

**SCIO TOWNSHIP FIRE SERVICES GUIDANCE COMMITTEE**  
**Regular Meeting of the FSGC**  
**October 26, 2022**  
**9:30 AM**  
**Meeting Hall with Remote Participation**  
**827 North Zeeb Road**

**MINUTES**

1. Call to order
  - a. Chair David Read called the meeting to order at 9:31 AM.
2. Roll call
  - a. Secretary Ryan Yapple called roll. Present: Goodsitt (remote), Groden, Hyde, Perry, Read, Yapple. Ex Officio member Chief Houde was also present. Late arrivals: Flintoft 10:19 AM, Baird 10:39 AM.
  - b. Absent: none
3. Adoption of the agenda
  - a. Agenda adopted without objection.
4. Public comment
  - a. Kathleen Brant - Kathleen really enjoys watching the Fire Services Guidance Committee Meetings. It is lovely to see intelligent, thoughtful, insightful people working so well together. Kathleen appreciates any recommendations the committee can make.
  - b. Rob Pattinson - Amen to what Kathleen just said. How refreshing is it to see a group of semi-professionals in a round table format working to take care of the township, thank you guys. First of all, we are so lucky to have you Chief Houde, thank you for starting this committee. This is now the most important committee in Scio Township, the fire department is the only function of Scio Township that saves lives. In year's past, we had mold in the old building, Bryce Kelly and the previous supervisor were too busy to pay attention to what was going on. We finally rescued our fire department and got repairs to the building and the building renovated. That process cost in the neighborhood of 1.5 million dollars. There has been a massive mistake made in that funding process and it has put the fire department 1.5 million dollars in debt. The previous board made that mistake, I invite you all to look at the Sandy Egeler memo to the previous board talking to the previous board talking about two funding options. The first being a bond, the second being the operating budget option that put them in debt. It is absolutely critical I would say one of your most in important, if not your most important duty to get the fire department out of debt and correct that mistake. And three months ago, there was the budget and finance committee meeting where Sandy Egler and Jim Merte discussed the previous mistake and there was no absolutely no solution suggested during that meeting. So I highly recommend that this committee get an independent finance director type of person involved to help the fire department work their way out of this process. There is so little support from the Board of Trustees and from available staff at Scio Township. I repeat that this is one of the most important things you can do now. Thanks gang, well done looking forward to you guys working together.
  - c. Motion to close public comment by Hyde, seconded by Perry. Motion passed.

5. Approval of minutes
  - a. Motion to adopt the minutes of the October 19, 2022 meeting of the Fire Services Guidance Committee by Hyde, seconded by Groden. Motion passed.
6. Communications and/or Correspondence
  - a. Communications sent to the Fire Services Guidance Committee are attached as a PDF to the minutes.
7. Presentations
  - a. Chief Houde gave a presentation regarding Scio Township Fire Department, County, State and other resources. The presentation is available on the Scio Township website and will be attached to the meeting minutes as a PDF.
8. Old business
  - a. There was no old business
9. New business
  - a. What is the next step towards recommendations? Clerk Flintoft identified the importance of meeting safety standards, laws and regulations. Chair David Read and Chief Houde will work to highlight these before our next meeting on 11/2/2022.
  - b. Lance Baird - Medical Control Authority meeting for Washtenaw County was the reason Lance was late. Chelsea Fire Department was approved for BLS transport at the Medical Control Authority meeting.
10. Public comment
  - a. Kathleen Brant - Full confidence in what you folks are doing. Kathleen is really impressed with dialogue/inputs. In Scio Township, it does not appear we are very good in educating voters. Whatever plan you come up with as an advising group, as an advising group, I might suggest you advise the board that they fund an effort to make citizens aware of the recommendations. We fail on this time and time again. We are not even doing a newsletter any longer. I believe this should be a separate effort to educate voters on whatever you recommend. Thanks for your time.
  - b. Jeff Jackson - Good morning. Jeff Jackson Dexter Ann Arbor. Three quick comments. Number one, plus one to what Kathleen said. Absolutely agree on communication. Number two, I am so pleased to see that this committee exists. It's at least five years overdue but better late than never. Number three, thank you to Chief Houde for his excellent presentation. I learned so much this morning. It ought to be required viewing for everyone on the Board of Trustees and for everyone to be crazy enough to want to be on the Board of Trustees. Last night, I made clear my strong support to give our emergency services the funding and the resources they need. We are growing and we are building more multi story buildings. I can't support you guys more. Now I live ½ mile from the fire station, I feel pretty safe. I also live in a ranch house. Nevertheless, I understand the rest of the township should be able to receive the same high quality, fast response times as those who live near the fire station get. I support the second fire station and the ladder truck and everything else. Now I was not selected last night, that's all fine. I am not going anywhere. I will continue to be a strong advocate, I will continue to be a strong advocate to give all of our emergency services the support they need.
  - c. Pam Boyd - Kudos Kathleen. That was my notes too. Thank you in advance for marketing to residents on the next millage. A better understanding for residents on how spending more money on their taxes will actually help them save on insurance cost. I think that's a great way to bring education to residents. The other thing I wanted to point out is the number of very dense developments going into the township, I know

Bob Hyde can speak to that. I had an interesting opportunity last night; I got a call that my 95-year-old mother-in-law had fallen at her retirement center in Chelsea. What's normally at least as of last night was that the Chelsea Fire Department and the Huron Valley Ambulance work in tandem. The firefighter was the one who gave the report about my mother-in-law. I have great concerns at the number of seniors that will be moving into our community over the next ten years. We need to be planning in advance for that generation that will need more attention. I see ambulances at CRC in Chelsea frequently it's the nature of the beast. Thank you that's my comments.

- d. Rob Pattinson - Personally, I found this meeting overwhelming in the amount of data that you have shared today. I have four and a half pages of notes. I will put that in an email. Can the public get access to the documents that you have for the committee and this meeting? Chief Houde responded that we are working to get all documents uploaded to the township website including his presentation. As you were talking about a third property on Miller, the area you are talking about, 1000 ft west of West Delhi. The property is owned by the International Transmission Company there may be room there for the fire station that we are talking about. I would like to highlight the radio that is sitting next to the Chief and Lance. That at a moment's notice they can be out of the meeting and on their way. Once again, I want to highlight how important it is to support our firefighters, committees are not their priority it is lifesaving. The video for this meeting will be available in an hour after processing/uploading on YouTube. I know I will need to view it again to catch up on the information that was covered. Lastly, I would highly recommend involving an insurance actuary. In effect what you will be doing is lowering taxes by lowering the ISO score. 3.5 mils and 2.4 mils in some other areas, the effect will be substantially less. What we pay more in taxes will be lower insurance costs. Thank you very much, well done.
- e. Jillian Kerry - I am really excited about all the positive things happening in Scio. I watched the video of the last time. This is very professional. I have been fighting for our firefighters and fire department for a long time. I am very excited. All the residents that have commented, I second, third, fourth them. A couple of weeks ago on a football Saturday that was an away game, we had four HVA ambulances for the whole county. People are still partying on game days. We really need to keep that in mind. We need to make sure our rescue is staffed and available. Public Act 33 is for special assessments for Fire and Sheriff for safety. There have been issues mixing a millage and a SAD. We need to make sure what we do for our next special assessment is making sure what we are doing correct. If we do not do the next SAD correctly it could stall plans and projects. It was brought up there was an ATV needed for pathways. The township wants to install a lot of paths. Clerk Flintoft, Anna Cone the Parks Director was recently hired, and a vehicle was purchased for her. Was her vehicle purchased from the Pathway Millage or from the General Fund? I did pull up the ballot proposal to see the language, could some of the funds from that millage be used to purchase an ATV?
  - i. Clerk Flintoft answered, correct millage funds may be used.
- f. Pat Stein - This presentation that Chief Houde presented, my plan was to login and catch highlights I was locked in. It was very informative but also unsettling to see the critical areas that the Fire Department is lacking in. So thankful for this group to be formed and deal with areas that need attention. I am hoping this stellar group can be instrumental in solving the 1.5-million-dollar lending misstep. Let's hope it can be on a to do list somehow. I am glad to hear that the slide presentation will be available for public viewing. Chief Houde you mentioned that you didn't know what it was like in 1988.

During the 1970's my husband and I were building our home on south Zeeb. The fire department was in downtown Dexter. One day my husband and children were taking a drive into Dexter. Not far from the fire station a house was burned to the ground, turns out it was for training purposes. I am glad you are here, and I hope all these obstacles can be resolved. Great job the whole committee is awesome.

- i. Lance Baird - I worked at Chelsea before being a member of Scio Township Fire Department. We would visit 400-600 times per year to the CRC.
- ii. David Read - Our fire millage does not contribute to the DDA.
- iii. Clerk Flintoft confirmed that is correct, the fire millage does not contribute to the DDA.
- iv. Mark Perry researched both questions. Act 33 is a special assessment. It is dedicated restricted funds.
- v. Clerk Flintoft responded that we received a memo from Township Attorney Michael Homier regarding the proper procedure on Act 33 special assessments.

1) Adjournment

- a. Moved by Perry, seconded by Hyde. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 12:06 PM.