

**LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

February 7, 2022

**ATTENDANCE**

Adam Kosheba	Director of Public Safety
Rich Needham	Fire Marshall
Ralph Palm	Lower Paxton Police Department
Jason Campbell	South Central EMS
Dustin Ross	Paxtonia Fire Company
Tim Pramik	Colonial Park Fire Company
Maude Lallemand	Colonial Park Fire Company
John Fogg	Colonial Park Fire Company
Sean Harp	Linglestown Fire Company
Ed Crum	Linglestown Fire Company
Dan Crum	Linglestown Fire Company
Nicolas DiSanto	Linglestown Fire Company
Jeff Jumper	Linglestown Fire Company
Joshua Knoll	Paxtonia Fire Company
Christopher Egan	Paxtonia Fire Company
Dylan Vandernic	Paxtonia Fire Company
Josh Feeser	Paxtonia Fire Company

**CALL TO THE ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Director Kosheba at 2:30 pm.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Director Kosheba led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Ed Crum motioned to approve the minutes from the November 1, 2021, meeting. Mr. Dustin Ross seconded the motion. A unanimous voice vote followed and the November 1, 2021, minutes were approved.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Ed Crum noted that from the previous meeting, the guide rail at the top of the mountain still has not been corrected.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Emergency Flashing Lights**

Director Kosheba met with the new Public Works Director, Mr. Tim Nolt, and Township Manager, Mr. Brad Gotshall. Director Kosheba explained that due to the scope of the project it will be going out for bid, and the turnaround time should be quick. This will be bid as three separate projects. The installation of the lights will begin at Paxtonia Fire Company then move to Colonial Park Fire Company and finish at Linglestown Fire Company. Mr. Pramik questioned the approval from PennDOT. Director Kosheba responded they were told that previously and he did not have an answer. Director Kosheba continued to explain they are hoping to have bids back within thirty days and movement should begin in March. Mr. DiSanto noted to completing the project by 2023. Mr. Nolt from Public Works be reaching out to each Chief or President to see how each company would like to see the device triggered. Mr. DiSanto questioned if he should reach out to Mr. Nolt ahead of time due to the Penn DOT right away at Linglestown. Director Kosheba noted he felt these issues may have already been addressed but noted each company may reach out to Mr. Nolt for him to address.

### **Box Alarms**

Director Kosheba noted that there has been a lot of discussion about this in previous meetings. With the ongoing study, DCED and hiring of the Deputy Fire Chief, Director Kosheba questioned if we wait for the Deputy Chief to come on board and have an outside look at this situation. Mr. DiSanto commented that we should be setting the Deputy Fire Chief up for the best success possible and we should fix what we know is a problem. Mr. DiSanto proposed the agencies work together to create a draft for the Deputy Chief, who may not be aware of how we operate. Mr. Pramik questioned if the study would take a year. Director Kosheba responded the study would be done by the end of the year. Mr. Pramik agreed with Mr. DiSanto that they should address some of the issues. Director Kosheba noted he felt this would be resolved by having the three Chiefs meet and will send out an email to set up a meeting.

### **Deputy Fire Chief Position**

Director Kosheba stated two applications have been submitted and the goal is to have the position filled by July 1, 2022. Mr. Fogg questioned where the prerequisites came from and who came up with the job posting. Director Kosheba answered he did. He

explained he viewed Manheim Township prerequisites and other posting that were listed on iCHIEFS. Mr. Fogg questioned how the prerequisites of the Chiefs position related to the Deputy Fire Chief position. Director Kosheba explained it will be set up that the Director of Public Safety will oversee the entire Department of Public Safety. He explained the Police Department has a Deputy Chief who oversees all operational abilities within the Police Department and the same will happen within the Fire Department. The Deputy Fire Chief will oversee all the operational abilities within the three Fire Companies. Mr. DiSanto noted when he reviewed the posting he agrees the admin support is needed and warranted. Mr. DiSanto noted to a concern that the Deputy Chief would castrate the three Fire Chiefs by having someone coming into first dues and taking command, when the Deputy Chief may not be aware how the Township operates. Mr. DiSanto continued that the Deputy Chief position should focus more on administrative support than day to day fire alarms. Director Kosheba noted in the beginning the Deputy Fire Chief will have more administrative work as the Chief will be helping to prepare for the study but if the Chief would like to respond to a call to get a feel of the operation, then they should offer support as needed. Mr. Ross noted the concerns from his members, they feel that this could go in the wrong direction like they have seen within other departments. Director Kosheba stated that to make this work they need to look at the immediate, midterm and long-term goals and he will need input from the three Township Chiefs, and then decisions will be made for the Township as a whole. Mr. Fogg noted his disappointed that the companies were not notified ahead of time that the Deputy Fire Chief job was posted.

### **Fire & EMS Study**

Director Kosheba, the Township Manager and the Assistant Manager met with DCED and filed a letter of intent. The Township Manager chose this route because when the time comes, they will be able to decide which option to take. Director Kosheba mentioned to DCED that his time frame to have this completed by was October and DCED did not believe that was an aggressive timetable and felt that was doable. Mr. Pramik questioned the level of the study for EMS. Director Kosheba answered to study the type of calls, questioning the model that is being run through South Central working and do we need to push stations into the Township. Since there is already going to be a fire study it would be good to incorporate EMS into the study. Mr. Jason Campbell noted that he has been in discussion with the Director about the study. Mr. Fogg questioned if the Township is doing both letters of intent including DCED and RFP. Director Kosheba answered that they are doing both for now and then will determine which one they will use. Mr. Fogg clarified his question that we are not doing both studies just perusing both avenues.

### **LOSAP vs Stipend**

Director Kosheba questioned who the most senior members in LOSAP are and that he would like to set up a meeting with them to include the Assistant Township Manager, Mr. Miller. Director Kosheba noted his personal belief that with the younger generation

coming in, it is time to transition out of LOSAP and take the monies that are given by the Township and place it in a stipend fund.

Mr. Ross questioned where they are with the grant writing. Director Kosheba answered Mr. Sly does not feel the Township should reapply since the Township was already awarded the grant once, but they could try again and could meet to discuss details; he questioned the amount spent. Mr. Ross commented it was \$5,000 paid by the Township and the time to apply is closing. Mr. Fogg stated the current grant closed but they are running behind to get the grant monies out. Mr. Pramik noted they are putting more money into the grant for spending. Mr. Ross noted that with LOSAP ending in December this should be a further discussion to have the support of the Supervisors. Mr. Jumper noted that Linglestown in Quarter three or four will be out of money. Mr. Fogg felt we should have applied. Mr. Ross stated that PHEMA urged them to put in for it because they can prove that the program is working. Director Kosheba noted he will schedule a meeting in March to address LOSAP, funding, and the possibility of writing the grant.

#### **Voice Paging Support Letter**

Director Kosheba noted he has the letter and will just need to change the date and give to Mr. Ross.

#### **SAFER Grant**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **2022 Township Awards Ceremony**

The ceremony will be held at Hero's Grove, May 19, 2022, at 1800.

Discussion on awards was held and it was decided that each company will give a Fire Fighter of the Year Award, Company Award, and Life Saving Award or Awards if more than one person responded. Then from the three fire companies one person will be awarded Township Volunteer of the Year Award.

#### **Insurance Coverage on Township Apparatus**

The Township is requesting the input of the Committee to see if the Departments feel is necessary to increase the minimum amount of coverage. Director Kosheba questioned the Committee that if one piece of apparatus is out of service, that company would go down to their minimum and allow another's company piece of apparatus cover to save on cost. Mr. Pramik explained they were looking into this because when Colonial Park Rescue Unit was involved in an incident, and they did not have enough coverage to rent an apparatus due to Colonial Parks Insurance Policy. Mr. Pramik questioned why the Township does not insure all nine pieces of apparatus by themselves through a Township policy. Director Kosheba stated discussion of this has come up in the past. Director Kosheba explained the discussion would be based on additional coverages and

it may change if the Companies request additional amounts of coverage. Mr. Ross noted he felt the coverage was to be for the replacement of the apparatus and the coverage of a rental. Mr. Fogg explained the amount that is in the policy would not cover and the question would be do they get rid of that policy or increase the amount of the policy that would cover the apparatus. Discussion followed with rental of apparatus and policy coverage. Mr. Pramik noted that all three fire companies have their own insurance and insurance policies, and he felt since the Township is paying for it, all nine pieces of apparatus should be insured by the Township with one broker and one carrier. Director Kosheba noted to the discussion that based on the coverage amount it would be difficult accomplish that. Director Kosheba explained that any company owned apparatus the Township would send a bill to each Company, that would allow one umbrella of apparatus coverage. Mr. Fogg felt this would save money to have one policy rather than three separate policies. Mr. DiSanto commented he would like to speak with his insurance company on this discussion, noting if it is owned by you and you are operating it, it should be insured by you. Director Kosheba requested each Company meet with their insurance company and then he will have a meeting for further discussion.

#### **Consideration for abuse of Emergency Services Ordinance (35)**

Director Kosheba noted that Companies 34, 35 and South-Central EMS are starting to have issues with false alarm calls. Discussion followed and it was noted that if a call is made, they still must provide service. Director Kosheba stated that false alarm letters are sent to businesses and fines can be given. This ordinance pertains to fire calls, and they would need to meet with the solicitor for medical calls. Mr. Ross noted that the fire ordinance may need to be revised as companies who have false fire alarms may shut off their system. Mr. Ross suggested that once letters are sent to have codes follow up. Mr. Fogg questioned who enforces the fire codes in general. Sergeant Needham noted that in 2002 this discussion was brought up by the Township and the Board did not want to have inspections. Director Kosheba noted that he will meet with Community Development to address those issues and see if an ordinance needs to be written.

#### **ACCESS EAP**

Director Kosheba noted there are trained peer contacts through Access EAP available for Township employees and the Police Department. This is a cost that the Township pays a certain amount of money for. Director Kosheba's intent is to present Access EAP services to all three companies and have a trained peer contact from each station. The intent is to ask if the relief would be interested to pay for this out of the general fund. He noted he is working to narrow the cost and that numbers range from \$5,000 to \$10,000. He would like to present it to the relief first and if the relief has any push back then present it to the Board. Mr. Pramik requested a cost of what the Township is paying for employees.

### **Mutual Aid Duty Chiefs**

Director Kosheba was requested by 35 to bring up mutual aid chiefs and the effect on the Township. Director Kosheba noted he did not have a problem with this for staffing purposes, to build out positions, however they must bring staff apparatus first and must report to the incident commander that they are there for a task. If they are not needed, then they are held at the command post, or assigned to work with their crew. He noted it does benefit Lower Paxton companies to have extra bodies on scene but if it is or becomes an issue to let Director Kosheba know and he will repeal it. Sergeant Needham questioned if we have the same policy if our apparatus goes outside of the Township. Mr. D. Crum noted that if a Lower Paxton rig goes on a call the Susquehanna Chief is ok if the Chief officers follow their apparatus out to the scene. Mr. D. Crum continued that when a Company that is out of their township arrives first on the scene, they set up command until the home company arrives and decides to take command or allow the neighboring Township to stay in command. Sergeant Needham noted that when Lower Paxton arrives on scene, they can take command from a neighboring company. Mr. Pramik mentioned to social media posts that are being posted after different incidents, these posts are not complimentary of Lower Paxton to being doing a good job. Director Kosheba noted he will have a discussion with Chief 32.

### **MEMBER'S REPORTS**

#### **Colonial Park Fire Company**

Mr. Fogg stated Colonial Park responded to 788 calls in 2021, noting 572 were in their first due and 103 calls were within Lower Paxton. He thanked Ralph Palm for completing the CAD Link and reported it is up and working. He spoke to Nick Gehret about the issue of knox boxes expirations and outdated keys. The Committee many need to examine Chapter 106, Article 3, of the Fire Prevention, to update the language of a third-party inspection. Mr. Pramik noted Lower Paxton is one of the few municipalities that does not do inspections. Mr. Fogg questioned the sale of Engine 34 -1. Director Kosheba answered that it was discussed that it was not being sold to Colonial Park to be a primary engine and Mr. Ross approached the Township to purchase it as a utility piece. He noted if Colonial Park would have had the same need, they would have been given an opportunity to purchase the engine. Mr. Fogg questioned if it will be run as an engine. Mr. Ross explained it will be run as a manpower piece and will be used on the interstate as a blocking piece. Mr. Ross explained it will be available to other companies to use if needed. Mr. Fogg noted Chief Payne was chief for 14 years and feels he should be recognized either at the awards ceremony or at a meeting. Director Kosheba noted that Chief Payne will be recognized.

#### **Linglestown Fire Company**

No comment

**Paxtonia Fire Company**

Mr. Ross noted he is having difficulty with County honoring squad 34 as a destination. County states because it has a pump it has to be an engine. Mr. Ross noted it will not be used as an engine but as a manpower piece. He noted he will be reaching out to Director Kosheba for support.

**South Central EMS**

Mr. Campbell noted South Central's call volume is at an all-time high and it is up 1200 calls a month. Beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>, all throughout Dauphin County there is a 15-minute delay for Class 3 calls.

**Police Department**

No comment

**Fire Marshal**

No comment

**Emergency Management Coordinator**

Mr. Palm requested a list of one to two persons who would want to be a part of the EOC as he updates the EOC Manual with their contact information.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Mr. D. Crum questioned Mr. Fogg that during daylight hours 7 am to 4 pm would you prefer Linglestown to bring their hydrant truck to assist. Mr. Fogg answered he is having an Officer's meeting in two weeks, and he will follow up. Mr. D. Crum extended the same courtesy to Paxtonia as well.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Campbell motioned to adjourn, and Sergeant Needham seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm. The next Public Safety Committee is scheduled for May 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kristi Focht*

Kristi Focht

Recording Secretary