

Millcreek Township Fire and Emergency Medical Services Commission

Minutes of October 20, 2022 Regularly Scheduled Meeting in Township Municipal Building

**Meeting Called To Order by Chairman Jim Rosenbaum at 6:02 pm**

**Present:** Dan Ouellet, John Marsden, Mark Shaw, Kirk McCaslin, Guy Santone, Randy Lachowski, Brian Salvatore, Jeremy Moreland, Jim Rosenbaum, Dan Hesch.

**Pledge of Allegiance** was recited by all present.

**Roll Call** was taken by commission members.

**Reading and Approval of Minutes from July 21, 2022 Regular Meeting:** Motion made by Kirk McCaslin, seconded by John Marsden; Approved by all present. So moved to adopt the minutes of the July 21, 2022 Regular Meeting.

**Task Force Update.** Randy Lachowski reported no update.

**Reports.**

- a.) **Operations Sub-Committee.** Jim Rosenbaum briefed the commission that 2023 would be a year of lots of work and progress. Additionally, Mr. Rosenbaum mentioned the possibility of more frequent meetings of the FEMSC in 2023.
- b.) **Finance Sub-Committee.** Randy Lachowski had nothing to report. Expectations are that 2023 will result in some progress. Mark Shaw reminded all departments of the capital acquisition deadline of October 31, 2022.

**Old Business.**

- a.) **Fire Chiefs update of meeting held October 10, 2022:** Dan Hesch shared the meeting was productive. The meeting primarily focused on paid staff. Issues including, east/west splits, number of paid staff (3), weekday staffing to share a few. Other meeting matters included an east side garage on Route 97, full time staffing during the day on weekdays and a volunteer stipend.

Mark Shaw suggested that the FEMSC recommend to The Township to start planning for the hire of 6-8 full time staff as soon as January 2023. Furthermore, Mr. Shaw commented on the need for consistency between the departments which will require lots of work for the operations and finance sub committees. Mr. Shaw underscored that The Township will have a combination department. Full time staff **and** volunteers. Randy Lachowski suggested that during the hiring process the focus be on high standards initially with lesser standards as the process proceeds if necessary.

- b.) **Township Updates:** Nothing to update. Township waiting on #a. above.

Kirk McCaslin asked about The Township mechanic. Mr. Shaw replied that the service was available but that only WRFD was using it. Mr. Shaw was to resend a list of mechanic tasks and the agreement each department signed/needs to sign.

- c.) **Commentary on Special Joint Meeting held September 26<sup>th</sup>:** No comments from Chiefs or citizen representatives.

**New Business.**

- 1.) **Revision to 2022 Tax Credit Point Total:** In 2022, to qualify for Township property tax credits, a qualified volunteer needs 150 points. This is an increase from 75 points in 2021. Because of lower call volume at many departments, discussion was held about reducing the 2022 total to 75 points.

**Motion #1. Motion made to reduce 2022 tax credit total to 75 points.** Motion made by Brian Salvatore, seconded by Jeremy Moreland; approved unanimously.

- 2.) **West Lake VFD proposal for equipment acquisition.** Kirk McCaslin presented background on WLVPD's need and successful securing of a grant for \$325,000 through Rep. Ryan Bizzarro's office. Mr. McCaslin shared a hand-out of some details of the proposed acquisition.

Mark Shaw commented that the acquisition proposal does not fit the parameters specified in The Township's capital budgeting framework.

**Recommendation: Table the proposal for additional facts.** Motion made by John Marsden; seconded by Guy Santone. Recommendation carried.

**Public Comment:** Jeff Skonieczki addressed the FEMSC. Matters including the East Side garage update, qualification standards for paid staff and volunteer stipends were discussed. Mr. Skonieczki referenced a case study in Plymouth, MN.

Discussion on all matters was spirited.

**Comments from Members:** None.

**Announcements:** Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting (4Q22): January 19, 2023 @ 6:00pm in the Township Municipal Building.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn @ 7:00 p.m. by Jim Rosenbaum, seconded by Dan Ouelett. All present in agreement. Meeting Adjourned.

Minutes Submitted by: John Marsden, Acting Secretary.