

WINDSOR TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

October 25, 2012 Continuation of October 15, 2012 Recessed Meeting

The recessed meeting of the Windsor Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Chairman Dean Heffner,

Those present: Dean Heffner, Paul Smith, Rodney Sechrist and Jennifer Gunnet. See the attached list of fire company personnel that were in attendance.

At this point, the meeting was turned over to the Windsor Township Fire & Rescue Association President Chad Arnold. The general business of the association was discussed. Mr. Arnold advised that the design for the roof simulator was again submitted to Commonwealth Code. He asked Mrs. Gunnet if it has been approved. She advised that she would check and let him know. It was noted that the next association meeting will be held at Red Lion on December 27, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was turned back over to Mr. Heffner for discussion on the contracts with the fire companies. Mr. Heffner asked if the fire companies has discussed a proposal for the new contract. They advised that they had not.

Mrs. Gunnet provided background information that the current contracts were for five (5) years with a 5% increase each year and a 1% training contribution. The contracts expire on Feb. 28, 2013 but the contribution amounts listed in the current contract are good for 2013.

Mr. Heffner asked if consolidation of the fire companies had ever been discussed. Mr. Arnold advised that it depends on what you consider consolidation. He added that the six (6) departments work together through this organization which is a form of consolidation. They also work together to make bulk purchases, which saves money. It was noted that there is duplication of equipment.

Joe Yahnke advised that fundraisers are getting harder and harder to do with the profits getting smaller. He added that donations and memberships are down. Several others agreed. It was mentioned that the cost of an advertisement in the newspaper for the fundraiser is expensive. Mrs. Gunnet reminded everyone that the Township publishes a newsletter two (2) times a year and the fire companies are notified to let her know if they have any information to be included. There is no cost to the fire company for this. Mr. Yahnke noted that he is not sure that Red Lion could make it with less than a 5% increase. Mrs. Gunnet advised that the Township is also experiencing reduced revenues and increased expenditures.

Mrs. Gunnet asked each company for a breakdown of funds that are received from other municipalities. She was advised that this is listed in the IRS Form 990 that is filed with the Township. She will pull those forms for the information.

Barry Myers advised that York Township is proposing to implement a fire tax for 2013. He noted that it is based on the property assessment similar to the real estate tax. Mrs. Gunnet will check into this.

There was a discussion on the increases in the workmen's compensation insurance for the fire companies. Mrs. Gunnet advised that the Township pays a portion of the workmen's compensation premium based on the amount of Township residents in the first call area. It was noted that only Windsor has been dropped by their insurance carrier and had to turn to the state insurance through the Department of Labor & Industry.

Mrs. Gunnet distributed a copy of the contribution chart from the current contract. The overall increase over the five (5) years of the contract was 27.6% for each fire company. It was noted that the contract states that it would be reopened after the third year should the average inflation rate exceed 5%. A copy of information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics showing the historical inflation rate was distributed. The average inflation rate for 2009 to 2011 was 1.49%. The inflation rate from January 1, 2012 through August 31, 2012 averaged 2.15%. A question was asked as to what the yearly increases were for the York Area Regional Police Department. It was noted that their 2011 increase was zero, the 2012 increase was 3% and the proposed increase for 2013 is 4%.

It was noted that the police department is very quick to call for the fire company instead of handling matters themselves. Charlie Hose stated that on October 24th there was a controlled burn on Witmer Rd. that had been called into County Control. A passerby had reported the open fire and the police were dispatched. The call was passed off to the fire company without a response by the officer. They in turn responded to put out the fire. Mr. Hose was asked if the property owner was cited for a violation of the Open Burning Ordinance. He did not know. Mrs. Gunnet advised that she will check into this. It was also noted that tow truck operators are required by law to remove accident debris. This is not being enforced. It is being dispatched to the fire companies. Mrs. Gunnet advised that she will check into this also.

Another contract negotiation session was discussed. It was the consensus that the contract negotiations would be held during the regular Fire Association meetings which are held every other month. The Fire Association will hold a separate meeting for their regular business.

There were no public comments.

None of the Board members had any comments.

At 7:20 p.m., the meeting recessed until Monday, November 5, 2012 at 12:00 noon for a 2013 Budget Workshop at the Township Office located at 1480 Windsor Rd., Red Lion, PA.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer L. Gunnet
Secretary

FIRE COMPANY PERSONNEL
PRESENT

October 25, 2012

Chad Arnold	Felton
Joseph Silar	Red Lion
Joseph Yahnke	Red Lion
Charlie Hose	Yorkana
Cliff Frederick	Yorkana
Jim Eberly	Yoe
Eric Myers	Windsor
Sandy Yancy	Secretary
Daniel Orwig	Windsor
Barry Barshinger	Windsor
Daryl Ehrhart	Dallastown
Scott Gingrich	Felton
Elmer Fromm	EMA
Bernell Kohler	EMA
Barry Myers	