

7. SAFETY/OPERATING GUIDELINES:

The members requested the status of the safety/operating guidelines that were in progress last year prior to the unexpected halt of the actions of the committee and the public safety department. It was suggested that the previous members be contacted for input on the status of the guidelines.

8. EQUIPMENT/FLEET

- a. **Update on Equipment Inspections/Certification Updates** – Ms. Werner advised that she reached out but is still waiting for information. It was noted that the aerial equipment/air bags are almost complete. However, still waiting for a response from Carbon Volunteer Fire Department and possibly Hempfield #2 Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Thomas advised that he has all of the information for the different contacts/manufacturers for the Hurst equipment. However, he said last time that they were inspected, there was stuff that needed fixed and they waited for a bulk price for repairs. He explained that there are air bags that are fifteen (15) years old and that probably half of the rescue companies have air bags. Mr. Thoma said he believes that there is a Federal grant out there that deals with replacing air bags. However, if they are new, they have to be tested and have an end-of-life date. He added that Neil Kush is reviewing some of the air bags and will get back to us. Ms. Werner inquired whether consideration was being given to replacing everybody's or getting new for just the new apparatus. Mr. Thoma responded that we have to see the age and where they are at. He added that we may have to replace air bags because we do not have that many. In another matter, Mr. Thoma asked what to do with the Rescue equipment – whether or not to get it repaired like we did in the past. Another question raised was the hoses. He explained that there was a big group purchase and ran out last year so that we didn't do it. Mr. Thoma said that if he has further questions, he would talk to Mr. Winters.

Also, Mr. Thoma said he is working on preparing a schedule for inspections and services of equipment. Mr. Winters asked Mr. Thoma to pass the list onto his office to prepare and send out from the Township. It was mentioned to possibly utilize the ECM calendar or Gmail or Google Maps calendar, to post the schedule also.

Mr. Saunders advised that at a monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Supervisors expressed interest in having a presentation made for the new proposed fire truck. In addition, Mr. Saunders said, before moving forward, the Board of Supervisors' commented that they are holding off on any decisions until receipt of the report from the consultant. Mr. Thoma said that the manufacturer of the truck should make the presentation and answer any questions relative to their equipment.

9. BUILDING AND GROUNDS:

Mr. Thoma advised that he needs a key from Cintas to replace the products at his fire department. Mr. Miles Webb advised Mr. Thoma that he would get a key from Cintas for the Adamsburg Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Saunders advised that all of the site prep, including the installation of the gas line, is complete for the installation of the generator at the Bovard Volunteer Fire Department. The contractor merely needs to complete the project by hooking it up.

Mr. Saunders advised the Board that he ran into a representative from Palco Generators and told him to contact Mr. Winters about performing this year's inspections of the generators.

Mr. Winters said that he emailed Rampart Security about taking care of the fire alarm inspections.

Mr. Saunders inquired about the status of the search for a public safety director. Mr. Winters responded that interviews will start next week.

10. ITEMS FOR ACTION: None

11. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Update on Fire Response Zones** – Mr. Saunders and Mr. Thoma discussed moving half the departments to the north of Main Street emergencies and half the departments to the south of Main Street emergencies, specifically between the hours of 6 a.m. and 4 p.m., and for reported fires only. An additional consideration would be moving all Township fire companies initially. Ms. Werner recommended that for a reported fire during the daylight hours, that all fire departments be on the call. She did not believe breaking it in half really gains anything. Mr. Saunders made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thoma, to pass the above recommendations onto the Fire Chiefs' Association for their comments before the next public work session. Vote: 5-Yes. Motion carried.

12. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Letter of Resignation from Mike Wolford** – Mr. Marquis advised receiving a letter from Mike Wolford resigning from the Bureau of Fire due to other commitments. Mr. Thoma made a motion, seconded by Ms. Werner, to accept Mr. Wolford's letter of resignation. Vote: 5-Yes. Motion carried.

13. COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

- a. **Amber Werner** – Ms. Werner said she is disappointed with the lack of communication with the Bureau of Fire from the outside consultant and the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Werner strongly voiced her concerns about what the consultant is doing and why he hasn't spoken to the Bureau of Fire about absolutely anything. Ms. Werner questioned whether the actions of the Bureau of Fire was just a waste of time because everything at this time is contingent upon the results of the report by the consultant. Mr. Thoma and Mr. Marquis agreed that they believe the Bureau of Fire should do whatever it can do at this time without hesitation.
- b. **Jason Winters** – Mr. Winters commented on the following matters:
 - i. **Fire Chiefs' Association Meeting** -- Mr. Winters advised that the chiefs' meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 4th, 2018 at the Midway/St. Clair Volunteer Fire Department. He said that he was going to see if there is still a request to have the full SAFER Grant presentation, once again.
 - ii. **Craig McVickers of Code Enforcement Associates** -- Mr. Winters said that Craig McVickers of Code Enforcement Associates, will be at the chiefs' meeting to introduce himself to the fire chiefs. Mr. McVickers will pass out a list explaining who the chiefs need to contact during certain types of situations such as fire/structure damage.
 - iii. **Consultant and GAP Report** -- Mr. Winters responded that he believes the purpose of the Bureau of Fire was reinstated by the Board of Supervisors to focus on fire zones, training, retention and recruitment. In regards to the consultant and the GAP Report, it begins with the fire chiefs, and he said that at this

time only a third of the fire departments have participated. Mr. Winters said it is very important in creating a long-term master plan that the fire departments cooperate with the consultant.

- c. **Don Thoma** – Mr. Thoma said he believes the Board of Supervisors want to hire a public safety director and also want to see the direction the Township is going based on the information the consultant comes up with after talking with the fire departments.
- d. **Greg Saunders** – Mr. Saunders raised concerns with the emergency response times of the utility companies during which the volunteers of the fire department have to conduct traffic control. He said most of the companies utilize Flagger Force for traffic control. It should not be the responsibility of the volunteer fire departments to maintain traffic control for the utility companies. Mr. Saunders commented that possibly the fire departments should be reimbursed for the amount of money they would normally pay Flagger Force or that the fire department be authorized by the utility companies to contact Flagger Force to respond to perform the traffic control. Mr. Winters said that he could look into making a joint meeting happen between the fire departments, the Township, and the utility companies to determine responsibilities during an emergency.
- e. **Anthony Marquis** – No comment.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Thoma made a motion, seconded by Mr. Saunders, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Vote: 5-Yes. Motion carried.

Chairman