

**RAPHO AREA FIRE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**December 17, 2019 7:00 p.m.**

**Members:**

Fire Department representatives

Phil Colvin (Sta 7-5)   X        Matt Shenk (Sta 2-7)   X        Dan Wagner (Sta 2-6)   X  

Community representatives

Dale Murray   X        Chris Neiles   X        Jerry Kipphorn   X        Larry Snavely   X  

Township Supervisor

Township Manager

Duane Martin   X  

Sara Gibson   X  

**CALL TO ORDER Chairman Phil Colvin at 7:00 PM**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES of September 17, 2019 Motion   Dan  /  Jerry**

**PUBLIC COMMENT - None**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORTS**

**OPERATIONS/CALL VOLUME**

FDMJ Sept 2019 – 42 total calls, 13 in Rapho Twp.

Oct 2019 – 45 total calls, 11 in Rapho Twp.:

Tractor-trailer fire on Rt 283: \$35,000 fire loss

Nov 2019 – 32 total calls, 5 in Rapho Twp.: Burger King, E Main St: \$500 loss

Mastersonville Sept 2019 – 10 fire calls, 7 in Rapho Twp., 27 EMS calls

Oct 2019 – 20 fire calls, 16 in Rapho Twp., 16 EMS calls

Building fire: \$70,000 loss

Nov 2019 -- 18 fire calls, 9 in Rapho Twp, 16 EMS calls

Manheim - Sept 2019 – 26 total calls, 7 in Rapho Twp.: Building fire \$500 loss

Oct 2019 – 35 total calls, 12 in Rapho Twp.

Nov 2019 – 34 total calls, 7 in Rapho Twp.: Dwelling fire: \$15,500 loss

## **FINANCIAL**

FDMJ: OK with respect to budget. Nothing out of the ordinary  
\$101K fund drive; 22% response

Mastersonville: OK with respect to budget.

\$40K to loan principal on sale of old firehouse → 15 year out mortgage

Manheim: Sold engine for \$185K.

Fund drive just went out: 22% return with \$153K so far

## **CAPITAL PLANNING**

FDMJ

Will buy new Chief's vehicle in 2020 with department funds

Mastersonville

Pursuing planning for a mini pumper. Would sell their second engine.

Tanker is leaking

Manheim

Considering a squad vehicle. They have the funds.

## **TOWNSHIP REPORT**

Capital reserve fund balances and 2020 budget

Board accepted the Fire Council proposals for 2020 contributions: See summary report

Property tax will go from 1.37 mils to 1.5 mils; ~10% tax increase, first since 2012

See Rapho Twp Transaction Report for each company

There may be a Starbucks coming

## **CONSIDERATION OF REQUESTS FOR CAPITAL FUNDS**

There were no requests

## **SPECIAL DISCUSSION OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Guest attendees expected:

Scott Kingsboro, Executive Director NWEMS \_\_X\_\_

Mike Fitzgibbons, Executive Director SVEMS; \_\_\_\_\_

Joe Stauffer, Manheim Borough Police Chief, \_\_X\_\_

Lori Shenk, Rapho Township Emergency Management Coordinator; \_\_X\_\_

Bill Williams, Mount Joy Borough Police Chief. \_\_X\_\_

- Coordination of activities
- Volunteer staffing needs
- Communication – interagency and with the public
- Pre-planning for large facilities
- Cross-training opportunities
- Funding strategies

The three fire companies have agreed that sometime in the future (5-10 years?) municipalities will have to move to paid fire companies due to declining volunteerism. Phil estimates \$4-6 million annually to staff a department 24/7 with 6 people plus a chief.

The discussion was free-flowing and focused on how cooperation and coordination between the paid police and EMS staff and the volunteer fire personnel could result in fewer callouts or time-on-scene for the volunteers. The thought being that fewer demands on volunteers would keep them active for additional years.

- There was agreement that little could be done at the 911 center to filter or screen calls that end up being ‘false alarms’ of some type. But Phil asked “Can we completely eliminate the dispatches?” The majority of calls are simply a ride on a fire truck.

The following were seen as having potential for cooperation and operating procedure:

- Discussed how PD could help FDs on vehicle accident standby
  - Chief Stauffer: they cancel accident scenes often. He is on the LCW radio committee. There were almost 400 accidents in Rapho Twp in 2019.
- Dan and Phil: Don’t dispatch on “unknown injury” accidents. Dan: Don’t run “pedestrian struck”. Phil: Consideration of running only accidents with entrapment.
- Audible alarm bells: Usually a burglar alarm but PD not dispatched.
  - Police chiefs: “will respond if notified”
- Outside investigations
- Biggest issue is medical assist and outside investigations. FDMJ went out 3 times for a skunk.
  - EMS reports that lift assistance needs have been reduced. Scott said adding lifts in each truck to avoid calling the FD.
- Water leak from a toilet can bring out the FD

- Chief Stauffer said Dan calls him whenever needed, but FD chiefs rotate. Also noted they can cite businesses with 3 false alarms in a year based on the dispatch record.
- Accident debris on a roadway should be the tow-truck responsibility
- Phil asked if we can use RT employees to shut down a road and direct traffic
- A trailer with lights to illuminate an accident scene was suggested. It would be better than calling out a fire truck and could be pulled by a duty chief vehicle.

ACTIONS:

- Maintain open dialog
- Phil: Have joint meeting 2X per year
- Funnel information and requests through Sara.

Motion to adjourn at 8:48PM by Phil/Chris

NEXT MEETING: March 17, 2020 at 7:00 PM