

# **Regional Emergency Services Task Force**

## ***Meeting Minutes***

12/4/2008

Manor Township Maintenance Building

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

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Haverstick at 7:00 p.m.

### **II. Roll call**

Scott Haverstick welcomed the members and guests, and thanked them for attending. He advised that Russ Guthrie is ill and not able to attend.

The following task force members were present:

Glenn Hess – Highville Fire Co.  
Carl Harnish – Highville Fire Co. – Citizen  
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  
Mark Lauriello – West Lancaster Fire Co. – Citizen

Unable to attend:

Russell Guthrie – Manor Twp. – Citizen  
Craig Hohman – West Lancaster Fire Co.  
Gregory G. Noll – Community-at-large – Citizen

Others attending:

Ron Matterness – Citizen, Mountville Eagle Heights  
Ted Gingrich – West Lancaster Fire Co.  
Bill Hapke – Highville Fire Co.  
Mike Ditzler – Highville Fire Co.  
Dean Gantz – Mountville Fire Co.  
Glenn Deatrick – Highville Fire Co.  
Keith Eshleman – Millersville Fire Co.  
Les Eckman – Washington Boro Citizen

### **III. Review and approve 11/6/08 Meeting Minutes**

**Motion** to approve the 11/6/08 minutes by Mark Lauriello.

**Second** by Glen Hess.

**Motion passed.** Jay Breneman abstained because he was not present at the 12/4/08 meeting.

### **IV. Review of prior meeting presentation by Rick Kane**

Don McCann commented that it was interesting that Manheim Township had an administrative position, like we are considering, but chose to eliminate the position.

Robert Thompson noted that they have only one level of government, whereas we have two municipalities involved, which is a significant difference.

Jay Breneman also noted that a difference is that Manor Township also has two other fire companies outside the township with running areas in the township.

Scott Haverstick asked for the opinion of the firemen.

Keith Eshleman indicated that the original intent was to eliminate a lot of duplication of effort in administration, training and fund raising. He thought these objectives are still valid.

Scott Haverstick asked if the consensus of the departments is that we are going in the right direction and that although the Manheim Township model is may not be right for us.

Mark Lauriello concurred that although the presentation was interesting, it does not apply to us.

There were several comments that Manheim Townships fund raising situation is different than ours.

Keith Eshleman noted that Lancaster Township funds all capital expenditures for their Fire Company and East Petersburg has a fire tax to fund their company. These are the only two (other than Lancaster City) which are fully funded by the municipality.

Scott Haverstick noted that there are several different funding models in the county, and we will need to determine what will work for us.

Jay Breneman commented that new this year is Act 7 [Townships] Act 8 [Boroughs] that requires all municipalities receive an accounting of how prior year funding was expended, before they allocate funding for the current year, e.g. 2008 must be accounted for before funds are distributed for 2009.

Scott Haverstick asked if there were any further comments on the presentation.

Don McCann said he thought the on-site housing used by the fire companies in Manheim Township was a novel approach.

Keith Eshleman noted that there are a variety of administrative challenges to such a program. Millersville Fire Co. considered a similar plan for Millersville University students, but it has its costs and was not implemented.

Scott Haverstick noted that he did not see this approach working in our area. Scott asked if the task force agreed that although we found the Manheim Township presentation involving central administration of their multiple companies interesting, we should continue with the approach we have adopted of a consolidated company.

Jim Eshleman said he thought that was a fair summation. No dissent.

## **V. General Discussion of Where We Are and Where to Go from Here**

Scott Haverstick started by commenting that he continues to be impressed with the unity of purpose of the task force, and asked for comments on the recent Manor Township Supervisors meeting where West Lancaster Fire Company requested capital funding.

Jay Breneman said there were requests before the Supervisors from three fire companies for capital and the Supervisors felt that at this time, they would put off capital funding while the task force is in place, but continue, actually increase by 15%, funding of operating expenses. There was negative reaction to this approach by the West Lancaster Fire Company.

Mark Lauriello said that he and Russell Guthrie met with the Chief of West Lancaster Fire Company and indicated that his impression is that the fire company is ready to move on. Mark further said that it is critical that this task force actively move forward to assure that there is not a repeat next year, that information needs to be available for budgeting next year.

Jay Breneman agreed, as did Phil Lastowski who said budgeting occurs in October with information needed for planning well before that in August.

Ron Goe said it is in everyone's best interest to keep the work of the task force moving.

Jay Breneman said we need a long range plan.

Scott Haverstick said we not only need a long range plan, but it needs to be coordinated among the fire companies, to justify municipal support, especially if ultimately funding comes from tax increase.

Scott asked what we need to get moving on plans.

Robert Thompson said the Administrative Committee needs to have full financial information from the fire companies and we will also need to meet with the financial people of each of the

companies; articles of corporation and by-laws and a personnel manual will need to be developed for the new company and the Relief Associations dissolved/reformed into a new Association; a board and administrator position developed. Robert will see if he can arrange the finance meetings—he needs the names of those from each company that can discuss the finances.

Scott Haverstick asked if all felt we should meet next time as subcommittees.

Jay Breneman said that would be appropriate. He said the Tactical Committee needs a consolidated detail listing, including age and expected replacement date of equipment.

Mark Lauriello said he will develop a listing of apparatus for use by the Tactical Committee for the next meeting.

Scott said we need to get going so we can have this wrapped up this year, with the information for budgeting by August. He asked if anyone else had comments.

Mark Lauriello asked about justification of the Millersville auxiliary building.

Keith Eshleman indicated the need was to enable the response time to be improved by putting apparatus closer to a portion of the membership, and in an area of significant development in their running area. He also noted that from a financial point of view it is not feasible at this time, due to the economy and especially since bids were much higher than expected. For these reasons, the project has been put on hold for a year to be re-evaluated then.

## **VI. Adjournment**

**Motion** to adjourn by Jim Eshleman.

**Second** by Robert Thompson.

**Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned 8:21 p.m.

## **VII. Next Meeting**

Time – 7:00 p.m.

Date – January 8, 2009

Place – Manor Township Maintenance Building  
Route 999 and Supervisor Road

Minutes submitted by: Don McCann, Recording Secretary