

Fire Study Meeting
Tuesday February 9th, 2016 @ 6:30 PM
New Tripoli Fire Company 7242 Decatur Street New Tripoli

Call to Order: The Fire Study, Final Plan Review Meeting, was called to order at 6:30 pm by Lynn Township Chairman Justin N. Smith. Present were Lynn Township Chairman Justin N. Smith, Vice Chairman Brian C. Dietrich, Member Steve I. Feinour, Solicitor Marc Fisher. From McGrath Consulting Group, Dr. Tim McGrath and Dr. Victoria McGrath. Approximately 100 citizens.

Public Comment: None

Fire Study Intro: Steve I. Feinour introduced the Board of Supervisors along with Dr. Tim McGrath and Dr. Victoria McGrath. Steve I. Feinour also stated that both the New Tripoli and Lynnport Fire Chiefs were in favor of having the Board initiate the Fire Study which was then advertised for Bid with the Fire Companies deciding who would do the study. With Fire Study complete, both the Fire Companies and the Board of Supervisors will decide how to best go forward with the information provided to them in the study.

Fire Study Presentation: Dr. Tim McGrath presented the 201 page final draft of the Fire Study. Mr. McGrath gave comparisons between NTFC and LPFC on numerous levels from the number of calls, staffing, training etc. as well as recommendations to each Fire Company pertaining to apparatus, fire station and hall, training, fire prevention, code enforcement and coming together in a cooperative efforts. Mr. McGrath final recommendation was that the Board of Supervisors encourages each fire company to begin in the development of an Operational Consolidation. A small task force should be created with a well-developed strategic plan on consolidation.

Dr. Victoria McGrath also spoke on behalf of the Human Resources side. Mrs. McGrath stated that both fire companies have opportunities to improve their records, efforts, and structure when dealing with their most vital asset – volunteers. Significant recommendations on future recruitment and retention programs by the fire companies are outlined within the study. Included is the recommendation for a Length of Service Awards Program.

Dr. Tim McGrath ended with the suggestion that the Fireman's relief money be split 60% NTFC and 40% LPFC, not 50/50 as it is now.

Public Comment: Justin N. Smith opened the meeting for Public Comment.

Randy Metzger, Assistant Chief Germansville Fire Co.: Mr. Metzger questioned Mr. McGrath regarding the Insurance Service Offices, Inc. (ISO) and how the fire company classification is determined. Mr. McGrath stated that in this fire study the evaluation was for Lynn Township and did not address the two companies separately, they combined their findings of the two companies and provided the ISO of 07/8B. The primary purpose of this is to rate fire protection from which insurance rates can be established. Mr. McGrath stated that the ISO should not be ignored.

Dennis Hartman, Fire Fighter with NTFC: Mr. Hartman asked if the Township is planning on helping with new apparatus, equipment, vehicles etc. because the Fire Study suggests replacement of these things every 20 years. Justin N. Smith stated that the board has given money when needed and where in agreement with moving forward with the study to give them a better understanding of where the fire companies stand with this issue because they do not want to be blindsided as they were with the ambulance service. The board of supervisors added that they were not interested in a fire tax because the board does not want to tell the fire companies what to do with their money. If such a tax were initiated the board would have to review and delegate where the residents tax dollars should be used. Steve I. Feinour added that he would like to have both Fire Chiefs, Peter Christ and Clark Mantz work together on things and blue print a 5 year plan.

Path Forward: NTFC Fire Chief Peter Christ asked the Board of Supervisors what path they should be taking forward. Steve I. Feinour stated that the Fire Study be given for all involved in the fire companies to read. Mr. Feinour added that he would like the fire companies to put together a steering committee between the fire companies to discuss how they would like to proceed. Bring the results to the Board of Supervisors meeting in March. Steve I. Feinour stated that this is the beginning and that training possibly be done together. Justin N. Smith added that first they establish a priority level with time frames and to develop a plan.

Data Processing Computer: The Board of Supervisors would be in support of one joint Data Processing Computer.

Frank Younger: Mr. Younger asked the BOS how the board could help with bringing in more volunteers. Mr. McGrath stated that they could advertise the training to the public to come and observe. This may bring in younger volunteers.

Randy Metzger, Assistant Chief Germansville Fire Co.: Mr. Metzger addressed Mrs. McGrath on incentives for recruitment. Mrs. McGrath suggested that all training could be done through technology; provide daycare for when training sessions are held.

Adjournment: The Board of Supervisors thanked everyone for coming out and attending the meeting. A motion was made by Brian C. Dietrich and seconded by Steve I. Feinour to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Tammy M. White
Tammy M. White Secretary/Treasurer