

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

A special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Upper Macungie Township was held on January 22, 2015, in the Municipal Building, at 7:00 PM. Those present were Chairman James M. Brunell, Vice-Chairman John P. "Sean" Gill, Secretary Kathy A. Rader, and Fire Commissioner Grant Grim.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss matters with the three volunteer fire companies in Upper Macungie Township; any other issues that may come before the Board; and, to take any necessary action, if appropriate.

Chairman James M. Brunell opened the meeting and asked all present to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Paul McNemar, Captain, for Fogelsville Volunteer Fire Company, reported that the new truck (811) has been delivered to Station 8. The radios and equipment for the truck will be installed, starting next week. The truck should be in service sometime in February. Dwayne Shellhamer, from Smeal will set up training on the new truck. A representative from Spartan will provide driver training for the four-wheel drive chassis. The old, Township owned, 811 truck will be sold.

FUND DRIVES FOR 2015 – Money received from the 2014 Fund Drive, by the Fire Companies, is significantly down from previous years. UMT Station 56 seems to have yielded the most donations, although no figures were available. Other fire companies feel that the yield should be more equal. Jeff Grim thought that perhaps it would be better for each fire company to do their own, instead of a joint effort. The thought is that the new residents moving into the Township do not realize that the fire companies are volunteer and not paid. Possibilities were discussed as to how to education the public about volunteer fire companies.

After much discussion and the exchange of many ideas, it was decided that the fire companies get together and create a "funding district" for each fire company, and that they would do their own fund drives. The Township will provide maps for this project.

FOGELSVILLE / TREXLERTOWN – 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS –

Jeff Grim reported that Fogelsville has raised approximately \$18,000, from several fundraisers, for this celebration. Some of their plans include a block party and banquet. They are also planning to refurbish the façade of the original fire company and the first piece of NEW apparatus, purchased by the fire company, which dates back to 1946.

Carl Schmoyer reported that Trexlertown will have a Centennial Meeting on Sunday, at the Fire House, at 1:00 PM, for anyone who is interested in attending. There are four events planned for 2016:

January 18th – a ceremony commemorating the devastating fire in Trexlertown that prompted the creation a fire company.

January 24th – a ceremony commemorating the first organizational meeting for a new fire company.

April 30th – a grand banquet at Northampton Community Center.

July 16th – hosting the Four County Firemen's Parade, with the 100th Anniversary part of the celebration.

TREXLERTOWN "MODEL A" RESTORATION – As part of the 100 Year Celebration, Trexlertown is planning to restore the 1930 Model A Ford fire truck that was in service for over 43 years. They have requested funding for this project from the Township. Estimates are needed before Township funding can be considered.

TRUCK REPLACEMENT (2561) – Fire Commissioner Grim reported that Trexlertown's truck, 2561, purchased in 1970, is next on the list to be replaced. This is an urban attack truck. Manager Olpere reported that he needs more information before the start of getting plans and a committee together. This will be revisited later this year.

TRAINING AT FIRE DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTORS CONFERENCE (FDIC) – The three chiefs will be submitting names of representatives from each of the fire companies to Commissioner Grim, by February 6th, as to who will be attending. This conference will be held on April 20th – 25th in Indianapolis, Indiana. Due to the location, this is a very expensive conference. Driving versus flying was briefly discussed.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR FIRE STUDY – Update – Eight proposals have been received. Manager Olpere will review with Commissioner Grim and make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES (SOG's) – Update – A “Fire Department Alliance” is proposed for the SOG's. After finalization and review by Solicitor Schantz and three fire companies, the SOG's will be put before the Board of Supervisors for adoption.

STATUS OF COMMAND VEHICLE – Chairman Brunell reported that South Whitehall and Upper Macungie Townships will approach Lehigh County about the many challenges with this project. The County will be contacted about transferring the grant money to a different joint project. Chuck Deprill commented that grants should be used within fire service; and, suggested that perhaps a joint volunteer recruitment project, using a marketing professional, be discussed with South Whitehall Township.

NEXT MEETING WITH THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS – April 13, 2015, at 7:00 PM – Please mark your calendars!



PUBLIC COMMENT –

Linda Gorr – help is needed Valentine's Day weekend to make donuts at Trexertown fire house.

Shohn Montano – grant money should be spent on fire service.

Chief Arlan Wright – asked Fogelsville Captain McNemar if, after the meeting, they could go up to Fogelsville's station to see the new truck.

Upon a motion by Chairman Brunell, seconded by Secretary Rader and unanimous, the meeting is adjourned at 8:53 PM.

Kathy A. Rader
Secretary