

**Northern Monroe County Fire Protection Territory  
Executive Committee Meeting  
NMCFPT-Bloomington Township Station, 5081 N Old State Rd. 37, Bloomington IN  
May 3, 2017 MINUTES**

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm by Barbara Ooley.

Ooley advised that public comment would be limited to 3 minutes and that all questions would be recorded, and a response would be sent out via email.

Introductions of committee members and staff.

Committee Members Present: Geoff McKim (BT), Kim Alexander (BT), Barb Ooley (WT), Clayton Brickert (WT), Mike Baker (WT)

Committee Members Absent: Lillian Henegar (BT)

NMCFPT/BT Staff Present: Lisa Myers, Matt Bright, Joel Bomgardner, Dave Calvin, Legal Counsel Darla Brown

Members of the Public Present: (see attached list)

- 1) Approval of meeting agenda: Barb Ooley pointed out that the next Washington Township Board Meeting would be on June 12<sup>th</sup> not the 11<sup>th</sup> as indicated on the Agenda. Chief Bomgardner pointed out that the I-69 work schedule was emailed and did not need to remain on the agenda. Motion to approve agenda with proposed changes by Kim Alexander with a second by Clayton Brickert. Motion passed.
- 2) Approval of minutes: Motion to Approve April 5, 2017 minutes by Alexander with a second by Brickert. Motion passed.
- 3) **New Business**
  - a. There was no new business
- 4) **Old Business**
  - a. Territory apparatus – Chief Bomgardner advised that only one bid was returned for the invitation to bid for the new engine for Washington Township. After examining the different apparatus manufacturer’s displays at the Fire Department Instructors Conference, it has been decided that better pricing could be obtained if specifications were re-drawn and a new invitation for bids was conducted.
  - b. Property Update – Chief Bomgardner advised he had spoken with Jim Murphy, president of CFC. A meeting has been set for next Thursday May 11<sup>th</sup> concerning property donation of a parcel located on Simpson Chapel Road.
  - c. Building Update – A request for proposals for station construction has been assembled. The intent of the proposal is to identify design, build, and lease contractors who would be able to construct the station. Five potential companies

have been identified. Geoff McKim asked if the proposal would be reviewed by Territory Counsel. Chief Bomgardner advised it would prior to any distribution.

**5) Chief's Report**

- a. Chief Bomgardner provided a summation of the past month's emergency calls. He also noted that overall, emergency responses are lower and at a rate not seen since 2007/2008. Monroe County as a whole is down 3% in the number of calls for service according to Central Dispatch.
- b. New Hire Update – Chief Bomgardner advised that the former IT position had been reworked to include Fire Prevention Duties including public education, inspection, investigation, and plans review. Rusty Clark has been hired to fill this position.
- c. The I-69 updated worksheet was e-mailed to the committee. No discussion.
- d. Chief Bomgardner suggested, and the committee elected to forego the training opportunity in order to move on to public comment.

**6) Public Comment**

- a. Deanne Mechling expressed concern over higher taxes for family members in Washington Township.
- b. Beth Boothby – asked why the tax rates in Washington Township had increased 912%
  - i McKim pointed out how the tax rates were derived, and also outlined the increases specific to the township tax rate for both Washington and Bloomington Townships
- c. Steve Eads – expressed concerns about Cook donating property and Oliver Winery donating sewage service. He believes that these donations should result in lower taxes. He felt that there was insufficient notice of tax increases or the formation of the territory.
  - i Attorney Darla Brown outlined all of the meetings and official notices which had been posted and where they were posted.
  - ii McKim pointed out that the tax rates could in fact go down next year. Part of the reason for the higher tax rates was the need for money to place into reserves for future years. Additionally, income tax revenues should be higher next year, which could reduce property tax rates.

Additionally, he expressed concern regarding the proposed location of a new fire station on the west side of I-69.

- d. Jerry Ayers – asked what the new station is going to cost, and how do we determine a budget and tax rate when we do not know what it is going to cost?
- e. Christine Spurgeon – if the territory wasn't formed until July of 2016 why are taxes being paid now? Additionally, she would like a breakdown of the number of firefighters per population and how it compares to other townships. She believes once I-69 completed access will be better to the west side and questions the need for a station on the other side. Also asked about state income for forested areas.

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- f. Pam Mitchell – feels like tax rate is not so high as compared with Benton, but that homes near Fish and Farr road have overly high assessed valuations. Also suggested looking at tax breaks for forest reserve property if a property owner has over 10 acres.
- g. Chris Mullis – Questioned the difference in the property taxes between Bloomington and Washington Townships
- h. Jason Neal – Asked about whether Washington Township would be paying a contract in 2017, and when it was possible to opt out of the Territory.
- i. Kenny Bryant – Felt that the board was reckless and expressed disappointment in not having been mailed anything.
- j. Darla Myers – Been present at many meetings since territory discussions began, no secret project. Not looking forward to paying more money, but is happy to have services of the Territory.
- k. At the end of the Public Comment, McKim suggested that sending out the detailed Territory budget would be a good idea.

**7) Adjournment**

- a. Motion to adjourn by Brickert, second by Alexander. Meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

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Lillian Henegar, Secretary  
NMCFPT, Executive Committee

Matthew Bright, Deputy Chief