

NORTHWESTERN JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

July 13, 2022

Minutes

Prior to the meeting the Fire Department held a swearing & pinning ceremony welcoming two full time staff, FF Bryon Daum and FF Tyler Furry. Each full time member selected a family member to present their pins and Chief Merrick gave the oath. The Board expressed their gratitude to the members and expressed this as an opportunity to set precedent and culture for the District.

The Board opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Logan Rife, representative of York Township, Ms. Beth Marshall, representative of Taylor Township, Mr. Jerry McClary, representative of Liberty Township and Ms. Allison Hamilton, Fiscal Officer were in attendance. Chief Tim Merrick, Lt. Rob Morey, Mr. Rod Goddard, Mr. Mike Moffett and Mr. Lloyd Segner were in attendance. The Leesburg Township Trustees, Mr. Bill Lowe, Mr. Jeff Robinson and Chief John Cook were in attendance as guests.

Mr. Rife welcomed the guests from Leesburg Township.

Mr. Lowe on behalf of Leesburg Township advised the Board that the Township was set to join the Northwestern Joint Fire District.

Mr. Robinson asked the Chief to clarify members having 2 cards (EMT & FF). Chief Merrick started by clarifying the definition of volunteer(or Paid on Call) members. If a member lives in the factual boundaries of the District, then they can respond as a volunteer; living outside the District qualifies individuals to be Part Time paid members. The District currently has a volunteer program for the inclusion of volunteers. Many of the NWJFD have one card and respond to calls. Anyone that would be considered in a Part Time position would need dual certification. The District can help members to achieve this goal.

Lt. Morey advised the module for staffing requires 3 pillars; volunteer (POC), part-time and full-time. To qualify as a volunteer the policy is written that a member has to live in the District.

Chief Merrick advised the Board approved a training program at June's meeting. This program will give assistance in members reaching certification goals and there are State grant opportunities for reimbursement. There will be established set of training for the volunteer (POC) members.

Mr. Lowe asked how Chief Cook will fit into the District. Chief Merrick advised Chief Cook would be a perfect fit in a role with his 25 plus years as a career firefighter. He and Chief Cook have had discussions and will continue to discuss.

Mr. Rife announced that York Township unanimously voted to accept Leesburg Township into the Northwestern Joint Fire District. Mr. McClary announced that Liberty Township unanimously voted to accept Leesburg Township into the Northwestern Joint Fire District. Ms. Marshall announced that Taylor Township unanimously voted to accept Leesburg Township into the Northwestern Joint Fire District.

Minutes from each respective Township will be sent to Leesburg Township.

The District will work on a resolution from Mr. Comstock; in the meantime, Chief Merrick will forward a copy of the original resolution and agreement for Leesburg to review.

NORTHWESTERN JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

The time frame to finalize is two months by September 30th in order to re-set the boundaries of the District.

- i. Mr. McClary made a motion that the Northwestern Joint Fire District extend an invitation to Leesburg Township to join the District. Mr. Rife seconded the motion.
All were in favor.

There was further discussion regarding a four member board, board rep that has family members on the Fire Dept and dates. These questions will be addressed with Mr. Comstock.

The June 15, 2022 minutes were reviewed.

- ii. Ms. Marshall made a motion with a second by Mr. McClary to approve the June 15, 2022 minutes. All were in favor.

Ms. Hamilton provided the Board with the 2022 June Bank Reconciliation, purchase orders, payments, payroll and receipts. Ms. Hamilton pointed out there was a .09 discrepancy on the June Bank rec.. It was determined a number was transposed on a payroll deposit; this was corrected with the 7/14/22 payroll.

- iii. Mr. Rife made a motion to accept the Financial Report. Mr. McClary seconded the motion.
All were in favor.

Mr. Rife asked for the report of amounts to be transferred into the Northwestern Joint Fire District from each Township as set forth and agreed upon per the District Resolution.

Mr. McClary reported Liberty Township will be transferring the amount of \$2,245,020.33.

Ms. Marshall reported Taylor Township will be transferring the amount or \$889,508.00.

Mr. Rife reported York Township will be transferring the amount of \$104,507.38

- iv. Mr. Rife made a motion that the Northwestern Joint Fire District accepts the following amounts as reported to be transferred into the District funds:
\$2,245,020.33 from Liberty Township
\$889,508.00 from Taylor Township
\$104,507.38 from York Township
Ms. Marshall seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The Trustees will report back to each Township that the amount pledged to be transferred to the Northwestern Joint Fire District has been accepted.

The Chief reported there were 56 calls for the month June (there were 35 calls in June of 2021) and the Station shifts were filled at 97%. July's shifts are filled at 98% and August staffing is already at 96%. There was 253 hours of training.

Leadership development is a priority for the leaders and fulltime staff. Chief Merrick completed the NFA management officers program.

The Chief also reported: Hose testing and SCBA testing were completed. The run cards were updated. Medic 292 will be going for paint and lettering on 7/18. Trucks 291 & 293 are going in for work on the air conditioning.

NORTHWESTERN JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

There was discussion about training with the Solar Farms. Chief Merrick advised he did ask about including residential solar panels in the training. At this time, the Fire Department does not need special tools to address any emergencies involving solar.

Mr. Rife brought a question raised at his Township meeting about electric vehicles. Chief Merrick advised the problem is there is no set standard on where the batteries are located however, there are designated cables. There has been training opportunities with TRC & Honda R&D.

The Board discussed the previously tabled items from June's meeting. The Board advised Chief Merrick he could pursue a quote on a vehicle and left purchasing replacement bag at his discretion.

- v. Mr. McClary made a motion with a second from Ms. Marshall to approve the Chief's Report. All were in favor.

With there being no further business, Mr. Rife made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with Ms. Marshall seconding the motion. All were in favor. The Meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Allison M. Hamilton, Fiscal Officer

Northwestern Joint Fire District

Reviewed:

_____ Logan Rife

_____ Beth Marshall

_____ Jerry McClary