

**SPRINGETTSBURY TOWNSHIP  
JOINT FIRE SERVICES AD HOC COMMITTEE**

**OCTOBER 18, 2005  
APPROVED**

Springettsbury Township and Spring Garden Township Joint Fire Services Committee convened at 6:05 p.m. on Tuesday, October 18, 2005 at the Springettsbury Township Office located at 1501 Mt. Zion Road, York, PA for the purpose of further joint fire services discussion.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Austin Hunt, Spring Garden Township  
Bill Schenck, Springettsbury Township  
Don Bishop, Springettsbury Township  
William Mader, Spring Garden Township  
Ellen Freireich, Springettsbury Township  
Jon Countess, Spring Garden Township  
Zane Sjoberg, Spring Garden Township  
John Holman, Springettsbury Township  
Gregory Maust, Spring Garden Township  
Andrew Stern, Springettsbury Township  
Barry Emig, Spring Garden Township

**MEMBERS NOT  
IN ATTENDANCE:** Todd Langheine, Spring Garden Township  
David Meckley, Spring Garden Township

**ALSO IN  
ATTENDANCE:** Members of Springettsbury and Spring Garden FC  
Keith Prowell, Spring Garden Township FD  
Joe Barron, Spring Garden FC  
Rich Mellon, Springettsbury Township FD  
Don Eckert, Springettsbury Township Volunteer FC  
Jean Abreght, Stenographer

**A. Call to Order**

**HUNT** Chairman Hunt called the October meeting of the Jt. Fire Services Committee to order at 6:05 p.m.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

**HUNT** Chairman Hunt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. Determination of Voting Quorum**

**HOLMAN** Mr. Holman reported that a Quorum was present. Voting members were Ellen Freireich, Jon Countess, Austin Hunt, William Schenck and Zane Sjoberg.

**HUNT** Chairman Hunt asked whether Todd Langheine had contacted the Committee.

**HOLMAN** Mr. Holman responded that he had advised he would be unable to attend the meeting.

**D. Approval of Meeting Minutes: September 20, 2005**

**MR. COUNTESS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2005.  
MRS. FREIREICH WAS SECOND. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**E. Public Participation: Comments from the Public**

There were no public comments.

**F. Correspondence and Other Communications**

**1. Thank You Letter to Chief Gross**

**HUNT** Chairman Hunt reported he had sent a thank you letter to Chief Tom Gross. A copy was provided to the Committee.

**2. Company Firefighter Questionnaire**

**HUNT** Chairman Hunt asked who the recipients were of the questionnaire.

**HOLMAN** Mr. Holman responded that the questionnaire went to Messrs. Stern and Emig and then was forwarded on to the volunteer departments. Mr. Holman had received an email from Mr. Hedden indicating that as soon as he received the returned questionnaires he would begin writing his report. If he does not receive responses by November 1, he will write his report without the information. He indicated that the questionnaire was much more specific as related to the volunteer firefighter's response. Mr. Holman will follow up with the volunteers to try to get them filled out as quickly as possible.

**HUNT** Chairman Hunt commented to the career firefighters and to volunteers that he would not want a late response to the questionnaire to be the slow link in Chief Hedden's report. He encouraged them to do whatever they could to get them filled out, circulated and returned to Chief Hedden.

**SCHENCK** Mr. Schenck reported that the Agenda for a special meeting of the Springettsbury Volunteer Fire Company included the questionnaire survey. The meeting will be held Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup>.

**3. Correspondence from Mr. Hedden**

**HUNT** Chairman Hunt indicated that as soon as the volunteer responses are returned, Chief Hedden will have a week or so to digest the information. He will begin writing his report on November 1<sup>st</sup>. He asked when his report might be received.

**HOLMAN** Mr. Holman stated that he would email Mr. Hedden to determine when he might complete at least a draft copy of his report.

**G. Staff Reports:**

**1. Grant Application Status**

**HUNT** Chairman Hunt noted that the Committee had received a copy of the DCED grant application. He asked whether it was the current iteration.

**HOLMAN** Mr. Holman responded that it was substantially the same as what had been submitted which included the Committee's input.

**MAUST** Mr. Maust added that he met with Teri Markley and incorporated all the editorials. The official application will be mailed October 19<sup>th</sup>. He reported that he had seen Dean Fernsler and provided information concerning their recent meeting with Senator Waugh, as well as the grant application, which will first go to Senator Waugh's office for review and then officially to DCED. They expect that as soon as Senator Waugh received it, it would be only a few days until it arrives in the DCED office.

**COUNTESS** Mr. Countess asked whether or not consultants could be hired before the grant is approved. He understood that no major consulting contracts could be entered into until the grant is secured.

**HOLMAN** Mr. Holman responded that no reimbursement of costs will be made until the grant is approved. Until the contract is signed, they proceed at risk. Some costs are being incurred which both Spring Garden and Springettsbury are sharing at this point. Upon notification of the receipt of the grant, a letter of retroactivity can be requested.

**HUNT** Chairman Hunt stated that most of the reimbursable items would come at the end of the Committee's work. General Fund expenditures had been handled by the municipalities.

**HOLMAN** Mr. Holman responded that he was correct.

**COUNTESS** Mr. Countess understood that Steve Hovis made a committee when the Committee engaged his services.

**HOLMAN** Mr. Holman responded that a formal commitment had been received; however, he did not recall the exact figure.

**MAUST** Mr. Maust recalled that when the draft charter agreement was put together, it was less effort involved due to the previous work done.

**2. Update from Chief Emig and Interim Chief Stern**

- EMIG** Chief Emig reported that in July he and Interim Chief Stern had been charged with creating a name and patch for a logo of the organization. In August and September they held meetings for discussion. Chief Stern, Association President Mellon and Sowers and a number of career firefighters attended the meeting and sorted through the various concepts, how they might relate to the proposed merged department, its location and its mission using those parameters. After a consensus was reached on the proposed name, there were a great number of additional ideas mentioned. A preliminary sketch was drafted by Firefighter Rob Carpenter from Springettsbury Township. It was then refined and reviewed, and the final form with graphics was done by Natural Images, through the efforts of Firefighter Kevin Krout of Spring Garden who knew of the organization. The group determined that the name best reflected the concept of a combined department, the kind of work to come in the future and of the core mission. The patch is original for the area, simple and tasteful. There are some blank areas intentionally left to fill in things later if needed. A copy of the draft patch logo was provided to each committee member.
- SCHENCK** Mr. Schenck asked about the significance of the center part of the patch.
- EMIG** Chief Emig responded that the iron cross symbolized the fire service and is found on many apparatus and patches of fire departments across the nation.
- SCHENCK** Mr. Schenck noted that there could be numbers, symbols, etc. added.
- HUNT** Chairman Hunt asked about the term fire rescue as opposed to fire department.
- EMIG** Chief Emig responded that the term had been discussed in depth. In an effort to avoid duplication of other departments in the area, they had modeled this after the Metro Dade Fire Rescue and felt it depicted what services the department could provide.
- STERN** Mr. Stern added that they had looked at whether the word “Metropolitan” for which Metro is the short form, is synonymous with regional.
- COUNTESS** Mr. Countess indicated he liked the patch and the choice of colors. He added that it would be easily read from a distance.
- FREIREICH** Mrs. Freireich agreed and liked the Metro York idea indicating thinking big, larger, growth.
- HUNT** Chairman Hunt asked for reactions from the rest of the Committee.
- MADER** Mr. Mader thought it was excellent and was glad that the word regional wasn’t on it.

- HUNT** Chairman Hunt stated that he was glad Mr. Mader had made the comment, because he had been stuck with the idea that it needed to be in there.
- COUNTESS** Mr. Countess added that, in his opinion, the word rescue was broader than department and it could include other types of services, which eventually will be offered.
- FREIREICH** Mrs. Freireich asked whether they wanted the words fire rescue and not fire and rescue. She did not have a problem with it as it is.
- EMIG** Chief Emig responded that he had seen it done both ways.
- SCHENCK** Mr. Schenck stated that he liked the fact that they had diverted from the standard round material. He asked what kinds of things might be added to the patch.
- EMIG** Chief Emig responded that traditionally there are usually symbols on the sides, tops and bottoms. Sometimes department numbers, radio system, station numbers.
- HUNT** Chairman Hunt asked whether there was any concern about embroidering this on a patch.
- EMIG** Chief Emig responded that most patch companies can come up with a way to do so.
- HUNT** Chairman Hunt asked for comments from the attendees.
- BARRON** Joe Barron stated that, with regard to the crosses in the center of the patch, that had come from the Knights during crusades of the firefighters. He asked whether the volunteers input had been solicited. He added that he liked the draft patch.
- HUNT** Chairman Hunt responded that he made a great point and wondered why the volunteers had not been included.
- STERN** Mr. Stern responded that he was partly responsible in that traditionally the volunteers had always had their own patches.
- HUNT** Chairman Hunt requested that the volunteers be involved and that an apology would be expressed to all the volunteers. The volunteers are to be included in the project moving forward.
- COUNTESS** Mr. Countess observed that it was a preliminary submission that had not yet been approved. Their opinion could be requested.
- BISHOP** Mr. Bishop commented that when he thinks about Metropolitan York, it should include the City of York.

**EMIG** Chief Emig responded that it would include the surrounding area and generally in an area around a city. That had been included in their discussions.

**HUNT** Chairman Hunt stated that they had taken on an almost impossible task to try to please everybody, and they had pleased a lot of people. He entertained a motion for the Committee to approve this as a draft, a working draft name for submission to the municipalities.

**MR. COUNTESS MOVED TO APPROVE THE DRAFT PATCH/LOGO AS A WORKING NAME FOR SUBMISSION TO THE MUNICIPALITIES. MR. SCHENCK WAS SECOND.**

**FREIREICH** Mrs. Freireich asked whether it would be necessary to go back to the Townships with a first draft.

**HUNT** Chairman Hunt responded that his idea was to start having it circulated publicly and get comments.

**MAUST** Mr. Maust asked whether the volunteer input should be solicited first.

**HUNT** Chairman Hunt asked about the municipal meeting cycle.

**HOLMAN** Mr. Holman responded that Springettsbury will meet October 27<sup>th</sup> and then November 16<sup>th</sup>.

**HUNT** Chairman Hunt asked Mr. Barron whether there would be any volunteer formal meetings.

**BARRON** Mr. Barron responded that Victory will meet the first Thursday of the month, and Grantley will meet the first Friday.

**HUNT** Chairman Hunt asked whether posting it on the bulletin board to solicit comments would be helpful.

**BARRON** Mr. Barron responded that it should be provided for comment; otherwise problems could arise. Whether the comments are valid and anything is done with them, at least they will have had the opportunity.

**SCHENCK** Mr. Schenck noted that until this Committee meets again will be long after both Township Boards meet. It will provide a month for the volunteers to give their comments. If there are strong objections, they will bubble up through the municipality.

**MR. COUNTESS AMENDED HIS MOTION AS FOLLOWS:**

**MR. COUNTESS MOVED TO APPROVE THE DRAFT PATCH/LOGO AS A WORKING NAME FOR SUBMISSION TO THE VOLUNTEER COMPANIES AND TO THE MUNICIPAL BOARDS FOR COMMENT. MR. SCHENCK WAS SECOND. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**H. Old Business:**

**1. Meeting with the Legislators**

**HUNT** Chairman Hunt reported that he, Managers Maust and Holman, Bill Schenck and Kristi Reese met with Senator Mike Waugh in his York office and provided an overview of what the Committee had accomplished. Senator Waugh had a lot of volunteer firefighting experience and was very excited about what the Committee had accomplished. He offered some very good comments, both from an ex-firefighter position, as well as how to maneuver through the legislative web. He will introduce this project to the other legislators, to Senator Armstrong and both of the Representatives. He is very optimistic that he will be able to shepherd the grant through to success. Chairman Hunt stated that the meeting had exceeded his expectations.

**MAUST** Mr. Maust added that Senator Waugh had been very supportive from day one. He thought that it was the right timing to provide an update and he was very excited with the progress, and key was explaining the goal towards an organizational scheme and the supporting work. Senator Waugh's help will be very beneficial in support of the DCED request.

**FREIREICH** Mrs. Freireich asked about the time frame.

**HOLMAN** Mr. Holman responded that November is the time line for grant applications to be submitted.

**MAUST** Mr. Maust added that he was unsure of the turn around time; however, the people who need to know are already aware that it's on its way, so hopefully that will expedite things.

**HOLMAN** Mr. Holman noted that all the legislators will be tracking and working on that grant.

**H. New Business:**

**1. Appoint Chairs of Subcommittees**

**HUNT** Chairman Hunt introduced his concept of working through the Draft Charter Agreement which was to split up the articles into subcommittees. However, following that original discussion, he had heard from several Committee

members, who had other suggestions. Following a lengthy discussion the following Chairman assignments were made:

Preamble, Article I, Article II – Austin Hunt  
Article III – Jurisdiction and Authority – Don Bishop  
Article 3-1/2 – Volunteer Fire Companies – Bill Schenck  
Article IV – Fire District Boundaries – Austin Hunt  
Article V – Regional Fire Commission – Don Bishop  
Article VI – Meetings – Don Bishop  
Article VII – Apportionment Formula – Austin Hunt  
Article VIII – Finance – Austin Hunt  
Article IX – Capitalization – Bill Mader  
Article X – Pensions – Jon Countess  
Article XI – Zane Sjoberg  
Article XII – Fire Department Record System – Zane Sjoberg  
Article XIII – Immunity and Claims – Austin Hunt  
Article XIV – Joinder of Additional Municipalities – Austin Hunt  
Article XV – Withdrawal of Charter Municipality – Austin Hunt  
Article XVI – Term and Dissolution – Austin Hunt  
Article XVII – Effect of Regionalization on Existing Fire Departments – Bill Schenck  
Article XVIII – Amendment and Execution

**FREIREICH** Mrs. Freireich volunteered to help Bill Schenck and also Austin Hunt with VII and VIII.

**HUNT** Chairman Hunt stated that the process will be an active electronic dialog because there are no right answers.

**MELLON** Rich Mellon asked whether the committees would be asking for the firefighter's help.

**HUNT** Chairman Hunt responded that he was absolutely correct. He added if there are specific opinions, to step forward to whoever the chairman of that subcommittee is, as they are actively encouraging input.

**HOLMAN** Mr. Holman stated that the assignments would be sent to everyone on the mailing list.

## **2. Discussion of Draft Charter Agreement**

**MELLON** Mr. Mellon added that they also will need copies of the draft agreement.

**HUNT** Chairman Hunt responded that it would be available electronically as well as paper copies. The Chairmen of the subcommittees can determine how to facilitate conversation, etc.



**3. Charter Agreement Subcommittee Reports**

**SCHENCK** Mr. Schenck observed that, if it is to be an electronic document, every one should keep the old and insert the new in a different color or lined through. He suggested assigning Kristi Reese to be responsible for the document control.

**HOLMAN** Mr. Holman responded that each draft will be dated.

**BISHOP** Mr. Bishop asked about the time table for the next segment.

**HUNT** Chairman Hunt responded that he would like to have a report from all committee chairmen every month until it's done.

**HOLMAN** Mr. Holman added that, if there are recommended changes to the document, they should be submitted by the Monday before or at least a week before the next meeting in order to be sure to get them all out to the Board members in advance.

**SCHENCK** Mr. Schenck asked what a realistic goal would be for completion of this process.

**HUNT** Chairman Hunt responded that he thought two months would be realistic.

**SCHENCK** Mr. Schenck observed that by the January meeting it should be pretty much done.

**HUNT** Chairman Hunt commented to keep moving forward full steam and when it's done, it's done. He added that the Committee was getting into the meat of the issues, and it is getting exciting and intimidating.

**K. Adjournment:**

**HUNT** Chairman Hunt adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Holman  
Secretary

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