanick reviewed the point system as it relates to YAUFR noting currently they are at 79.43 points which is at a Classification 2. He reviewed the meaning of the classifications. He noted this is an insurance tool, which is a summary for the community to determine where they are when it comes to fire protection and to set benchmarks.

Mr. Bekanick referred to the Fire Department scores which are a 50-point maximum of the 105.5 points available for the survey. The Fire Department scored 34.66 out of 50 points. He reviewed the components that had the highest points – Engine Companies, Reserve Pumpers, Pumper Capacity and Ladder Capacity. The Deployment Analysis is at 4.42 points, which he explained is how well they cover their protected area from current fire stations, and explained the electronic deployment analysis. He noted they conduct a study of 1½ road miles in all directions from each fire station to see how well they protect the coverage area. They also do a study with the ladder companies for 2½ miles from each of the two fire stations. He noted they have some areas outside of the buffer for a fire hydrant which causes the split classification 03/3X. The 03 is the number the insurance carrier will use to make their determination for properties within 1000 feet of a fire hydrant and the 3X is used because the property is outside of 1000 feet of a fire hydrant.

In response to a question as to how to increase the score, Mr. Bekanick indicated with the score at 79.43 they would be trying to reach for the points to go over 80 points, those could include things such as additional personnel or better volunteer response.

Mr. Bekanick indicated NFPA's requirement for every career firefighter is a 3:1 ratio from on-call to on-duty. Whether using on-duty numbers of 24 for NFPA or using the on-call number of 72 for NFPA or a combination of both, those are the numbers they use to get personnel to obtain them.

Mr. Bekanick noted the re-evaluation runs on a 5-year cycle. However, if a significant change occurs or something is added, they would come back and do a re-evaluation. He indicated he evaluates what commercial properties are in the community vs. the fire department's capability to deliver the water needed and the water department's ability to deliver water to those hydrants.

HOFF

Chief Hoff stated he and the command staff instead of focusing on the classification, focus on what they can control with continual improvement and how they can impact with the staff and resources at hand. Chief Hoff noted this assessment is based on responses to structure fires and does not take into consideration responses to EMS calls, vehicle accidents or special rescues. It is a fire response evaluation.

BEKANICK Mr. Bekanick mentioned when it comes to deployment analysis, as a community grows more building stock is added to the area with more fire hydrants, which adds more protected road miles that need to be covered.

Mr. Bekanick addressed ISO ratings noting 74% of all insurance policies on the personal line are written solely based on their number. 91% of all policies are written using their data in some way. He noted they are coming out with new products and getting more accurate with GIS data on new buildings.

4. MANAGEMENT/ATTORNEY REPORTS

A. Solicitor Walter Tilley

TILLEY Solicitor Tilley stated he collaborated with Chief Hoff to draft the Local Share Statewide grant resolution.

Solicitor Tilley indicated the Commonwealth Court came down with a decision last week which interpreted the Sunshine Law with new provisions regarding agendas. They indicated agendas need to be more specific in defining items to be acted upon or discussed. There is also an interpretation regarding when matters can be added to the agenda. Guidelines have been created to denote if an item is an emergency or diminimus with no expenditures and no contract, it cannot be placed on the agenda unless it has been publicized prior to the meeting. In regard to committee reports, the discussion would need to be added to the agenda.

B. Daniel Hoff, Fire Chief

HOFF Chief Hoff advised the department has been seeing increased incidences occurring during the past two weeks.

5. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

A. Payable Listing as of October 31, 2023

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

6. BIDS, PROPOSALS & CONTRACTS

There were none.

7. COMMUNICATION FROM COMMISSIONERS

WURSTER Mr. Wurster reported that Davies Drive is now open. He thanked YAUFR's participation in the opening earlier this month.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Volunteer Committee

GRUBBS Mr. Grubbs stated he had no report.

B. Personnel Committee

WURSTER Mr. Wurster indicated they were not able to meet at their regular time this month but will meet on December 5, 2023.

9. RESOLUTIONS AND AGREEMENTS

A. 2023-02 Local Share Account – Statewide Grant Application

HOFF Chief Hoff stated this grant application will assist with outfitting the vehicle donated by the Springettsbury Township volunteers. The grant application is ready to be submitted with the support of four legislators. The grant application is for \$60,500.

MS. McCUNE MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2023-02 LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT FOR THE STATEWIDE GRANT APPLICATION. MR. WURSTER WAS SECOND. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

A. Approval of Minutes – October 17, 2023 Commission Meeting

MR. GWILT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 17, 2023 FOR THE COMMISSION MEETING AS PRESENTED. MS. McCUNE WAS SECOND. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

10. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of Apparatus Replacement Plan

HOFF Chief Hoff referred to the discussion held in 2017 regarding the replacement of apparatus, when the YAUFR Commission contemplated leasing apparatus instead of a singular purchase. Through that investigation they came upon the capital replacement plan which will have a final payment in 2024. This was a six-year finance of four engines and a ladder truck, including two SUVs.

In reviewing the replacement plan it was determined that would change the plan to replace apparatus in the future, setting up a 12–13-year life expectancy of front-line

apparatus. Chief Hoff noted currently they have apparatus that is in need of replacement based on age. He referred to Battalion Chief Wolfgang who would provide an executive summary of the document distributed by Chief Hoff for discussion.

WOLFGANG Chief Wolfgang stated when reviewing the replacement schedule, the apparatus purchased in 2018 was already in service so they evaluated what worked well with the process and documented it. In working on the next phase, he informed Chief Hoff the lead time to receive a new fire truck would take up to 18 months to several years. In working with the Command Staff, they did a SWAT analysis to determine what is working well and what was not working well. They asked each captain and crew member to conduct a SWAT analysis to include tasks they do on a daily basis with apparatus – with suggestions on how to make it better. One of the items addressed was how to get medical equipment out of the fire trucks, and shortcomings on connecting to fire hydrants.

Chief Wolfgang stated they approached seven manufacturers to discuss what could be done to improve the current platforms and determine the best solution. This criteria was provided to each group who came up with a general criteria that was provided to the manufacturers to develop specifications. That information was reviewed by him, the command staff and the captains and they developed a rankings list which identified which proposals supplied by qualified manufacturers would meet the requirements set and also help to move through the next 6-7 years.

He noted this is a culmination of approximately 18 months of work, but which actually began in 2010 with the purchase of the original Pierce engines.

Chief Wolfgang stated his purpose is to answer any questions about why the fire truck lead time is so long, why the costs are so expensive, what has changed in the marketplace, what have we done to try to look at response models and keep wear and tear down on the fire trucks. He noted the department uses approximately 75 gallons of diesel fuel per day. Ladder truck tire replacement is every six months.

The following items were discussed:

- Arranging for an engine to be out of service for tire change or other service. Chief Wolfgang stated they have developed a program when each unit is inspected every six months for fluid exchange, chassis lube and other components including tire replacement.
- Keeping an older engine in reserve as a backup. Chief Wolfgang cautioned using older equipment which is vulnerable for damage to truck components which is not only costly to replace but parts may be obsolete.
- Electronic components on new vehicles. Chief Wolfgang stated based on their experience with 2019-2020 rigs, repairs have been completely structural and mechanical.
- In regard to the bidding process, Chief Wolfgang noted the purchase will be through CoStars.
- Chief Wolfgang explained the ordering process as it relates to cost constraints.

- Evaluating cost reductions in pricing due to supply chain issues. Chief Wolfgang stated they have assessed where it would be possible to negotiate or remove extraneous costs.
- It is anticipated potential replacement of four trucks would occur in 2025. Chief Wolfgang reviewed the chart which identifies the replacement schedule.

HOFF Chief Hoff indicated in reviewing the last three pages, it shows the proposal received from Leasing Two, the first payment due date is not until 2025. By gaining approval within the next two months, they will be able to place the order and avert any first of the year cost increases.

Chief Hoff indicated the proposal will be on the agenda at the December 19 for further discussion and action.

13. ADJOURNMENT

ROONEY Chairman Rooney adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file at YAUFR Headquarters

Thomas Gwilt
Secretary/ses