

Regional Emergency Services Task Force

Meeting Minutes

10/1/2009

Manor Township Maintenance Building

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Haverstick at 6:59 p.m. Scott reported that Russell Guthrie is on vacation and unable to attend. Scott said at the request of the Tactical Committee the scheduled appearance of Rob Brady was cancelled and we will focus on getting some things done instead of listening to another speaker.

II. Roll call

The following task force members were present:

Glenn Hess – Highville Fire Co.
Jay Breneman – Manor Twp.
Phil Lastowski – Millersville Boro Council
Robert Thompson – Millersville Boro. – Citizen
Jim Eshleman – Millersville Fire Co.
Don McCann – Millersville Fire Co. – Citizen
Ron Goe – Washington Boro Fire Co.
Scott Haverstick – Washington Boro Fire Co. – Citizen
Craig Hohman – West Lancaster Fire Co.
Gregory G. Noll – Community-at-large – Citizen

Unable to attend:

Carl Harnish – Highville Fire Co. – Citizen
Russell Guthrie – Manor Twp. – Citizen
Mark Lauriello – West Lancaster Fire Co. – Citizen

Others attending:

Dean Gantz – Mountville Fire Co.
Keith Eshleman – Millersville Fire Co.
Jimmy Knapp – Washington Boro Fire Co.
Richard Schock – Washington Boro Fire Co.
Doug Stoner – Millersville Fire Co.
Les Eckman – Citizen
Ted Gingrich – West Lancaster Fire Co.
Bill Hapke – Highville Fire Co.

III. Review and approve 9/3/09 and 9/17/09 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Jim Eshleman to approve both the 9/3/09 and 9/17/09 minutes.

Second by Ron Goe.

Motion passed.

IV. Discuss Findings of “Findings and Recommendations.

Scott Haverstick noted that we have spent almost two years on this project and we need to take some actions to bring the process to conclusion. He suggested that all fire companies adopt Millersville Fire Companies SOG to bring that process to a conclusion. A discussion followed that supported taking this approach.

Motion by Scott Haverstick that we recommend that all fire companies adopt Millersville Fire Company SOGs as an interim baseline with inclusion of Highville/Washington Boro river rescue guidelines, and adapted as needed going forward.

Second by Jay Breneman.

Discussion: Ron Goe asked the fire company reps if they felt the chiefs would have a problem with this approach. Several thought not as this has been suggested before.

Craig Hohman said he felt it would be best if this approach arose from the fire companies. Jay Breneman said this in effect was what was recommended by the Tactical and SOG committees.

Robert Thompson asked what would happen in the eventuality that Millersville Fire Company decided not to consolidate. Response from the fire company representatives was that this would not be an issue; the more the companies operate the same the better.

Motion passed.

Scott Haverstick raised the issue of hiring an attorney to address the legal issues of consolidation. Several attendees concurred it is time to proceed. Robert Thompson said this was the conclusion of the Administrative Committee this summer.

Greg Noll asked what top two or three conclusion we all agree upon at this point. Don McCann said he offered two; one, that we need to create a consolidated organization, whether it be a 501(c)3, or a municipal interagency agreement, and two, that the fire companies desire to exit the fund raising business and rely more on municipal funding. Don also said he felt it

was not for the Task Force to decide how the organization should be funded. Phil Lastowski said it is for the elected officials to determine the method of funding. Craig Hohman said he is seeing a \$4,000 drop in response to the annual fund drive this year and this is a continuing trend.

Scott Haverstick asked if Jay Breneman would ask the Township solicitor who might be recommended who has experience in fire company issues. Jim Eshleman suggested that the same should be done with Millersville's solicitor.

Motion by Jay Breneman that the Executive Committee follow-up on attorney selection and make a recommendation for hiring at the next meeting.

Second by Scott Haverstick

Discussion: Phil Lastowski asked who the attorney would represent, the four companies or the Task Force. Scott said the Task Force.

Motion passed.

Dick Schock asked if the Administrative committee would meet as scheduled on October 15th. Robert Thompson said "no."

Scott Haverstick asked if anyone would venture an attempt to put forth a final recommendation document. Jay Breneman agreed we need to proceed with preparing the document. Jim Eshleman suggested a few sit down to work on such a document.

Jim Eshleman suggested that presentation of the document could be done by Greg Noll. Greg said he thought it might best be done by a team. Jay and Jim agreed that such support would be good. Scott asked if Greg would be willing to be the representative of the Task Force. Don McCann said it would be fitting since Greg is the Citizen-at-large.

Motion by Jim Eshleman that Greg Noll, the Citizen-at-large Representative, represents the Task Force to present our final recommendations.

Second by Glenn Hess.

Motion passed.

Craig Hohman asked if Rob Brady would be here at a future meeting. Scott suggested the attorney issue is primary at this point. There was discussion about the state of current legislation regarding creation of Authorities for Fire Protection, and agreement we need to address this issue with the attorney and the state. Keith Eshleman said he has been discussing

legislation with Representative Scott Boyd, but with the current state budget issues possible legislation is uncertain.

Jay Breneman asked if it is now time to address the name to be used for the consolidated company. Keith Eshleman asked if we should throw it back to the fire companies to come up with a name.

Motion by Greg Noll that we ask the four fire companies to provide three ideas for a name of the organization and collectively submit their top three suggestions by January 1, 2010.

Second by Ron Goe.

Motion passed.

Jay Breneman asked if the Tactical Committee will meet. Scott Haverstick and Ron Goe both suggested that it will not meet, unless advised otherwise by Mark Lauriello.

Keith Eshleman asked when we would receive Dr. Jenaway's final report. Don McCann indicated that he had asked for final questions and comments by our 9/17/09, meeting and then he would submit the final report.

V. Adjournment

Motion by Jay Breneman to adjourn.

Second by Greg Noll.

Motion passed. Vice Chairman Haverstick adjourned the meeting at 8:45.

VI. Next Meeting

Time – 7:00 p.m.

Date – November 5, 2009

Place – Manor Township Maintenance Building

Route 999 and Supervisor Road

Minutes submitted by: Don McCann, Recording Secretary