Northern Monroe County Fire Protection Territory
Executive Committee Meeting
June 12, 2019 MINUTES

Meeting called to order and Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 pm by Barb Ooley.

Committee Members Present: Barb Ooley (WT), Kim Alexander (BT), Kenny Bryant (WT), Lorraine Merriman Farrell (BT), Geoff McKim (BT), Troy Colvin (WT)

Committee Members Absent: None

NMCFPT/BT Staff Present: Chief Joel Bomgardner; Deputy Chief Dave Calvin; Lisa Myers; Eric Koch, Legal Counsel

1) **Approval of meeting agenda**: Motion to approve the agenda by Kenny Bryant with a second by Lorraine Merriman Farrell. Motion passed.

2) **Approval of minutes**: Motion to approve April 10, 2019, minutes by Alexander with a second by Bryant. Motion passed.

3) **Old Business**
    a. Property Update - Bryant advised he had been extremely busy, and did not have any new updates. He noted he would have something prepared for next meeting.
    b. Future of Station 15 – No new updates.

4) **New Business**
    a. Budget preparation - Alexander provided an outline for the budgeting process along with initial budget information. She added that the most notable item within the budget is that there will be 27 pay periods in 2020. There was no committee discussion.
    b. Monroe Fire Protection District – Alexander advised that Bloomington Township is in the process of investigating joining the District with a potential start date of January 1st, 2021.
        i. Geoff McKim asked what the next steps would be. Alexander advised the next step was to send a letter and postcard to residents explaining the situation and asking for them to return the postcard expressing a yes or no for support to join the district. Bryant asked if the letter would explain how

potential annexation plays a part in the issue. Alexander advised that it did. McKim asked about a percentage required for validation. Alexander advised 20% of the total sent out would need to respond yes in order to take this to the commissioners. She noted the total to be sent out was 2180 and that this was to landowners only. Bryant inquired as to when the letters would be sent out. Alexander advised that letters were being reviewed by legal, she hoped to do it by the end of the week but by the end of the month at least.

ii. Barb Ooley added a reminder that this was Bloomington Township only, and that Washington Township would be able to join in 2022. Alexander noted that it was the Commissioners who asked that Bloomington Township join first. Bryant asked if the Territory would make it so that both Washington and Bloomington could join at the same time. Ooley pointed out that by way of the new Senate Bill, Bloomington and Van Buren joining the district quickly would help to ensure the lowest district tax rates.

iii. Ooley advised she has asked for a proposed contract price from the District. Alexander added that the Territory would be dissolved after the first of the year but the agreement would be amended so that Washington Township had continued coverage until the end of 2020.

iv. McKim asked if the Auditor's office was responsible for all of the vote counting. Alexander advised it was, and that after cards were returned they would go to the Auditor's office to be verified. Bryant noted that in Van Buren there was a premature message sent out indicating that they had 20% but did not. All agreed that having some overage prior to sending to the Auditor was a good idea.

5) **Updates and Reports**

a. Bloomington Township Trustee Report – There was no report.

b. Attorney's Report – Eric Koch expressed that he was excited to be working with everyone. He noted that his work to date had been limited.

c. Chief's Report – Chief Bomgardner provided a summation of the department's emergency responses for the past two months. He noted that call volume was increasing.

   i. Deputy Chief Calvin discussed training activities over the period including the FDIC in Indianapolis and over half of the full-time staff attended workshops, live fire training, training at the Vectren gas fields, and harassment and inclusion training. He also noted that 9 career staff completed the instructor 2/3 class. Finally, he pointed out that a new vehicle fire simulator prop had been constructed and installed on the training field.

ii. Chief Bomgardner followed with a summation of the fire prevention and inspection activities over the period. Other notable department information included completion of hose testing for all apparatus and stations, all apparatus service done (including for Benton Township at their expense), station spring cleaning, as well as 5 new part-time hires who had attended a mini training academy.

iii. Chief Bomgardner then demonstrated the new Bullet Proof Vests which were purchased with grant funds.

iv. McKim asked if the Chief had any comments in response to the City of Bloomington's decision to discontinue automatic-aid. Chief Bomgardner advised that the department had posted a response to the City press release on its website. He then outlined the efforts put forth by the Territory to cooperate with City requests, and the efforts put forth towards joint training answered every request which Chief Moore had come up with. He did note that the informal agreements which had long been in place were set up by Chief Moore's predecessors. Residents under those agreements are the ones most affected. Chief Bomgardner pointed out that there was consensus among fire department chiefs, as well as a recording identifying that terminating automatic-aid was a direct response to the recently passed Senate Bill 603 which provides financial protections for the Fire District against annexation. McKim asked if mutual-aid was affected. Chief Bomgardner advised it was not. McKim noted that it seemed like a written agreement was what was desired by the city. Chief Bomgardner pointed out that all of the training had been done with that goal in mind, along with signing off on other items like a safe structural guideline, common apparatus numbering, and common terminology. He then enumerated the many other written agreements which were in place with nearly all other neighboring departments.

v. Chief Bomgardner updated the committee that a lease extension for temporary station 15 had been agreed to and signed. This will be effective through June 30, 2020. This is congruent with expiration of the zoning variance.

vi. Chief Bomgardner discussed the training opportunity. This was the opportunity to see the grant acquired rescue struts which were purchased for vehicle stabilization.

vii. Chief Bomgardner ended with a summation of Washington Township activity for the period.

6) **Public Comment**

   a. There was no public comment.

7) **Adjournment**

   a. The meeting adjourned by Ooley at 6:27 pm.

Kim Alexander

Kim Alexander, Secretary
NMCFPT, Executive Committee

Matthew Bright, Deputy Chief