

**I. CALL TO ORDER – PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

The Special Fire Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Upper Macungie Township was called to order on May 28, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 8330 Schantz Road, Breinigsville, PA 18031. Present were Jeff Fleischaker, Chairman; Sunny Ghai, Vice-Chairman; Robert R. Ibach, Jr., Township Manager; Kalman A. Sostarecz, Jr., Assistant Township Manager and Director of Community Development; Jazmin Vazquez, Township Secretary; and Peter Christ, Commissioner, Bureau of Fire.

Chairman Fleischaker opened the meeting and asked all present to join him in reading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.



**II. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None

**III. RESOLUTIONS**

**A. *Resolution 2024-24 – DCED Grant for Grange Park Loop Trail Construction***

Mr. Ibach stated that this grant will offset the costs to construct the first phase of the Grange Loop Trail through grant funding.

**Motion by Chairman Fleischaker to adopt Resolution #2024-24, authorizing the submission of a PA DCED Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Grant in the amount of \$248,338.04 for the Grange Park Trail Construction – Phase I, including a matching funds commitment letter signed by the Township Manager. Seconded by Vice-Chairman Ghai. Motion passed unanimously.**

**B. *Resolution 2024-25 – Acknowledging the Review of South Whitehall Township Act 537 Plan***

Mr. Ibach stated that municipalities share their Act 537 Plan for planning reviews by neighboring municipalities for comments prior to submission to PADEP. This plan was reviewed by Staff, Keystone Consulting Engineers, and the Upper Macungie Township Planning Commission at their May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. There were no comments on the Plan.

**Motion by Vice-Chairman Ghai to adopt Resolution #2024-25, acknowledging South Whitehall Township's Act 537 Plan update. Seconded by Chairman Fleischaker. Motion passed unanimously.**

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. *Review of 2023 Meeting Action Items***

Commissioner Christ gave an overview of the action items list from the meetings that were held in 2023 with the fire companies of UMT. Station 8 had no pending actions. Station 25 had four items and two have not been completed; these are the repair of the trash enclosure and the possible removal of the recycling bin. Station 56 had 9 items and there is one in process, four have been completed, two is on hold and one has not been completed; the item that has not been completed is the Ride Along Program.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. *Construction of Second Story to UMT Training Grounds***

Chief Gross of Station 25 stated that they would like to have a second story constructed to the current training grounds, this would help firefighters train in a two-story simulated facility. That would also include an elevated roof and the walls of that can be reconfigured for the Fire or Police Departments' training needs. Vice-Chairman Ghai inquired if the facility can be shared or if there is another facility that can be used by UMT for training purposes. Chief Sadrovitz of Station 56 responded and mentioned that Whitehall Township has a training facility that is hard to get booked for training and our fire companies invite other areas to train with them but would not

be cost or time efficient to allow other municipalities to utilize the training grounds. Chief Sadrovitz also mentioned that the Maintenance Fund will need to be replenished for 2025.

**B. Station 8**

**a. No Specific Topic for Discussion**

Chief Rader of Station 8 informed the Board that they have a living area that can accommodate up to ten people, and that they would like the Township to utilize this space. It was recommended that members of the fire company can use this space, as live-in staff that will reduce response times on calls. He mentioned that if there was a larger stipend that was offered as well as the live-in facility, this may help to increase memberships.

**b. Capital Operation & Maintenance Requests**

Chief Rader mentioned that the building does not require any repairs at this time. There was a request to update the HVAC systems in the future.

**C. Station 25**

**a. Training Room/Social Hall Floor Repair**

President Gary Gorr of Station 25 stated that the floor of the Social Hall needs repairs due to the lifting of tiles that is a safety concern. The repairs would include the leveling of the floor with concrete and installation new vinyl tiles. Linda Gorr also mentioned that this space would be used as a shelter if needed.

**b. Capital Operation & Maintenance Requests**

President Gorr stated that the dumpster enclosure is deteriorating and requires repairs.

**D. Station 56**

**a. Sleeping Quarters Expansion**

Chief Sadrovitz stated that the building that is being used by Station 56 is owned by the Township and that looking forward it would be a good investment to construct additional training areas, lockers, showers, and resting areas. This will benefit both the EMS and Fire Company as it will have more areas that can be used without disruption from activities from incoming or outgoing fire or emergency response calls.

**b. Capital Operation & Maintenance Requests**

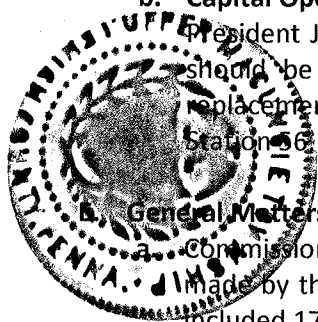
President John Ellermann Jr. of Station 56 stated that an upgrade to the exhaust system should be considered as it was installed with the construction of the building and replacement parts are difficult to find and expensive. There were no other requests from Station 56.

**B. General Matters Related to the Volunteer Fire Departments of UMT**

**a.** Commissioner Christ stated that the Recruitment and Retention efforts that have been made by the Communications Solution Group have included a recruitment campaign that included 177,000 people that resulted in three new prospects for the fire companies.

There was a lengthy discussion held on what can and should be done to aid in the retention and recruitment efforts such as grant funding and offering competitive benefits. There was also mention of looking at surrounding municipalities that have had success with their recruitment and retention efforts and evaluate if we can use that model.

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**b. Future of UMT Fire Protection**

A high-level conversation was held on the future of fire protection in UMT that included the possibility of a hybrid model. Chairman Fleischaker recommended that each fire company delegate three representatives to participate in a committee that will meet monthly for six months working towards a plan for the future. This committee is a way to include all fire departments in any changes, planning or solutions that can affect the fire departments. Chiefs and Presidents should have the names of the selected committee members to present at the June 17, 2024, Chief's Meeting. Some of the goals of this committee will be to establish a timeline and set goals for fire protection in the future.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT/COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

None

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business, Vice-Chairman Ghai made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. Seconded by Chairman Fleischaker. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by:

  
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Jazmin Vazquez  
Township Secretary





