

**Northern Monroe County Fire Protection Territory
Executive Committee Meeting
February 13, 2019 MINUTES**

Meeting called to order and Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 pm by Barb Ooley.

Ooley provided a reminder to attendees about the public speaking policy as adopted by the committee.

Committee Members Present: Barb Ooley (WT), Kim Alexander (BT), Kenny Bryant (WT), Lorraine Merriman Farrell (BT), Geoff McKim (BT), Troy Colvin (WT)

Committee Members Absent: none

NMCFPT/BT Staff Present: Chief Joel Bomgardner, Deputy Chief Matt Bright, Legal Counsel Darla Brown

- 1) **Approval of meeting agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda by Alexander with a second by Lorraine Merriman Farrell. Motion passed.
- 2) **Approval of minutes:** Motion to approve January 9, 2019, minutes by Alexander with a second by Farrell. Motion passed.
- 3) **New Business**
 - a. Station 15 – Alexander reminded the committee about the ending of the current lease on June 30th of this year with month-to-month payments continuing into the future thereafter. She added that the gifted land was also still there and, if not used for a station could be lost. Additionally, Benton Township has expressed interest in possibly joining the Territory. Finally, Alexander pointed out that the occupancy variance which was issued by the county for the temporary station would expire in 2020. Alexander noted that new station construction had been tabled prior to the 2018 election, and asked the members of the committee for their thoughts on moving forward with regard to the construction of a new station in Washington Township.
 - i. Geoff McKim – McKim asked what was budgeted for construction of the station. Alexander advised that the budget line for station payments was \$100,000. McKim then asked about Benton and what the timeline was for changing the membership of the Territory. There was a brief discussion

and it was noted that forming a new territory to possibly include Benton Township would not occur this year but in 2020.

- ii. Lorraine Merriman Farrell – Farrell expressed her support for both maintaining and expanding the Territory if possible. She also added that she was in support of constructing a station on the gifted property, and that she felt like the location was a good one. Finally, she noted that public safety was a prime concern for her, and that she feels like the service provided by the Territory is impressive, should be maintained and expanded if possible.
- iii. Kim Alexander – Alexander advised she is a supporter of the Territory, and also of building a station on the west side of the highway which could reduce response times. She noted that the temporary station has already demonstrated this potential. Finally, she expressed that for reasons of public safety and minimum response times, the residents of Washington Township deserve to have an optimally placed fire station.
- iv. Barb Ooley – Ooley expressed her support for Benton Township joining the Territory, and that she was dismayed when they were not included initially. She added that Benton Township already has all of the infrastructure in place which Washington Township lacked at the onset. She noted this would only help from a financial standpoint, and assist in keeping tax rates at or below current levels. Ooley also iterated concern for the temporary station and the time left on the variance. She advised she has been in contact with Cook Real Estate, and they are curious about the plans for moving forward as they do not want to be caught off guard if the time expires. Ooley pointed out that Oliver (Winery) has offered a sewer connection for the new station at that location which would save the cost of constructing a septic system. Finally, Ooley noted that the committee had worked for almost three years to create the Territory, and to place a fire station in Washington Township which would add protection to the underserved west side of the highway. She would like to see this come to fruition.
- v. Kenny Bryant – Bryant advised that he was not in support of placing a fire station on the donated land. He added that he was not against a fire station, just that he feels it is a horrible place to put it, and does not like having Washington Township's hands tied due to stipulations made by Cook. Bryant suggested that a place farther north would better serve more of Washington Township and that as long as the location was proximal to

an overpass east side versus west side did not make too much of a difference. Bryant added that since the interstate has become substantially complete, property along the corridor is being placed up for sale at a reduced cost. He noted that this option could move the potential station farther north, and result in a reduction in cost, greater construction flexibility, and would potentially be a more fiscally responsible choice.

- a) Farrell asked about whether or not the donated property was central to Washington Township. Bryant advised it was more southern than central, and that on a map, the current temporary station is more centrally located to distribution of households in Washington Township. Farrell followed asking if the Territory had access to data which would indicate where the property is in relation to households. Chief Bomgardner noted that we do, and that this data was looked at when the initial proposals were made. He added that several locations were looked at, and that the proposed location would serve more people within the same five mile radius.
 - b) McKim asked about not being able to build what we need. Bryant advised we do not need a building that will withstand an F-5 tornado with thick walls. He pointed out that around the state there are many stations which have been built, and that we did not need to have a limestone or brick facade on the building. He acknowledged that we need a good building, but noted that the building doesn't do the lifesaving work, the people and the apparatus do that. McKim asked if Cook would be willing to negotiate on some of these issues. Chief Bomgardner could not provide an answer as to whether or not this would be possible. Bryant ended by reiterating that he felt like there was a huge benefit for Cook, and that we would be better off doing our own thing.
- vi. Troy Colvin – Colvin asked if Benton Township were to join the Territory, would two personnel be added to the budget. Chief Bomgardner advised that it would depend on what they wanted. Colvin asked for an estimate of how much this would add to the budget. Chief Bomgardner suggested a ballpark figure of approximately \$450,000 for 6 additional personnel, and noted that Deputy Chief Bright had been looking at the numbers. Deputy Chief Bright suggested that \$450,000 may be a low estimate of the cost.

Bryant added that if Benton was to join, this may result in a change in the placement of a proposed station so that everyone is best served. Chief Bomgardner agreed that this was a possibility. McKim suggested that further discussions could happen after hearing comments, and that maps could be put together and presented in upcoming meetings. Chief Bomgardner noted that he felt that differences between the temporary station location and the donated property location were minimal in terms of response time. There was a short discussion about locations, and Bryant suggested that working with Peggy Mayfield may help. He also noted that there is a lot of property becoming available. Alexander asked if Bryant would be willing to get more information and bring it back to the committee. Darla Brown asked about issues with karst features. Chief Bomgardner advised that this is a concern with any property.

- vii. There was a short discussion about Benton Township. Alexander advised that she had been in conversation with Benton. McKim asked if it would be possible to have a timeline for the re-formation of a territory.

4) Updates and Reports

- a. Bloomington Township Trustee Report – Alexander expressed appreciation for the upgrades which have occurred in the Station 5 training room, and pointed out the new screens and the improved ability to share information with the public. Chief Bomgardner pointed out that not only was it good for these meetings, but also for the modular training style which is currently being used in classes.
- b. Chief's Report – Chief Bomgardner provided a summation of the calls for January 2019.
- c. Deputy Chief Bright provided a summation of training for the period as well as a short discussion about fire safety inspections conducted during the month.
- d. Other notable department information including grants and equipment which have been received during the month was discussed, specifically the Smithville Foundation Grant. He noted that the \$25,000 grant funded new electric Positive Pressure Ventilation fans, (4) F.L.I.R cameras, bullet proof vests, and a new five-gas meter have been ordered.
- e. Chief Bomgardner provided the requested breakdown of calls by type within Washington Township.
- f. Training opportunity for the month: The new department video, prepared by Public Information Officer Jason Allen was previewed by the committee and members of the public who were present. The video was well received.

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- g. Bryant expressed appreciation for breaking out the numbers for Washington Township.

5) Public Comment

- a. There were no public comments.

6) Committee Comments

- a. There were no committee comments.

7) Adjournment

- a. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bryant with a second by Alexander. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Kim Alexander, Secretary
NMCFT, Executive Committee

Matthew Bright, Deputy Chief