

**MINUTES OF THE KENNETT AREA
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES REGIONAL COMMISSION**

**Pennsbury Township Building
Chadds Ford , PA 19317
January 8, 2019
5:00pm**

		Present	Absent		Present	Absent
Municipality	Representative			Alternate		
Kennett	Scudder Stevens	X		Lisa Moore		x
East Marlborough	Cuyler Walker	X		Julia Lacy	X	
Kennett Borough	Ethan Cramer	X		Matthew Fetick	X	
Pocopson	Ricki Stumpo	X		Al Davis	x	
Pennsbury	Scotty Scottoline		x	Aaron McIntyre	X	
Newlin	Bennett Baird	X		Bill Kelsall	X	
Fire Company	Representative			Alternate		
Kennett	Chris Plumley		X	Gina Puoci	X	
Longwood	AJ McCarthy		X	Mike Syska		X
Po-Mar-Lin	Jason Griffith	X		Jeff Groves	X	

Call to Order

Walker called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

Public Comments

Steve Nuse informed the Commission that he had completed his term as Fire Chief at Po Mar-Lin so he was stepping down as a member of the commission. He introduced Jason Griffith, who will be the new Chief and will replace Steve on the Commission. Walker expressed the Commission's appreciation to Steve for all he has done for our community as Fire Chief and for his service on the Commission.

Approval of Minutes

Baird wished to discuss his comment on Page 7- "Baird commented on the combined budget". Baird wanted to clarify that his statement that the shortfall should be looked at was directed at the Commission, not to the Fire Companies.

Motion was made to approve the December 11, 2018 minutes. Motion approved.

New Business

Financial report was provided. The largest expenditure for 4th Quarter was to reimburse the three host municipalities for their Workers Compensation bills.

Walker suggested putting the Fire Companies' Quarterly Financial Reports in the next

month's agenda, this will allow the Companies more time to provide information to the Commission. Puoci agreed that the additional time would be helpful.

Motion made to accept financial report, all voted in favor.

Fire Co Reports

Longwood Fire Company was not in attendance. One of their members was graduating from Baltimore Fire Academy tonight. The Commission noted this as a big accomplishment. Baltimore County is hiring a lot of paid fire fighters. They receive a large number of applicants. Their training period is 6 months to a year and they expect their fire fighters to be trained as paramedics as well. The shifts they offer allow for an easy commute from Chester County. Baltimore County recognizes the high quality of applicants from Chester County, they are well trained.

- Kennett Fire Company- Gina Puoci

	Fire Calls	EMS Calls
Kennett Township	23	52
East Marlborough	1	4
Pocopson	0	1
Pennsbury	0	2
Newlin	0	1
Kennett Borough	10	43
Other	6	6

Chris Plummer will be the Chief until April; Steve Melton Deputy Chief will take over. In the meantime, Steve will serve as the representative on the Commission starting in February. The Commission expressed their appreciation for Chris's contributions to the Kennett Fire Company.

- Po Mar Lin Fire Company- JT

	Fire Calls	EMS Calls
Kennett Township	0	0
East Marlborough	1	7
Pocopson	1	1
Pennsbury	0	0
Newlin	0	0
Kennett Borough	0	0
Other	3	3

- Longwood Fire Company

	Fire Calls	EMS Calls
Kennett Township	7	54
East Marlborough	9	49
Pocopson	7	34
Pennsbury	16	30
Newlin	1	4
Kennett Borough	0	24
Other	4	10

*Longwood Fire Company sent their report; the company was not in attendance tonight

Baird suggested we regularize the content of information we receive from the Companies on the monthly reports, to the extent it can be done. The Commission asked Baird to work with the Companies to coordinate a common format for information provided on the reports, and Baird agreed. It was noted that the Companies use different reporting systems, and the Commission is currently receiving three different reports from each Company. The CAD reports come directly from the County, has basic information on type of calls, and the townships involved.

Walker requested the Commission to provide list of items they would like to see from each Company, and asked Baird to look into what is available from the existing software the companies are using. The reports could create a database to show trends, stress levels on the system, and numbers of responders. Standardized reports could be a key piece moving forward. The Commission will review the report template prepared by Baird with input from the Fire Companies.

Stevens asked what the County collects in terms of information. The County report tracks fire events, name of incident, Companies who responded, time, and type of call. The County report provides a graph of monthly events will show the fire events, type of call, and day of week- busiest day of week, type of dispatch calls i.e.: Fire vs. EMS. The calls may be off one of two due to the day the report is run. The County reports are run by the CAD system.

Walker feels the reports provided by our Fire Companies are detailed and, therefore, more useful than the information that the County reports. Cramer stated once the standardized template for the report is determined, creating the report will not be too time consuming. Fetick agreed that the information provided by the County might not be as complete as the information provided by our Companies.

OLD Business

- **Equipment Replacement**

Kennett Fire Company's new equipment has been delivered and should be in service in February. There is no formal housing event planned at this time. Puoci will send e-mail to the Commission when the equipment is in service.

Po-Mar Lin provided a year-end update on its new rescue vehicle. The expected delivery time given was 7 to 8 months. The Company anticipates a summer delivery and to have the vehicle in service by the Fall. The Company was able to save money by placing the order prior a January price increase. The beginning of the year price increase of 3-5% is standard throughout the industry.

Cramer noted the equipment for our Companies is in good shape and thanked the Commission for their efforts in supporting new equipment purchases.

Baird pointed out the cost of replacing the large vehicles needed by the Companies will be significant in the coming years. He suggested a policy or procedure be put in place for the fire Companies to present to the Commission for equipment purchases. Po-Mar Lin has an equipment replacement plan used as a guiding document to replace equipment. Rosenbauer stated NFP standards exist with regards to equipment replacement- Example: tires need to be replaced every 7 years, regardless of tread. Puoci confirmed Kennett has a policy in the works, not yet official, with regards to equipment replacement.

Stevens requested to go on record that he requested a definite, upfront equipment replacement plans that is consistent among the Fire Companies. The Commission agreed that an Equipment Replacement Plan/Process that includes estimates of the timing and costs for replacing each major piece of equipment was needed. Lacy offered to work with the Companies on Equipment Replacement Plans. The Companies and the Commission offered to provide Lacy with information on equipment replacement policies.

Walker presented the issue in a different context; the Commission has a contractual commitment to provide a fixed level of funding for our Companies. He feels a high level of comfort exists after 3 years, to go back to the Municipalities and request funding. The Commission would be able to explain why additional tax money is needed to support the Fire Companies. The request would be made in good faith and support a process or plan is in place to control the money being spent.

Stevens stated his concern that the Commission's history regarding equipment purchases has not been consistent among the Companies. Specifically, he noted that Longwood did not follow the same process as Po-Mar-Lin when requesting to purchase new equipment. Walker stated this issue could be discussed when Longwood is present to participate.

State Legislative- EMS Services

Fetick has been working with Dylan Ferguson, Director of EMS for the Commonwealth. Fetick and Ferguson had met to discuss the future of EMS and how the Commonwealth sees funding for EMS going forward. Ferguson commits to holding four Town Hall Meetings per year and has agreed to hold one of his Town Hall Meetings for our areas residents. The meeting would last for an hour, and would consist of public comments on EMS, and what our residents would like to see moving forward.

Ferguson is also willing to meet with our Commission to discuss SR6, which will open up grant monies for EMS. He will not be able express a position on our specific situation, but will engage in discussions regarding balancing grant money and township funding for EMS services. Fetick hopes to have both meetings scheduled by the end of February. The meetings require Governor approval, currently pending.

Commission would like Fetick to invite Ferguson to an Executive session. Walker encouraged the Commission to attend the Town Hall Meetings and to invite Ferguson to the Commission meeting shortly thereafter. Stevens said that Kennett Township has offered to co-sponsor the Town Hall Meeting with the Borough and noted how beneficial grant monies have been to Kennett Township. In many areas

Motion made to invite Ferguson to the Commission meeting.
Motion was approved, all voted in favor.

Fetick will e-mail Commission with the date for Town Meeting when it has been scheduled. He plans to request the Red Clay Room to hold the Town Meeting.

End of Meeting Items

Walker, on behalf of the Commission, thanked long time Po-Mar-Lin volunteer Ricky Tuel for his daytime assistance. Ricky Tuel's circumstances have changed and his daytime availability is reduced.

Walker also expressed the Commission's appreciation to Baird and Lacy for taking on the projects of standardizing Company Reporting and Equipment Purchase Plans.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion to Adjourn Meeting at 6:35.

Motion to Adjourn Meeting was approved, all in favor.

The next meeting will be held at 5:00pm on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 in the Pennbury Township Public Meeting room.

Respectively submitted,

Lisa Henry

Recording Secretary