

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

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

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

Committee Members Absent: Geoff McKim (BT)

NMCFPT/BT Staff Present: Chief Joel Bomgardner, Deputy Chief Matt Bright, Deputy Chief Dave Calvin, Lisa Myers

- 1) **Approval of meeting agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda by Kim Alexander with a second by Lorraine Merriman Farrell. Motion passed.
- 2) **Approval of minutes:** Motion to approve February 13, 2019, minutes by Kenny Bryant with a second by Alexander. Motion passed.
- 3) **New Business**
 - a. Station 15 – Chief Bomgardner advised that he had brought the Marplot maps as requested by the Committee. A list of all of the properties which were originally considered for the Washington Township station was also presented to the Committee.
 - b. A presentation was prepared for the Committee in order to outline the current status of the entire proposed Station 15 project.
 - i. Chief Bomgardner outlined the project history since the early beginnings of the Territory. He included the original attempt to acquire the bus garage on Lee Paul road, along with a short discussion of all of the properties which were on the given list.
 - ii. Deputy Chief Bright then went through the Marplot maps which outlined population and housing units within a five mile radius of various locations along the I-69 corridor. He noted that as the locations moved north and east, the population numbers and housing units within the radii decreased. The decrease, he added, was congruent with the presence of the Morgan Monroe State Forest in that area.
 - iii. Deputy Chief Bright pointed out that the original directive from the Executive Committee to the fire department was that no conventional loans were to be obtained in order to finance new station construction. With that

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in mind, several avenues, including grants and low interest loans from the USDA, were examined in order to finance the building through the regular operations budget for the Territory. Ultimately the result of these investigations identified the possibility of the public-private partnership or BOT financing for the project.

- a) Bryant asked if his understanding was correct that the financing would not be done with a bank, but rather the construction company.
 - b) Barb Ooley noted that the issue wasn't so much with a loan as it was that they did not want to issue a bond because that would impose an additional tax on Washington Township residents.
 - c) Chief Bomgardner added that this process allowed longer than the five years to pay off the debt. This would not be possible with a conventional bond. He also added that the contractor had offered the Territory 3-4% interest terms, which the contractor had procured as a loan from a bank as well. He noted that the contractor's profit came from the construction of the facility, and not from financing.
- iv. Deputy Chief Bright then outlined the process which followed once the decision to pursue a public private partnership had been made. He noted that the original request for proposals included a fire station that was around 10,000 square feet, and constructed of reinforced masonry materials in order to provide maximum strength and weather resistance. The original proposed cost for this facility was over \$2,000,000. He then pointed out that after discussion with the Technical Review Committee, the Executive Committee, and receiving public comment and feedback, many changes were made. Those included reducing 3,000 square feet from the total, removal of the trustee's office and meeting space, and changing the exterior construction from reinforced masonry to wood stud walls with a tie down added in to maintain higher wind resistance. The result of these changes was a cost reduction to approximately \$1.2 million.
- v. Deputy Chief Bright then went through additional maps which provided an overlay of five mile radii from each station. The maps included Station 5, Station 14, as well as current and proposed Station 15 and one with no Station 15.
- vi. Chief Bomgardner concluded with a summary of the presentation and current status, and provided the committee with a binder which contained the presentation, BOT financing proposal, original RFP, and original and current blueprint copies. He then asked what additional information the Committee needed, and what it would take to make a permanent fire station in Washington Township a reality.

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- a) Alexander asked Bryant if he had been able to speak with Peggy Mayfield regarding potential properties. He advised that he had, and that he had followed up with INDOT. He hoped to receive a list of potential properties within the next week or so, but at least by the next meeting.
- b) Colvin asked if there was any information about Benton Township and the Territory.
 - i. Bryant asked about the current (Benton) volunteer station and whether it was adequate. Chief Bomgardner noted that while the station may need to change somewhat, it would remain in its current location.
- c) Public Comment / Inquiry: Marty Spechler asked as to whether there was a possibility for improved access to I-69 for emergency vehicles. Bryant noted that this had happened elsewhere. Spechler added his concerns for placing a facility in a location which was appropriate in order to save lives along the interstate.
- d) Lorraine Merriman Farrell asked a follow up question about the access possibility. There was a short discussion about the current emergency access road near the Monroe/Green county line. Chief Bomgardner added that he had drafted a letter to INDOT requesting a similar access which was denied.

4) Updates and Reports

- a. Bloomington Township Trustee Report – Alexander noted that Darla Brown was not in attendance but had asked that she inform the Committee that research regarding Benton Township potentially joining the territory was ongoing.
 - i. Bryant asked how far the discussions had gone with regards to cost implications, including the potential tax impacts, etc. Alexander and Ooley advised that these discussions would occur much later in the process. While the possibility of joining had been discussed, there have been no further discussions.
- b. Chief's Report – Chief Bomgardner provided a summation of the calls for February 2019.
- c. Deputy Chief Calvin outlined the trainings which were conducted and attended by fire department personnel.
- d. Chief Bomgardner concluded with the report of fire safety inspections conducted, status of grants which have been received by the department, and a breakdown of activity in Washington Township as requested by the Committee.

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- i. Ooley asked if there were any programs in place for a resident to request a fire safety inspection.
- ii. Chief Bomgardner advised that the Monroe County Risk Reduction committee in conjunction with the Commissioners is working towards a web request for this sort of inspection which would be automatically directed to the appropriate fire department for follow up. It was also noted by staff that personnel regularly look for smoke detector issues, and will place them free of charge when needed. Chief Bomgardner then pointed out the relationship with American Red Cross, and several smoke detector blitzes which the department participated in.

5) Public Comment

- a. Marty Spechler inquired about the car accidents which were reported, and asked how many of them occurred on I-69. Chief Bomgardner advised three, or roughly half.
- b. Spechler discussed his previous experience and concerns with having smoke detectors properly functioning in student housing, and urged the department to make sure that any detectors in multi-family dwellings are inspected.

6) Committee Comments

- a. There were no Committee comments.

7) Adjournment

- a. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Alexander with a second by Bryant. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:36 pm.

Kim Alexander, Secretary
NMCFT, Executive Committee

Matthew Bright, Deputy Chief