MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY AD HOC COMMITTEE
LOWER ALLEN TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING
MAY 20, 2019

The following Committee Members were in ATTENDANCE:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dave Holl</td>
<td>Director of Department of Public Safety</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leon Crone</td>
<td>Police Captain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frank Wirth</td>
<td>Fire Captain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dave Murdoch</td>
<td>Fire Chief – Lower Allen Fire Company</td>
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<td>Frank Williamson</td>
<td>Fire Chief – Lisburn Comm Fire Company</td>
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<td>Dean Villone</td>
<td>Board of Commissioners</td>
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<td>Carolyn Holtzman</td>
<td>Board of Commissioners</td>
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<td>Tom Vernau</td>
<td>Township Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Ortenzio</td>
<td>Capital Commercial Properties, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Granger</td>
<td>West Shore School District</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dick Bonneville</td>
<td>Township Resident – Beacon Hill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terry Lenker</td>
<td>Township Resident – Sheepford Area</td>
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<td>Tony Deaven</td>
<td>EMS Captain</td>
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The following members of the audience were in attendance: Julie Echterling, 1702 Cedar Cliff Drive, Steve Trimmer, 1537 Main Street, Lisburn, and Greg Black, 1421 Main Street, Lisburn.

WELCOME
Director Holl called the May 20, 2019 meeting of the 2019 Public Safety Ad Hoc Committee to order at 6:30 pm at the Lisburn Fire Company, 1800 Main Street, Mechanicsburg. Prior to the start of the meeting, the audience was given a tour of the Lisburn Fire Company fire bays and trucks by Mr. Greg Black, Lisburn Assistant Fire Chief, and the grounds by Mr. Frank Williamson, Lisburn Fire Chief. Mr. Holl asked if there were any questions from previous meetings. There were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Mr. Bonneville moved to approve the minutes from the May 6, 2019 Public Safety Ad Hoc Committee meeting. Mr. Lenker seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION: LOWER ALLEN AND LISBURN FIRE - PART II
Tonight’s presentation is a continuation of the previous discussion on Lisburn and Lower Allen Fire Companies and a combined effort of Frank Wirth, Dave Murdoch, and Frank Williamson. Mr. Wirth opened the presentation by speaking about the level of capability that fire fighters must be prepared for. He stated that both the Lower Allen and Lisburn Fire companies are prepared for all hazard types, from flammable liquids to car accidents, structure fires, and wildfires. Fires are labor intensive and often require a team response. Firefighters work in pairs. Both fire companies have these capabilities.
Fire Capabilities vs Attack

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<td>Defensive</td>
<td>Huge fire, can’t go in; usually a total lost</td>
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<tr>
<td>Offensive</td>
<td>Interior attack inside the structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rescue</td>
<td>Takes at least two fire fighters in addition to those fighting the fire</td>
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Lower Allen Township contains both hydranted and non-hydranted areas. Highways are limited for water supply. Hydrants supplied by PA American Water are used whenever possible. The tanker truck is essential for rural areas and areas without hydrants. A 2,500 square foot house would need more than one tanker worth of water. In this case, a tanker task force would be utilized.

Emergency scene tasks are performed in the following order of importance by pairs or teams; mutual aid can help to progress through these steps faster:

- Rescue
- Fire Attack
- Ventilation
- Forcible Entry
- Extrication
- Property Conservation
- Environmental Protection
- Safety

Mr. Wirth stated that vehicle and water rescues are the most common technical rescues that Lower Allen Township undertakes. They are also capable of performing rescues from machinery, trenches, collapsed buildings, confined spaces, and low/high angles. There are different levels of training that can be obtained: **Awareness** (recognize the hazard), **Operations** (basic response and scene operations), and **Technician** (advanced skills to mitigate the problem). EMS can provide Basic Life Support, QRS, and Medical Assist. Advanced Life Support will be available soon. Hazmat is called in for more serious hazardous materials spills. There has been training provided for active shooter situations. The fire department oversees command structure, staging area, and assisting EMS with patient handling. Emergency management focuses on mitigation of the situation, preparation, response /damage assessment with help from Public Works, and recovery. It includes flooding, tornadoes, large snow events, and terrorism.

Chief Murdoch spoke about requests for resources from neighboring departments. If a local department can’t fill the request it goes to the county, the state, and then federal emergency management. It pulls resources from other municipalities.

Mr. Wirth spoke about the levels of services: Insurance Services Organization (ISO), Senate Resolution 6 Commission Report, NFPA 1710, NFPA 1720, and NFPA 1730. The ISO provides a fire suppression grading system which is used by insurance companies to determine rates. The needed flow for residential areas and small businesses in the Township is 3,500 gallons per minute. It’s usually higher for larger commercial areas. NFPA 1710 gives expectations for level of service for career fire departments. NFPA 1720 gives expectations for level of service for volunteer fire departments. NFPA 1730 deals with fire
prevention and codes enforcement. Senate Resolution 6 (SR6) Commission Report was published in 2018. It contains recommendations for Fire and EMS services in the Township. Recommendation number 3 is important as it applies to Fire and EMS coverage through governmental partnership. It is called a Standard of Cover which is having the resources to respond to identified hazards in the Township.

SR6 has four recommended Offensive Service Levels.

- **Offensive Service Level 1** – requires 15 personnel, two engine companies and one truck company; handles interior and exterior fires in residential and commercial occupancies as well as vehicle rescue and hazardous materials response. Arrive on scene in 9 minutes from dispatch 90% of the time.
- **Offensive Service Level 2** – requires 10 personnel, two engine companies, interior firefighting capability for a room and contents and small buildings under 10,000 square feet, as well as vehicle rescue and hazardous materials response Arrival in 10 minutes after dispatch 80% of the time.
- **Offensive Service Level 3** – requires 6 personnel, one engine company, interior firefighting capability for one room and contents, small buildings under 5,000 square feet, vehicle rescue. Arrival on scene 9 minutes after dispatch, dependent on travel time.
- **Offensive Service Level 4** – requires 4 personnel, one engine, and exterior defensive firefighting capabilities only. No time limits.

NFPA 1710 (career fire departments) expects an 80 second turnout time, unit should be on the scene in 4 minutes followed by the entire first alarm within 8 minutes. A minimum of 16 personnel (including mutual aid if applicable) should be on ground operations for a residential fire.

NFPA 1720 (volunteer fire departments) allows for more flexibility but still has minimum staffing requirements. For areas like Lower Allen Township with greater than 1,000 people per square mile, minimum staff is 15 to 16 for a residential structure fire with a 9 minute response time 90% of the time.

NFPA 1730 covers community risk assessment, fire prevention and codes enforcement (Public Safety Officers and volunteers are currently doing this), plans review (Community and Economic Development), fire investigation (police department and Mr. David Ickler). Fire personnel meet with the Codes Department once per week to look at plans, as well as police and EMS.

Mr. Wirth showed a video comparing two simulated living room fires. It demonstrated how fighting fires has had to change due to the changes in the contents of residences. Synthetic materials and construction release toxic byproducts when burning. Smoke is fuel and ignites to flashover.

Chief Williamson led a discussion on three different Third Class cities in different parts of Pennsylvania and how their fire departments vary. Each city has around 10,000 residents and is located in an economically challenged area.

In the Northwestern city, the county has an EMS operations plan but no resources and cannot enforce it. The career fire department spends a lot of time and resources responding to medical calls. Many calls are outside the city limits due to failure of volunteers. It is staffed by career firefighter EMT’s. The fire department budget exceeds the police budget which is highly unusual.
In the Northeastern city, there are 4 volunteer companies, two with no station or apparatus. Volunteers respond to scenes in their personnel vehicles with their gear. They assist on most EMS calls. There is also a 6-person career fire company, 5 of which are EMT’s. They know what truck to take based on where the fire is located by experience.

In the Northcentral city, there are 4 full-time career firefighters, a few part-time, and a robust volunteer system. They are in touch with what their needs were and their expectations.

Problems arise from lack of communication between fire and municipal officials, protecting turf, and not welcoming change. Lower Allen Township is communicating successfully (communication between York and Cumberland Counties), as well as supporting the volunteers with funding and PSO’s. The fire department is currently working towards determining the needs of the community and emergency services response capabilities. Chief Williamson stated that he is not saying that Lower Allen Township needs paid firefighters, but that it is a struggle to find the volunteers. A loss of volunteers causes a loss of institutional knowledge.

Mr. Wirth asked about expectations of business leaders, elected officials, and citizens. He stated that there are a lot of preconceived ideas about firefighting from the media and movies. Chief Williamson asked the audience what they expect from the fire department when they dial 9-1-1. Some answers from the audience included “response” and “apparatus coming quickly” (5 minutes). Another member stated that for commercial properties, pre-located places to go would be helpful and for residential areas, upkeep of roads to allow for response. If you live further out of town and a greater distance from the fire station, you have to adjust your expectations. Lower Allen Township has a 9 to 10 minute average response time from dispatch depending on location. Mr. Wirth stated that response issues are related to staffing issues and the fire department needs to know what level of service the community expects from them.

Training levels for current capabilities and services provided for Lower Allen and Lisburn Fire Departments:

- **Fire Suppression** – Residential and commercial firefighting with interior attack and rescue at technician level, brush fires, vehicles, and flammable liquids.
- **Technical Rescue** – Vehicle and machinery at technician level, water rescue at awareness level, shore-based rescue at operations level, trench, building collapse, and confined space at awareness level, and low/high ankle at awareness level or operations from the aerial ladder. Harrisburg Rescue 1 and Cumberland County Technical Rescue Team are called upon for technical rescue expertise but may take longer to respond.
- **Hazardous Materials** – Hazardous materials is at operations level including incident management, identification of a hazardous material’s chemical and physical properties, personal protective equipment, emergency decontamination, and defensive spill control techniques. The Cumberland County Hazardous Materials Team provides technical level expertise.
- **Emergency Services (EMS)** – Basic life support (lifting, AED, CPR, and auto accidents), some personnel have specialized training such as EMT, Paramedic, technical rescue, hazardous materials and incident management.
- There are numerous regional specialized teams at the county level, but they take time to mobilize. This is better for longer lasting incidents or disasters.
Mr. Wirth provided a hand-out with fire apparatus for each station and its use. Lower Allen Fire Company No. 1 has two engines, an engine/pumper, a ladder truck, a rescue truck, a utility truck and several chief vehicles. The Lisburn Community Fire Company has an engine, a mini-pumper, a tanker, and a utility truck. There was also a hand-out on the training needed to become a firefighter and what levels can be obtained through certification.

**COMMITTEE QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION**
Mr. Bonneville asked if there is a lounge for the volunteers at the Lisburn Fire Station. Chief Williamson responded that there is not. He stated that they would like to try to get a grant for emergency generators. There is no gear cleaning equipment at the Lisburn station. There is nowhere for overnight accommodations or showers. Mr. Bonneville stated that having people at the fire station cuts down on response time, builds comradery, and helps to recruit new members.

Mr. Villone asked about the number of active volunteers at each station. He was told that there are 8 active volunteers at Lisburn and 17 at Lower Allen, depending on the time of day. Mr. Villone asked if the volunteers like doing the training that is required. He was told that they like doing the training and plan their schedules around training nights so they can attend. Fire chiefs have not received complaints. Mr. Wirth stated that a study has shown that the main reason volunteers leave an organization is having to do fundraising followed by inadequate leadership of the organization. Training is also a good for team building and comradery. Mr. Villone stated that he would like to see the fire department work on comradery to retain people and attract new people by providing them a place to spend downtime.

Mr. Vernau inquired about how Lower Allen’s live-in program could be more successful. He mentioned that when the new municipal building was designed, dorm rooms were included to support a live-in firefighter program and they are not being utilized. Mr. Holl stated that increased call volume would help but live-ins are down everywhere. He stated that there are two anticipated to arrive in the fall. The tuition reimbursement helps and having PSO’s as nighttime drivers can expand service. Fire protection is based on a three-part system of live-ins, PSO’s and volunteers.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION** (Discussions will be limited to 10 minutes per person.)
Mrs. Echterling asked if the Township is graded as a whole by the point system used by the insurance companies. Mr. Wirth stated that Lower Allen Township has a split rating between hydranted and non-hydranted and is a 4.9. She also asked how much time is spent on a site after the visible fire is extinguished. Chief Williamson answered that it depends a lot on the size and scope of the fire, as well as the amount of help. Some cleanup is finished back at the station. Mrs. Echterling also asked if the fire department is prepared to deal with electric car fires. Chief Williamson stated that it comes down to training. Chief Murdoch added that ongoing training is required to keep up with new technology.

**ADJOURNMENT**
Mr. Holl introduced Tony Deaven, the new EMS Captain. He then adjourned the meeting at 8:41 pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday June 4th at 6:00 pm at Station 2 on Rupp Avenue.