

MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY AD HOC COMMITTEE

LOWER ALLEN TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING

MAY 6, 2019

The following Committee Members were in ATTENDANCE:

Dave Holl	Director of Department of Public Safety
H. Edward Black	Board of Commissioners
Carolyn Holtzman	Board of Commissioners
Tom Vernau	Township Manager
Erin Trone	Assistant Township Manager
Leon Crone	Police Captain
Frank Wirth	Fire Captain
Dave Murdoch	Fire Chief - Lower Allen Fire Company
Frank Williamson	Fire Chief - Lisburn Comm Fire Company
John Ortenzio	Select Capital Commercial Properties
Dick Bonneville	Township Resident-Beacon Hill
Dick Hammon	Township Resident-Rossmoyne
Tom Kutz	Township Resident-Sheepford
Terry Lenker	Township Resident-Sheepford
Ped Young	Township Resident-Beaver Road Area
Chris Pushart	Township Resident-Allendale

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Steven Overmiller and Ms. Allie Vaccaro were in attendance.

WELCOME:

Director Holl called the May 6, 2019 meeting of the 2019 Public Safety Ad Hoc Committee to order at 6:05 pm in the EOC room at the Township Building, 2233 Gettysburg Road in Camp Hill. He noted that the June 18th meeting would be held at Cedar Cliff High School. He will be confirming tomorrow that the July 29th meeting will be at CLA. He apologized that the handout for the presentation is missing pages, but he will send it out tomorrow. He stated after the presentation the tours will take place.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Bonneville made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 29, 2019 Public Safety Ad Hoc Committee meeting. Mr. Hammons seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION: LOWER ALLEN AND LISBURN FIRE:

Captain Wirth worked with both Fire Chiefs to prepare the presentation tonight. He stated they will talk about the history of the companies and what they are today. He noted the next meeting will be held at Lisburn Community Fire Company (LCFC) which will include a tour and the June 4th meeting will take place at Lower Allen Township (LATF) Fire Station #2.

Lower Allen Fire

Chief Murdoch stated prior to the formations of the fire companies; fire protection was handled by other companies ranging from Camp Hill to Lewisberry. LATF started in 1932 by a group of residents who looked to lower their insurance rates by adding fire hydrants. He discussed the beginnings of the fire company, their first location, first apparatus, additional apparatus purchased as the company grew, ambulance crew added, and the move to 1993 Hummel Avenue. He stated the current fleet includes two Engines, One Squad (Engine/Rescue), Rescue, Truck and a Utility truck.

Lisburn Community Fire Company

Chief Williamson discussed the history of village of Lisburn and the starting of the fire company. LCFC started in 1954 by concerned residents. He discussed their first meeting, fire house, purchases for their current site, fundraising, ambulance service, and plans they had for expansion. He stated fundraising is still a large part of the yearly activities for the company including their Festival. He stated the current building houses an Engine, Tanker, Mini-Pumper and Utility.

What do We Need to Prepare?

Captain Wirth discussed the demographics of the Township with race, age, languages, and income levels. He noted the Township is 10.13 square miles with approximately 7,000 households and housing units of 3,245. He and Chiefs Murdoch and Williamson discussed the different type of structures in the Township and their potential hazards for responding firefighters. They discussed how they need to be ready to response to all the situations listed below. They need to have the training and equipment to respond to each situation. Below is a list of those structures and potential hazards/issues:

Residential: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single or Multi-family 	House fires. Arcona’s expansion will require more services. Older structures with property maintenance issues can have structures issues with a fire.
Schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cedar Cliff HS, Trinity, Rossmoyne Elementary, Allen Middle School and Highland Elementary 	Active shooter, fire and leaks from surrounding facilities are issues they train for and are being addressed/planned.
High Life-Health Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation Hospital, Woods at Cedar Run, Bethany Towers and Bethany West 	These facilities include patients who would to be evacuated. Woods at Cedar Run is a 6-story building.
High Life – Residential <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several mid-rise hotels and office buildings, and Mallard Run apartments. 	Special equipment is needed for anything over four stories. Help is needed to get equipment up to the fires which requires more manpower (firefighters). Also, some of the buildings do not have full sprinkler systems.
Businesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Hub including Capital City Mall Area 	As this area grows, more services are required and more responses from EMS, Fire and Police.
High Hazards Businesses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vantage Foods, Warrell Corporation, Appleton, Dairy 	Hazardous materials and technical rescue issues. Also, large machines could possible rescue issues.

Farmers of America and Veritiv Operating Co	Biofuel distillation concerns with leaks. The County's Hazmat team will be sent, but fire will be responding until they arrive. Some of these types of facilities require an offsite response plan.
Routes 15, 581 and 83	Auto accidents which can be more dangerous than fires. They are doing special training because of recent events of fire apparatus and firefighters being hit and injured. If there is an accident on one of these routes– traffic can be diverted to Township Roads which causes traffic issues and delayed responses by Public Safety trying to get to the scene or control traffic.
PA Turnpike (I-76)	If there is an issue on the turnpike – several homes in the Township border the turnpike and could be affected.
Camp Hill Prison	1989 riots were a three-day event. Potential issues with prison.
Norfolk Southern – Railroad	The railroad splits the Township in half and backs up traffic and can cause delays in responses. Hazardous materials can be transported which could cause issues.
Pipelines	Mariner East lines. Most lines are liquidized compressed gas. No issues to date but always a potential.
Yellow Breeches and Cedar Run	Flooding issues which can separate us from Fairview Township and assistance. Water rescues could be needed.
Natural Disasters	Floods, Tornadoes/High Winds, Severe Thunderstorms, Snowstorms and Sinkholes.
Man-Made Disasters	TMI, Terrorist, Active Assailant, Prison Riot and Civil Unrest.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Black asked about any nuclear radioactive waste in the Township and about it traveling through our Township on its way to a dump. Captain Wirth spoke about the cancer treatment center in the Township. Captain Crone spoke about how they trade out machines, their security and procedures for this process. Director Holl spoke about PEMA being involved with these types of moves through the state and the specialized transportation, plans and regulations for these transports. Captain Crone spoke about the tank farm on Simpson Ferry Road and the issue with being so close to the United Methodist Home. The home has their own evaluation plan in case of an issue.

Commissioner Holtzman spoke about drones and potential concerns. Director Holl spoke about issues with them for the Camp Hill Prison with drops. They are keeping their eyes on this issue.

Mr. Kutz asked what could be done and what is needed to protect first responders at accident scene. Chief Murdoch spoke about the National Highway Safety Standards which addresses this issue. He also spoke

about additional equipment before the accident to slow traffic down. He spoke about volunteers needed for these types of incidents. Director Holl has been looking to have CSOs help with these accidents. A big challenge is when an accident knocks out power and the traffic lights go out and signaling help is needed.

Mr. Bonneville asked if the Township receives monies from the prison and asked about a fire tax. Mr. Vernau stated the only monies received are for the EMS calls to the prison. He stated the fire tax is at .6 mills now. Mr. Kutz asked if they could send a bill if fire services are required. Chief Williamson stated you could send a bill, but they won't pay it. Director Holl stated they have a small fire brigade who would try to put the fire out first before calling us out. He spoke about the current situation with EMS and picking up patients at the prison. He stated there are 1,500 residents, but they can be up to 3,600 prisoners transferring in and out at a time. He discussed the issues with turnover at the prison and how policies can change without notice. Discussion ensued.

AUDIENCE/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

There was no response

ADJOURNMENT:

Director Holl adjourned the meeting at 7:26pm for the tours of Fire Station and the Police Department. The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 20th at 6:00 pm at the Lisburn Fire Station.