

Butler Township Fire Commission

January 18, 2017

The Butler Township Fire Commission held a meeting on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Butler Township Municipal Building, 290 South Duffy Road, Butler, PA 16001.

The following members were in attendance: Primary Member Joe LaDue from Station No. 3; Alternate Member Alan Paul from Station No. 6; Primary Member Karl Kobil from Station #7; Citizen Member Bill O'Brien; and Commissioner James Lokhaiser, Jr. Manager Ed Kirkwood, Assistant Manager Cheryl McNeill and Fire Marshal Larry Christy were also in attendance.

Fire Marshal Christy called the meeting to order with a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge to the Flag.

Motion by Joe LaDue to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2016 meeting, seconded by Karl Kobil. The vote was Station 3: Yes; Station 6: Yes; Station 7: Yes; Lokhaiser: Yes; O'Brien: Yes. Motion carried.

There was no public comment on agenda items.

Purchases

Steve Huey from Station 3 presented their request to purchase two thermal imaging cameras to replace the cameras that are currently on their ladder truck at a cost of \$8,095.00 each through Kaza Fire Equipment. The vehicle charger and battery are included in this price. A portion of the funding from the 2017 PEMA Grant will be used to purchase this equipment. The station plans on selling the older cameras.

Motion by Joe LaDue to authorize the purchase of two thermal imaging cameras at a cost of \$8,095.00 each. Seconded by Karl Kobil. The vote was Station 3: Yes; Station 6: Yes; Station 7: Yes; Lokhaiser: Yes; O'Brien: Yes. Motion carried.

Joe LaDue questioned if the other fire departments applied for the PEMA Grant. Both stations stated that they applied for the grant.

There was no purchase request from Station No. 6.

There was no purchase request from Station No. 7.

New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

Old Business

At the October 19, 2016 fire Commission meeting it was recommended to amend the wording of SECTION IV - PURCHASING GUIDELINES, Subsection A of the Fire Commission Red Book. The proposed amendment was presented to read as follows: "Any purchase in excess of \$5,000.00 (Five thousand dollars), regardless of source of funds, must be approved by the Fire Commission. Any purchase over \$10,000.00 (Ten thousand dollars) requires three (3) bids, other than fire apparatus. A discussion followed.

Motion by Joe LaDue approve the amendment to SECTION IV - PURCHASING GUIDELINES, Subsection A of the Fire Commission Red Book as presented. Seconded by Karl Kobil. The vote was Station 3: Yes; Station 6: No; Station 7: Yes; Lokhaiser: Yes; O'Brien: Yes. Motion carried.

Fire Marshal Christy asked for questions or comments from any visitors.

Steve Huey presented information on PA Workers Compensation Coverage for Volunteer Fire Companies concerning coverage during non-fire related activities and questioned how the township should handle these activities going forward so that claims will not be denied if a fire department member is injured during a non-fire related event such as a parade. A discussion followed. Manager Kirkwood will contact the township workers compensation insurance carrier to hopefully get some direction and will have Fire Marshal Christy contact the departments once the township has more information.

Steve Huey stated that Station 3 is no longer using C. W. Howard for their insurance. They are now using Best Insurance Company. By switching to Best they were able to keep the same insurance policy coverage with a twenty-five percent cost savings. He has been in discussions with the other departments to have them look into whether they could benefit by changing carriers as well.

Fire Marshal Christy reminded the departments that there will be a meeting on the new County Radio System on January 31st at the Butler County Community College – Founders Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Motion by William O'Brien and seconded by Joe LaDue, to adjourn the Fire Commission meeting at 6:45 p.m.