

Warren Township Volunteer Fire Department
April 3, 2019 Minutes
Chief's Officers' Meeting

Adequate notice of this meeting was given by posting a copy on the Township Bulletin Board and sending a copy to the Township Clerk, Courier News and Echoes Sentinel as required by the Open Public Meeting Act

Present: Chief Mitchell & Linda Palumbo

Mt. Bethel Fire Co. Mt. Horeb Fire Co. Community Fire Co. Washington Valley Fire Co.
D. Reedman & B. Burkhardt D. Dante & G. Cooney A. Kachadurian M. Dalton, C. Boschen, J. DeVizio

<u>Fire Police</u>	<u>Police Dept.</u>	<u>Fire Marshal</u>	<u>Mayor</u>
K. Larson	J. Cohen & Karen	A. Shjarback	G. DiNardo

Police Report:

FD did an excellent job on the trailer fire. FD thought dispatch tone only went out once on the Blazier Road fire.

Dispatch had to call Mutual Aid on 1 call this month since no FD response from Warren. Please carry your pagers per the PD.

2nd tier system (I am responding) technology moving to Town Hall data center in the hopes it will improve reliability.

Reports of Officers

Equipment Readiness (Ben Gaiser)

Company Equipment Checks (air pack leaks and issues)

Consumables

Equipment Inventory / Asset Tagging (progress report): B. Gaiser has the current list of the asset tags but 2/3 of the items are not associated to a fire company. If you have the fire equipment at your fire house & it's not assigned to your fire co on the list, please let B. Gaiser know. The rest of the equipment needs to be found. Per the Chief, any asset over \$1,000 needs an asset tag assigned to it so we can track it.

Drills / Training (Aram Kachidurian / Derek Reedman)

Driver Qualification Status (Chief to explain ISO audit findings): 60 initial training hours & 12 hrs of annual requalification, WTFD is 95% satisfactory but can improve.

CPR - (need mannequins, purchasing) will purchase when 2019 budget is approved.

Fit Testing (and Train the Trainer): D. Reedman is at the firehouse on Wednesday nights

Department Drill Schedule 2019:

- Tim's training at Washington Valley on April 9.
- Live burn in Piscataway in May (**need date**).

Lessons learned drill based on 22 Blazier Road: any observations please let A. Kachidurian & D. Reedman know to build into the training

Operations (Mark Russo)

Monthly and YTD activity report: total calls 56 for March, total calls so far for 2019 are 253 and 9 calls took more than 10 minutes to respond.

Vehicle response:

Engine 2 - 6 responses 0 with a crew
Engine 3 - 14 responses 3 with a crew
Engine 4 - 8 responses 0 with a crew
Ladder 61 - 28 responses 22 with a crew
Tower 61 - 6 responses 1 with a crew
Tanker 61-3 1 responses 1 with a crew
Tanker 61-4 6 responses 4 with a crew
Rescue 61 - 16 responses 8 with a crew

County Credentialing: photo session April 24 from 5-7pm.
B. Burkhardt is handling county applications so contact him.

Backup attack hose cache for each company:

Washington Valley will get hose from Mt. Horeb (12 rolls, 1.75")
Mt Bethel transferred 8 rolls of 2.5" to community and has 2.5" hose for WVVFC

2018 SCBA flow testing completed; several reports issues where vendor did not put the air packs back properly. Equipment officer will take this over next year.

Vehicle Maintenance (Charlie Boschen): email D. Buro and cc: Charlie with issues

Rescue-61 light tower partially works
61-103 mobile radio status still not functioning properly, Al recommended we pull the radio and send to Wireless for repair. Radio officer asked to coordinate
Tanker 3 going out for service this Thursday, Engine 3 needs service soon too
Washington Valley received Knox box codes.
FLIR mounting in Tanker 4 and Engine 4: AC M. Dalton will schedule with Absolute.

Fire Prevention Education / Public Events (Dave Dante)

Hydrant Status Report: no report
Fire Prevention Planning: no report
Update on Mobile Kitchen demo event: Westfield Gospel Chapel has a mobile kitchen for disaster relief & would like to feed the FD on June 8 to demonstrate their capability; Charlie will meet with them initially on April 6. Dave Dante to assist and coordinate with department as Public Event lead.

Fire Inspector / Fire Prevention (Al Shjarback):

Part time fire inspector interviews are still in process.

Thanks for help at Blazier Road fire, the cause and origin investigation has completed.. The Loreiro family thanked the emergency responders and they want to feed the FD.

NJ American Water Company are flushing hydrants now.

Radios / Communications (Brian Burkhardt)

Battery Status: low on radio batteries, replaced 2 portables & 7 WV batteries. Radio officer has a device to recondition batteries. B. Burkhardt to line up a battery purchase

Radio Inventory: B. Burkhardt needs serial numbers for portables for Company 2, has most pager inventory but needs a few more.

Life Hazard battery ordering is still assigned to B. Gaiser but radio battery info please forward to B. Burkhardt.

Safety (Mike Dalton)

Traffic safety policy review progress: standstill, TIMS class next month

Overhaul meters: not in the budget, 2 different meters costs approx \$9k, need technical training to use them. Chief will look into asking the County to see if they have the meters and possibly bring meters to the fire scene.

Cancer Prevention: Chief would like any info on this topic

Please use accountability tags when there's a fire call.

Chief Items

Roster: Company #1,2,4 supplied rosters, still need Company 3

Apparatus Replacement: presented plan to the town for three apparatus to be purchased. The response suggested the town is ready to move forward with a Tanker for Co 3 and a Rescue for Co 1. The Chief is working with the two companies to construct a requirements document for each, which will then be sent to vendors for a response. The plan is to select a vendor based on the quality, completeness and cost of the responses (initial targeting of vendors will be based on financial state and business model, as the equipment we purchase is expected to last 20 years and we need the vendors to still be in business for that duration).

Compensation plan: no update

PPE plan: no update, purchasing will occur as soon as budget is available

Radio Replacement: meeting scheduled April 8th

ISO audit completed. Warren was rated a 4 coming into the audit. There were some challenges as the previous audit did not track well with reality. The Fire Department does not have the budget to preplan all commercial structures in town, yet ISO had on record that we did this. The core areas of focus were:

Driver training - we did very well here

Officer development - we had some very well trained officers that earned us points and some untrained officers that brought us down. ISO suggest we may want to align the

Chief Items Continued:

number of officers to the number of properly trained leaders we have in the organization.
Fire Officer 2 likely to be adopted in future audits
Fire Response - we have an active base of 42 firefighters, our turnout at major events was below 50%. This hurt us. The practice of keeping poor response members hurt us in points.
Training- we need to document more training and must not carry members who do not actively participate in training, this was a major issue in this audit
Split rating - Our non-hydrated areas will be rated as a different ISO rating going forward. We need to demonstrate the ability to create sustained fire flows in these areas to earn better ratings. This will require access to the third tanker, more training focus and a review of fill speed.

Preplanning: no update

Technical Rescue: Chief Mitchell asked Co 4 if they would be willing to form a rope rescue team around the crew of Tower -61? Co 1 is focused on vehicle rescue, water/ice rescue, building collapse and hazmat.

Adopted final mutual aid policy: Chief received comments and adopted them

Adopted fire-police policy changes: ordinances were discussed. Proper supervision is needed if they are going to hold a training such as follow the FD guidelines, can't self dispatch, attending calls where the tones have not been called & need to be covered properly with the insurance. State law assigns Fire Police, can't respond to Rt. 78 calls, no more Fire Police Captain since they all report to FD & no hot zones for Fire Police. Chief contacted each Assistant Chief to discuss the ordinance & by laws since they are changing. Further discussion to occur after the meeting to clarify policy changes with AC M. Dalton who didn't have time to review and respond in the weeks prior to the Chief's meeting. Co 1, Co 2 and Co 3 approved changes in the meeting. It was expected that Co 4 would approve immediately after meeting and changes would move forward as there is a 90 day window prior to suspension being re-enacted if changes are not in place for ordinance and bylaws.

Purchasing: budget is expected to be approved by the state in May so then we can start purchasing. Surplus hose need to be redistributed so we can figure out what hose we need to purchase. Get hose inventory reconciled properly.

Blow hard fans having issues, needs service.

Wide area search date will be determined

FD couldn't get acquired structure for training since the owners didn't agree to it.

Chief is encouraging RIC training which is forthcoming.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39pm



Linda Palumbo



Chief Mitchell