

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

**MAY 20, 2025
APPROVED**

The York Area United Fire and Rescue Commission held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at YAUFR Headquarters, 50 Commons Drive, York PA

MEMBERS IN

ATTENDANCE: Dan Rooney, Chairman, Spring Garden Township (Zoom)
Deb McCune, Vice Chairperson, Manchester Township
Thomas Gwilt, Secretary, Spring Garden Township
George Dvoryak, Springettsbury Township
Mark Swomley, Citizen-at-Large
Craig Miller, Manchester Township
Don Bishop, Springettsbury Township

NOT PRESENT:

ALSO IN

ATTENDANCE: Daniel Hoff, YAUFR Chief (Zoom)
Walter Tilley, Solicitor
Lester Rhoads, YAUFR
Scott Ryno, YAUFR (Zoom)
Laurie Noel, YAUFR, Administrative Assistant
David Kane, YAUFR
Bob Gundlach
Sue Sipe, Stenographer

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Opening Ceremony

McCUNE Vice Chairperson McCune called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

McCUNE Vice Chairperson McCune announced there were no Executive Sessions since the last meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

4. MANAGEMENT/ATTORNEY REPORTS

A. Solicitor Tilley

Solicitor Tilley stated the registration form was prepared for the Department of State updating the address of the volunteer organization and registering YAUFR to allow Chief Hoff to rely on those documents for submittal of grants.

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B. Daniel Hoff, Fire Chief

HOFF Chief Hoff announced the passing of a longtime volunteer from Spring Garden Township and Grantley Fire Company, Mary Gundlach.

Chief Hoff announced the concert in Manchester Township to be located at the Inch Property on June 14, 2025. He noted they are working with the Inch Family as well as Manchester Township to ensure proper codes are followed for a safe event.

Chief Hoff indicated they received notification that the SAFER grant process is opening on Friday, May 23 until July 3, 2025. He noted this would be included on the meeting agenda for June.

5. ACCOUNTS PAYABLES

A. Payable Listing as of April 30, 2025

**MR. DVORYAK MOVED TO APPROVE THE PAYABLE LISTING AS OF APRIL 30, 2025.
MR. MILLER WAS SECOND. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

6. BIDS, PROPOSALS & CONTRACTS

There were none.

7. COMMUNICATION FROM COMMISSIONERS

GWILT Mr. Gwilt commended the firefighters who participated in the Fire School held recently, noting he was in attendance at two of the trainings.

Mr. Gwilt stated he attended the recent Fire Expo at the Farm Show building hosted by the Lancaster County Firefighters Association.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Volunteer Committee

No report.

B. Personnel Committee

No meeting scheduled at this time.

9. RESOLUTIONS AND AGREEMENTS

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- A. Adopt: Resolution 2025-03 – Approval of the York Area Regional Emergency Management Emergency Operations Plan

MR. DVORYAK MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2025-03 – APPROVAL OF THE YORK AREA REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN. MR. MILLER WAS SECOND. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 15, 2025

MR. GWILT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 15, 2025 FOR THE COMMISSION MEETING AS PRESENTED. MR. DVORYAK WAS SECOND. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

11. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Discuss: Charter Agreement Amendments

DVORYAK Mr. Dvoryak asked where the requested changes in the charter agreement originated.

TILLEY Solicitor Tilley stated he made recommended changes relating to the contract authority by looking at the first class township and second class township codes, and received comments from Chief Hoff regarding the type of language which would be useful for grant applications. He expanded the language for pure contracting, i.e., buying, selling and leasing to make it clearer. Also to make the language clearer as to how the authority can apply and implement grants.

McCUNE Vice Chairperson McCune noted other changes are color coded to indicate which municipality made changes or asked questions.

TILLEY Solicitor Tilley indicated there is no restriction on how changes are made in the charter, and comments/suggested changes can be done at a later time. However, the contract language and grant application language should be clarified in order for Chief Hoff to move forward with grants.

DVORYAK Mr. Dvoryak stated he has questions for the authors of some of the comments to understand the rationale as it relates to financial calculations.

The following discussion ensued:

Mr. Dvoryak asked who was the author of the funding formula changes

Mr. Rooney stated the allocations proposed were as a result of looking at the scenario of allocations which he felt was fairer based on the profile data that Chief Hoff provided. He noted he was open to looking at other ways of revising the allocation. He noted when looking at the demographics – population and daytime population the numbers shifted.

Mr. Dvoryak stated he did not think the proposed calculation or allocation takes into account a fixed cost. He proposed the following change:
35.4% Springettsbury Township

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32.5% Manchester Township
32.1% Spring Garden

He noted this is based on looking at fixed costs and variable costs which he based on a study done several years ago by Vijay Kapoor about the direct costs of providing fire services in all three municipalities.

Mr. Miller commented calls were taken out because it was unfair with the call volume.

Mr. Dvoryak stated he believed what this says is Spring Garden Township has a third of the personnel assigned to their distribution so in essence since 85-90% of the costs are fixed, it ends up with a third of the costs which is the big driver of fixed costs.

Mr. Rooney commented based on population calls for service volume, isolation from where personnel are posted physically cannot be evaluated since they respond to other townships, which results in having to look at where they go and respond to calls.

Mr. Dvoryak indicated he conceded it is complex and requires someone with financial credentials, i.e., a CPA to figure it out. He asked Mr. Rooney about his background in finance.

Mr. Rooney responded he did not think it was a CPA question or an accounting question - it is a numerical question based on looking at the budget. Allocations were determined previously when YAUFR was formed and then revised. This is an evolution of that and it is taking into account the population and employment of each jurisdiction. Calls for service were not put in there. In fact, it bumps Springettsbury's allocation higher.

Mr. Dvoryak commented population has nothing to do with the cost structure. He asked how does that drive costs for YAUFR.

Mr. Rooney stated in looking at calls for service, one can see that Springettsbury has a higher call volume for the last three years. So that is related to the population and employment.

Mr. Dvoryak countered that 85% of the costs are fixed and do not change with call volume.

Mr. Rooney commented 33% of the calls are not in Spring Garden Township.

Mr. Dvoryak asked for clarification on the rationale for when the change from Springettsbury and Spring Garden reverted in 2014 from the 60-40 to the 55-45.

Mr. Rooney stated they have to look at fairness of allocation to all three municipalities.

Mr. Dvoryak stated from his perspective when looking at this allocation it appeared Mr. Rooney determined what the outcome was ahead of time and then worked backwards to put together the numbers that supported his outcome. It does not look like a fair attempt to allocate costs. He further added what he would agree to is a fair allocation percentage. He was of the opinion when looking at factors that are considered to be conventional as to the way YAUFR has done business, it appears ending up in the situation where decisions are made based on financial analysis that is incomplete.

Discussion continued on changing governing value and how to ensure each municipality's interest fairly, including the rationale for changing the veto power from 75% to 66-2/3%.

Mr. Swomley brought up the issue of how the vote for hiring additional firefighters was handled and was of the opinion there was a violation of trust.

Mr. Bishop expressed his disappointment that all of the discussion about changes to the charter agreement have anything to do with making YAUFR better. He stated his hope was to make changes that would allow the organization to be stronger in the future.

Mr. Dvoryak brought up a previous discussion that was presented regarding changing the governance of the Board.

Ms. McCune stressed the need to work together to arrive at solutions.

Mr. Dvoryak asked if the Board could all agree to work on something that is truly fair to all municipalities and not self-serving to the individual municipalities.

Mr. Gwilt encouraged the Commissioners to work together for the good of the residents.

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discuss/Approve: Conewago Township letter of interest to join York Area Regional Emergency Management

HOFF Chief Hoff stated they were contacted by York County Emergency Management Agency several months ago concerning an issue with Manchester Township related to the restart of Three Mile Island. Through that conversation they indicated that Conewago Township was without an EMA coordinator. Chief Hoff indicated he and Chief Madzelan met with Conewago Township officials to determine their interests and needs from an emergency management standpoint. This resulted in the letter of interest to possibly joining from a regional emergency management aspect. Chief Hoff stated he and Chief Madzelan are satisfied with the needs of Conewago Township which are mainly administrative, and they would like to continue that conversation and bring a proposal to the Board. He did not feel this would impact YAUFR bandwidth. Chief Hoff noted part of the discussion would be held to determine any financial responsibility.

It was the consensus of the Commission to agree with proceeding with the discussion.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MCCUNE Vice Chairman McCune adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m

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Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file at YAUFR Headquarters

Thomas Gwilt
Secretary/ses