

SCIO TOWNSHIP FIRE SERVICES GUIDANCE COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting of the FSGC

November 23rd, 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 9:32 AM.
2. Roll call
 - a. Secretary Ryan Yapple called roll. Present: Goodsitt (remote), Groden, Hyde, Flintoft, Read, Baird, Yapple. Ex Officio member Chief Houde was also present.
 - b. Arrived late: Mark Perry
3. Adoption of the agenda
 - a. Agenda approved without objection.
4. Public comment
 - a. Mitch Goodsitt - the meeting minutes to emphasize the comments from the audiences. Thought it was disappointing and none of it was covered in the minutes. Thought the comments should be very brief and the comments were very brief from the discussion.
 - i. Bob Hyde – Very little is required in meeting minutes under the Open Meetings Act.
 - b. Rob Pattinson – First of all, I'd like to support Bob Groden in his views of trying to better address the 60% medical calls. I'd like to hear more about how we will address that. I understand that it will involve hiring and training paramedic qualified firefighters. I'd like to hear how we will lessen the wear and tear on our fire equipment and use the rescue more often. Also, how we would work with HVA on ambulance service. Scio Township has a decades long tradition of damaging our fire fighters with the old station how it was falling apart. I'm completely in support of doing whatever it takes to protect our firefighters in a safe, better environment. The new fire station renovation is a great step forward.
 - c. Jillian Kerry – What other committee have been doing is including the video link in the minutes, if not Rob Pattison records all the meetings. It can be pretty hard to put everything into the minutes. Including the video link has appeased members and the public. The fire department is very important to me and to safety. The county and state has regulations/rules for emergency/fire. I don't know if that was mentioned. Some of our ideas may not meet the standards of the state/county. There may be things we can/cannot do. I appreciate Bob Groden being the watchdog for our tax funds, we don't want to overspend or irresponsibly spend. We also do not want to keep our money so tight so we don't meet the needs of our growing township. Four years ago I became involve in the fire department because of the lack of maintenance to the fire department. Rightfully so, there was a lot of low morale with our firefighters. We have

a growing township with 5 developments I can count of right now including an estimated 1,000 new residents.

- d. Public comment closed without objection.
- 5. Approval of minutes
 - a. Minutes approved without objection.
- 6. Communications and/or Correspondence
 - a. ISO contacted the Chief on 11/22/2022. They are going to review the Scio Township Fire Department in December 2022. Chief Houde is hopeful that we will receive a 5 rating with the improvements in the last 4 years. We will be reviewed on a 5 year schedule going forward
- 7. Presentations
 - a. Spreadsheet prepared by Mark Perry was presented by Chief Houde
- 8. Old business
 - a. There was no old business
- 9. New business
 - a. Discussion of Options for recommendations to the Board of Trustees
 - i. Discussion of Mark Perry's spreadsheet including that the total response hires is a cumulative number. Mitch – is it possible to get copy of the option summary? Ryan Yapple sent Mitch a copy of this via email.
 - ii. Committee discussion occurred on the option summary and whether Option 1, Option 1.25, Option 1.5 were preferred. Wagner is going to take 4-5 years to build, staff and equip
 - b. EMS Options staffing
 - i. Sherriff – The township shall provide and maintain any substation. Flintoft- Where else can they go?
 - ii. -Discussion continued on EMS medical calls including a potential site on Liberty/Wagner Road
 - iii. Need to meet MIOSHA requirements for a fire station including ability to sleep staff
 - c. Financial Discussion
 - i. Mark Perry recommended that we include contingency costs for construction. The ballot proposal should include language to have contingency costs as well as fund reserve balance with the approval of the township Board of Trustees.
 - ii. Bob Hyde stated that we must convince the board that our proposal will convince the board of the stated goal.
 - iii. David Read stated that we need to list the pros/cons of each plan/option. Option 2,3,4 are a while down the road, Option 1, 1.5 have other pro/cons.
 - iv. Lance Baird brought up buying land for future stations.
 - v. Mitch brought up whether we were continuing towards Option 3 or Option 4 with Options 1,1.5, 2 being incremental steps. What millage do we start at based on those two options?
 - 1. Mark Perry answered the question about whichever millage is proposed to the public is the highest amount of revenue. The Scio Township Funds policy that has a 9 month fund reserve policy would dictate the funding options. The rate can be moved up/down but only to the maximum authorized levee.

- vi. Bob Hyde – Set out this is the millage, this is the step, this is the results.
- vii. Mark Perry – there is a governor to the millage, need to clearly define it.
- viii. Mark Perry - discuss further about the start date of the millage, when the first tax collection would be
- ix. Chief Houde brought up if ARPA money can be used, as long as board approval is available.
- x. Bob Hyde – Once we have a Wagner station, what could we do with a temporary renovated property
- d. Presentation Discussion
 - i. Mark Perry – When is our deliverable by? 11/30 or 12/7?
 - ii. Chief Houde will work on a presentation for our committee.

10. Public comment

- a. Trustee John Reiser – Big picture is the issue which facility, which equipment, which personnel we need to support a growing township? Chief Houde responded yes. Is there currently a fire millage now? Yes, 1.35. It expires in 2028. Where does the six minute response time come from? NFPA standards. None career/volunteer fire departments have a different standard. Recently purchased an ambulance? Yes. It's licensed at the basic level. Based on equipment, staffing but could become ALS based on personnel/equipment. Does the 1 series not involve a new station? Correct. Option 2,3,4 all do? Yes, new station. Option 1 series is all personnel no extra equipment required.
- b. Jillian Kerry – I was thinking the wagner/lib area that you were brainstorming. It's just a long shot idea that Vestergaard farms has a home/barn. I don't know their plans but maybe there is an option for temporary fire truck in the barn/house for the firefighters.
- c. Rob Pattinson – Far be it from me to disappoint David Read.

11) Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM.