

**WEST HEMPFIELD TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS**  
**Special Board Meeting on January 30, 2013**

The West Hempfield Township Board of Supervisors held a Special Meeting on Wednesday, January 30, 2013 at the West Hempfield Fire and Rescue, 3519 Marietta Avenue, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Board members: Edward Fisher, Kent Gardner, Naomi Martin were present. Also in attendance were Ron Youtz, Township Manager, and Brenda Shuey, Finance/Personnel Director and serving as Recording Secretary. Board Member Frank Burkhart was absent.

David Dumeyer advised that the purpose of this Special Meeting with the West Hempfield Fire and Rescue was for informational purposes.

I. CALL TO ORDER

David Dumeyer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Board of Supervisors – None
- B. Township Manager – None
- C. Residents – None

III. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATION FROM THE WEST HEMPFIELD FIRE AND RESCUE

Barry Carter, Fire Chief presented and reviewed with the Board the Fire Company's 2012 yearend activity report. Fire Chief Carter stated that Fire and Rescue respond to all types of calls which include but are not limited to: water rescues, vehicles, buildings, barn and brush fires, spill control, search details. He informed the Board that the Special Fire Police also respond to various types of calls along with the Quick Response Service (QRS) who respond to the medical calls.

Chief Carter informed the Board that not only does the volunteers respond to various calls; they also attend mandated training that is required for each volunteer. This includes annual refreshers such as: SCBA, Haz Mat Operations, CPR/AED along with local level event training which include: car fires, search and rescue, vehicle rescues. Trainings are held at various sites which include West Hempfield Station, Mountville Station, LCPSTC, York County Fire School and National Fire Academy. The total hours of training for 2012 were 813 hours.

Chief Carter read a letter that he received from the Fire Station in Tennessee where there former Ford Fire Engine was sold to them for \$1.00. The letter stated that since they purchased the Ford Fire Engine they now have 4 stations and they have secured grants for

a 2007 and 2010 engine. They stated that the Ford Fire Truck is still in service and they gave it to another fire department. Ed Fisher stated that there was a write up in the newspaper and that the residents at that time were delighted that their local fire department made a simple contribution that turned a starving fire department into a positive foundation for that community.

Ron Youtz, Township Manager informed the Board that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss with the Fire Company members their current needs and issues such as equipment and manpower along with understanding the fire company's challenges, and how the Township can assist them in obtaining their goals.

Chief Carter introduced some of the members of the department: John Leas, President, Elwood "Woody" Graves, Treasurer, Jason Sauder, Deputy Chief and Kirk Ament.

President Leas thanked the Board of Supervisors for taking the time and holding this meeting with the Fire Company personnel to discuss these important issues and challenges. President Leas reviewed with the Board members with the assistance of a power point presentation what some of the duties and services the Fire Company and their volunteers provide to the residents of West Hempfield.

Services provided: Building fires, Rescues, Auto Accidents, Auto Fire & CO2 Alarms, Brush and Trash Fires, Emergency Medical Responses, Fire Police Services and support Township Police, Public Service Calls – lock outs and water in basements, make reflective address signs and install smoke detectors.

Training for one recruit requires: 166 hours Essentials of Firefighting, Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) 16 hours initial with 3 to 5 hours annual refresher. All firefighters receive continuing training.

Federal Requirements: 24 hours Hazardous Materials - Annual refresher 8 hrs

Incident Command: 3 hours to 24 hours minimum

State Requirements: Basic Vehicle Rescue 48 hours minimum, Advanced: 20 hrs

Emergency Medical: 140 hours and refresher training

Fire Police: Minimum 16 hours

Funding Operation:

2012 Budget: General Fund \$146,000.00, Fire Relief \$67,000.00 Total \$213,000.00

2013 Budget: General Fund \$148,228.00, Fire Relief \$76,000.00 Total \$224,228.00

Fund Drive: Started September 10, 2012 as of November 26<sup>th</sup> – sent 4,084 letters – received 700: Residents = \$26,175.00, Apartments = \$235.00, Businesses = \$2,625.00 and Non Business Owners = \$100.00. Total received \$29,135.00.

2011 Fund Drive Fact – 16% gave while 84% received free service.

Fund raiser:

Chicken BarBQ – Profit \$19,500.00; volunteer hours for one day = 409 also without Boy Scouts volunteering this event would not be as successful.

Other Funding:

Township Donation \$90,000.00, Pa Fireman Relief Allocation \$96,000.00

Grant Applicants:

Federal: \$200,000.00

State: \$ 13,000.00

Major Expenses:

Outfit One (1) Firefighter - \$4,000.00 – includes protective clothing, breathing apparatus and radio.

Equipment:

Pumper - \$500,000.00, Rescue - \$800,000.00, Tanker - \$400,000.00, New Radio System \$100,000.00

Fire House replacement - \$2 million plus.

Goals and Needs:

Construct new fire station

Replaced Tanker 76

Dedicated Volunteers – Recruitment and Retention, start live-in program

Kirk Ament announced that in years prior the Junior Firefighter Program was a great success, but over the last couple of years that program has not been as helpful with recruiting the younger generation.

David Dumeyer questioned the possibility of working with the local schools in establishing a recruitment program. Kirk Ament stated that they have tried different avenues but it appears to keep falling short. He also commented that there are a lot of hours that is needed for a new recruit to be trained which pulls that person away from family and friends could also be a reason why recruiting is down.

President Leas stated that regionalization and paid manpower could be forthcoming if volunteers keep declining.

The Board members took a tour of the facility and reviewed the fire equipment. After the tour Chief Carter asked the Board if there were any questions.

David Dumeyer asked about the regionalization if there were any time lines to determine the necessary manpower and equipment that is needed. Chief Carter stated that it could be years or it might not happen at all.

Kent Gardner stated that the possibility of the LIMC producing a map to show regionalization areas could be beneficial and cost effective. He inquired of the possibility of surrounding companies contact one another when a firefighter leaves the company that their equipment is available in order to keep the cost down and for purchasing new equipment also with the purchase of new apparatus.

Edward Fisher asked what other options are available to recruit volunteers. President Leas stated that Pennsylvania established a 1-800 number and there is also a public service band that goes around the community. He also stated that occasionally the trained volunteers go to career/paid fire departments in Maryland and Virginia.

Woody Graves, Treasurer informed the Board that the Township's resident income is high and because of that grants are limited. He also shared with the Board statements on interest rates for lending institutions to facilitate construction of a fire station.

**Motion:** Kent Gardner moved, seconded by Edward Fisher, to adjourn the special meeting at 08:00 p.m. 4-0, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron L. Youtz  
Secretary