

Northern Monroe County Fire Territory

Executive Committee Meeting

NMCFT-Bloomington Township Station, 5087 N Old State Rd. 37, Bloomington IN.

August 30, 2016, 5:30pm

MINUTES

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

NMCFT/BT Staff Present: Lisa Myers, Matt Bright, Joel Bomgardner, Dave Calvin, Faron Livingston

Members of the Public Present: Denny Nickless, Andy Spriggs

- 1) Introductions were made in effort to become better acquainted with each other. When introducing themselves, everyone answered the question, "What I did last Saturday."
- 2) Kim Alexander motioned that "Approval of Minutes" be added to tonight's Agenda. Lillian Henegar made the motion and Kim Alexander seconded. All in Favor.

Alexander made a motion to approve minutes of the July 22nd meeting of the NMCFT Executive Committee and Mike Baker seconded. All in Favor.

- 3) Fire Chief Joel Bomgardner presented the top 4 submissions for a Territory logo for equipment and uniforms. These were submitted by Territory staff and volunteers. A contest was held to create the new logo with a paid day off or equivalent being the prize. Committee members agreed that all examples were of good design with some being more economical in approach. Committee members recommended that the members of the Fire Department select the emblem.
- 4) Henegar presented an over view of the Fire Territory portion of the 2017 Bloomington Township budget.
 - a. **Salary overview:** Henegar presented the factors that go into setting the salaries, which have the greatest impact on the annual budget. The proposed salary structure for the new Territory was also presented. Lisa Myers stated that the goal of the new salary proposal was to create a little more spread between pay rates. If accepted, while the new structure is an effort to standardize salaries and a differential between ranks, percent increases for individual 2017 salaries would vary; while in 2018 and on, annual across-the-board increases would be implemented. Discussion ensued.

- b. **Territory Equipment Replacement Fund:** Henegar explained that the tax rate cannot exceed .0333, which is the same amount used throughout the Territory formation meetings.
- c. **Budget Form 4-B; Budget Estimate of Funds To Be Raised And Proposed Tax Rates:** Mike Baker asked about the service contract amount with Benton Township. Benton Township will contract for 2017 with the Fire Territory to provide fire and emergency services for \$130,000, which is a 45.8% increase from 2016's contract. Baker stated that he was not comfortable subsidizing Benton since they opted not to join the Fire Territory. To clear up a common misunderstanding, Henegar explained that it was Bloomington Township's decision not to continue going forward with Benton. Henegar further stated that Benton cannot afford more than the 2017 contract amount; it is hoped that that Township will join the Territory in a few years. Ooley pointed out that, even with the new Territory, Bloomington Township still subsidizes Washington Township.
- d. **Operating Balance:** During the first year of the Territory, the law allows the Territory to build its cash reserves, or operating balance. This enables the Territory to have a cash "cushion" for years to come.

5) Updates and Reports

- a. During June 2016, the members of the Monroe County Local Income Tax Councilⁱ established a Public Safety Local Income Tax (PS LOIT). Of the revenue raised by this tax, 30% will be dedicated to fully fund the emergency response system of Monroe County, aka Central Dispatch. Of the remaining revenue, the Council can distribute a portion to fire departments serving the unincorporated areas of the county. Washington Township and Bloomington Township each requested funds from the PS LOIT for 2017. The Council recommended granting Washington Township \$50,000 for the acquisition and development of a fire station in the Township. It also recommended granting \$25,000 to Bloomington Township for its fire prevention program. There is some question as to whether these funds can be granted to Washington since the law is written in such a way as to provide for fire departments (WT is not the provider unit for the Territory). Ooley stated she had consulted with senior DLGF staff and attorney Steve Buschmann; she emphasized that they would seek help in ensuring these funds are allocated for a station in Washington. Other funding sources for the establishment of the fire station will also be sought. The law does not allow a fire territory to hold title to property. It is the Trustee's intention that Washington Township will own the property.

- b. Mike Baker and Faron Livingston provided an update on the property search for a location for a fire station in Washington Township. They have investigated various sites.

6) Public Comment

- a. Denny Nickless asked two questions. The first question was “has the tax rate been set?” Henegar answered, no, because we’re still in the budget preparation process; it will not be final until the beginning of 2017 when the State notifies the Township what that rate is. All we have now are estimates.
- b. The second question was “How big a fire station is being planned?” Livingston answered that it would have to accommodate an Engine, Tanker, Brush Truck and Rescue. Locating and developing the fire station continued to be discussed.
- c. Another question concerned the provision of fire and emergency services throughout the county. Discussion ensued regarding the various townships in Monroe County and how they provide Fire and EMS protection to their residents.

7) Adjournment

- a. Alexander made a motion to adjourn and McKim seconded. All in favor.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 7:40p.m.

Barb Ooley-NMCFT Secretary

ⁱ Monroe County Local Income Tax Council members are Bloomington City Council, Monroe County Council, Ellettsville Town Council, and Stinesville Town Board.