

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

York Area United Fire and Rescue

York, PA – The governing bodies of Springettsbury and Spring Garden Township met for the second time on June 19, 2007 to discuss the final draft of the charter agreement that would bring to fruition York Area United Fire and Rescue; the joint emergency service entity that the Township's have been working toward and discussing since 2003.

The meeting consisted of public comments and a discussion of the agreement. The supervisors and commissioners agree that a joint service will enhance emergency services to both municipalities. York Area United Fire and Rescue will increase public safety and control associated costs.

Each governing body will now consider the agreement, and if in favor, adopt a resolution at a regularly scheduled meeting directing the staff of each Township to make the necessary preparations to implement York Area United Fire and Rescue. The agreement does allow for other cities, townships and boroughs to join York Area United Fire and Rescue in the future, should requests be made.

The Springettsbury Township Board of Supervisors and Spring Garden Township Commissioners thanked the Joint Fire Committee members, who included citizens from both municipalities, for their commitment to this project.

For more information, and a complete timeline of the joint fire project, please see the attached Fact Sheet.

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**FACT SHEET
JOINT FIRE SERVICE TIMELINE**

- February 2003: Springettsbury Township Board Member Bill Schenck and Spring Garden Commissioner Austin Hunt met to discuss issues of mutual interest between the two Townships' fire departments. Such issues included mutual aid, regional sharing, and box assignments. Both reported back to their Boards.
- February 2003: A meeting was held with Spring Garden Commissioner Austin Hunt, Springettsbury Supervisor Bill Schenck, both Townships' fire chiefs, and both Townships' union representatives. Progress was made with respect to enhancing mutual aid and working closer together. The discussion moved towards the idea of merging the two departments.
- February 2003: Springettsbury Township Board of Supervisors voted to send a letter to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development requesting that they study the potential of a "joint service" between the two townships' fire departments. The Board also voted to authorize the sharing of expenditures with Spring Garden Twp with a \$3,000 cap.
- March 4, 2004: Both Townships' Fire Chiefs, Township Managers, and representatives from the governing bodies met with Dean Fernsler, DCED, for the first time to discuss the study of a potential joint service between the fire departments.
- March 2005: The Joint Fire Services Ad Hoc Committee (later referred to as the JFS Committee) met for the first time on March 15, 2005.
- April 2005: Chiefs Barry Emig (Spring Garden) and Andrew Stern (Springettsbury) presented power point overviews of both Townships' fire departments. Chris Spinelli of Victory Fire Company (Spring Garden), Zachary Boyer of Grantley Fire Company (Spring Garden) and Bob Astor of Springettsbury Fire Company (Springettsbury) also made presentations overviewing each of their volunteer fire companies. Keith Prowell (Spring Garden) and Rich Mellon (Springettsbury) made presentations overviewing their unions.
- May 2005: Millersville University intern Kristi Reese was introduced to the JFS Committee. Ms. Reese will be working for six months on this project.
- May 2005: The JFS Committee toured each of the firehouses in the two Townships: Springetts Station 16 and Commonwealth Station 17 in Springettsbury Township and Grantley Station 13 and Victory Station 15 in Spring Garden Township.
- May 2006: Carroll Buracker & Associates was awarded a professional service contract for the joint fire service study. Les Adams would be their primary consultant for the project.

- June 2005: The JFS Committee discussed several different structural options for the oversight of a new merged department, including a “lead agency”, “authority”, “Council of Governments” and others.
- July 2005: Chief Glenn Hostetter of Spring Township, Berks County, made a presentation to the JFS Committee. Spring Township had recently merged volunteer departments from three townships and one borough near Reading, Pennsylvania.
- August 2005: Attorney Steve Hovis made a presentation to the JFS committee. Attorney Hovis had created the legal framework for the York Area Regional Police Department. Mr. Hovis introduced the concept of a “charter agreement” between the two Townships.
- September 2005: Chief Tom Gross of the York Area Regional Police Department made a presentation to the JFS Committee. Chief Gross explained how his department came into existence and the types of issues he had to deal with in order to make the transition successful.
- January 2006: The JFS Committee endorsed the name and logo for the new department. The name “Metro York Fire & Rescue” was created by a committee of firefighters and Chiefs from both departments.
- January 2006: The first draft of the charter agreement was presented to the JFS Committee.
- March 2006: Staff presented the first economic overview and forecast for a merged department to the JFS Committee.
- May 2006: Carroll Buracker & Associates was awarded a professional service contract for the joint fire service study. Les Adams would be their primary consultant for the project.
- May 2006: Mr. Les Adams, with Carroll Buracker & Associates, was introduced to the JFS Committee and made a brief presentation about his company and how they plan to proceed with their study.
- May 2006: Both townships' unions agree to meet informally with staff to discuss the possible joint fire service and issues related to them
- May 2006: DCED approves a grant for \$45,000 towards the study being prepared by Carroll Buracker & Associates.
- June 2006: York County awarded a \$15,000 grant towards the joint fire service study process through their Intergovernmental Cooperation Grant program.
- June 2006: The peer consultant report conducted by Robert Hedden was presented to the JFS Committee.

- July 2006: Began discussions with Bradley Academy for name and logo for the new department
- September 2006: A \$30,000 grant was awarded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be used towards administrative and legal costs for the merger documents.
- October 2006: Presentation by Les Adams, Buracker & Associates, on his study and recommendations
- October 2006: Name and logo for new department was presented by Bradley Academy students and staff. The name "York Area United Fire & Rescue" was the final name presented.
- November 2006: Committee held a work-session with Les Adams and interested parties to discuss his report.
- November 2006: The JFS Committee met for the last time. The project was then forwarded to the governing bodies of each Township.
- January 2007: First joint municipal governing bodies meeting. Les Adams presents his report to the two bodies.
- March 2007: Sub-committee of governing body members of both Townships meet to refine the draft charter agreement.
- June 2007: Second joint municipal governing bodies meeting. Final draft of the charter agreement to be discussed.