

# **Regional Emergency Services Task Force**

## ***Meeting Minutes***

10/2/2008

Manor Township Maintenance Building

### **I. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order by Russell Guthrie at 7:00 p.m.

### **II. Roll call**

Chairman Guthrie welcomed the members, and recognized the guest and thanked them for attending.

Russell reported that Brian Henry has advised that he will not be representing Highville Fire Co. He will be replaced on the Task Force by Glenn Hess.

The following task force members were present:

Jay Breneman – Manor Twp.  
Russell Guthrie – Manor Twp. – Citizen  
Glenn Hess – Highville Fire Co.  
Carl Harnish – Highville Fire Co. – Citizen  
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:

Mark Lauriello – West Lancaster Fire Co. – Citizen

Others attending:

Bill Hapke – Highville Fire Co.  
Glenn Deatrick – Highville Fire Co.  
Keith Eshleman – Millersville Fire Co.  
Dick Schock – Washington Boro Fire Co.  
Les Eckman – Washington Boro Fire Co.

John S. Broome – Washington Boro Fire Co.  
Ted Gingrich – West Lancaster Fire Co.  
John Birkenbine – West Lancaster Fire Co.  
Joan Matterness – West Lancaster Citizen

### **III. Review and approve 9/4/08 Meeting Minutes**

Jay Breneman noted that at the last meeting there was discussion about a question he raised about a funding a capital expense request by Mountville Fire Co. to Manor Township, which was not included in the minutes. He asked that it be included. After discussion the secretary was asked to review notes of the last meeting and revise the minutes to include the discussion. Approval of the Minutes of the 9/4/08, meeting was tabled until the next meeting.

### **IV. Request to OK to pay Travel Expenses for Chief's Talks**

Russell Guthrie requested approval to pay travel expenses for two speakers at our upcoming December meeting; one from Lancaster County and one from the Lewisburg area.

**Motion** by Ron Goe to grant the request.

**Second** by Scott Haverstick.

**Motion passed.**

### **V. Joint Study Committee Meeting**

Russell Guthrie reviewed the options for possible Fire Board structure as previously presented by the Tactical Committee and included a slide of model "A4" (nine members, including 3 citizens reps instead of 3 Business & Industry reps) that reflected modifications suggested at the last meeting following a straw vote on Models A1, A2 and A3. He also presented a model "A5" for discussion, and "A6" and A7" with various modifications.

Greg Noll reiterated that he favored a smaller board, and supported broader representation than specific areas. It is more important to get qualified people than trying to identify sources of the people.

Scott said he felt a Citizen rep is needed form each fire company. He felt this imperative.

Don McCann said that may be appropriate for transition, but down the road it will be all one fire company. Scott responded that the representation may then transition form the fire companies to geographic areas.

Craig Hohman said we may need something like this for the kickoff, but 5, 10 years down the road we may need to “re-tool” it. This would be a good way to start to get complete representation.

Don McCann asked if this were the case, should the Administrative Committee build into the bylaws the ability for the Administrative Board to re-form itself?

Robert Thompson noted that it is important that organizations provide in their by-laws the ability to adapt to change. Robert also commented that in his personal experience on community boards, he said people can be identified with very important skills to contribute, and therefore supports a larger board.

Greg Noll indicated that he agrees that it is important to bring into the process such talent, but to do so does not necessarily require a large board.

Carl Harnish indicated adding citizens reps initially may be valuable, and if and when the need for additional reps is no longer need the board size could be changed in the future.

Craig Hohman said he prefers “A3” based of the 4 geographic areas.

Jay Breneman questioned whether we needed 4 fire company reps, and asked if 3 fire co. reps, 3 citizens, 2 elected reps, and 1 B&I rep (9 total) would be appropriate.

Craig Hohman asked why we wouldn’t allow for change in 10 years or so.

Jay Breneman agreed that if there was something in the bylaws that called for periodic review of the organization, such as every 3 years would provide an opening for change.

Ted Gingrich said to start with 4 citizens reps, one from each company, and then after the consolidation is realized the four reps would then be representing the company at large.

Russell Guthrie, citing his previous experience, pointed out the possibility for needed change if down the road the consolidated company comes to represent a larger area including more municipalities.

Joan Matterness supported an 11 member board to included 4 citizen reps and 1 B&I rep.

Greg Noll questioned whether this Task Force has the authority to develop the bylaws.

Don McCann expressed that he thought that developing bylaws was in fact the mission of the Administrative Committee.

Russell Guthrie confirmed proposing bylaws is in fact on of the assignments for the Administrative committee.

Keith Eshleman reminded that the municipalities have empowered this Task Force to create and submit a proposal for a consolidated fire company, and then it is up to the municipalities to accept or reject it.

Phil Lastowski then read from the Borough's resolution that granted the authority to do this.

Greg Noll indicated that we now need to move from the "30,000 foot" view of this discussion to the "200 foot level" and prepare an interim report, with 60 to 70 percent of the final product of what we see as the consolidated organization and get buy-in from the stakeholders.

Scott Haverstick agreed that a "sign-off" on such a progress report would be good.

**VI. Greg Noll's presentation on the Emergency Response to the 9/11 tragedy.**

Greg Noll presented a very informative slide show and discussion of his involvement as one of the managers (hazmat team) of Pennsylvania's Task Force One, in the rescue effort following the destruction of the World Trade Center Buildings. PA Task Force One is one of the 28 urban search and rescue teams across the United States formed in the 80's in response to California earthquakes, and since used in the Murrah office building bombing in 1993, the World Trade Center, and hurricane Katrina.

**VII. Adjournment**

**Motion** for Adjournment by Jim Eshleman.

**Second** by Ron Goe.

**Motion passed.**

Meeting adjourned 8:58 p.m.

**VIII. Next Meeting**

Time – 7:00 p.m.

Date – November 6, 2008

Place – Manor Township Maintenance Building  
Route 999 and Supervisor Road

Minutes submitted by: Don McCann, Recording Secretary