

Minutes from the Joint Meeting of the
BOROUGH COUNCIL OF GREENCASTLE
and ANTRIM TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
with RESCUE HOSE CO. NO. 1

August 12, 2020

6:30 PM

A joint meeting was held on August 12, 2020 at the Rescue Hose Multi-purpose room located at 842 S. Washington Street, Greencastle, PA, with the following present:

Borough of Greencastle: Steven Miller, President; Larry Faight, Vice President; H. Duane Kinzer; Joel Amsley; Wade Burkholder; Emilee Little, Lorraine Hohl, Borough Manager; and Benjamin Thomas Jr., Mayor.

Antrim Township: John Alleman, Vice Chairman; Fred Young; Rick Baer; Chad Murray; Brad Graham, Administrator; and Jennifer Becknell, recording secretary.

Rescue Hose Company: Kevin Barns, Fire Chief; Bill Hull, Trustee; Tim Myers, Trustee; Ted Meminger, Trustee and Chairman of the Personnel Committee; Cheryl Mowen, President; Rich Wertman, EMS Chief; Tyler Myers, Assist. Fire Chief; and Alison Luger, Vice President.

The joint meeting was called to order by John Alleman and Steven Miller at 6:35 PM.

Alleman stated the purpose of this called public meeting was to hear an updated presentation from Rescue Hose concerning funding requests for paid supervisor and paid firefighters, and for the two local governments to decide how to fund these requests being presented.

Alleman turned the meeting over to Cheryl Mowen, who introduced all the members of Rescue Hose who were in attendance.

The invocation was given by Brad Graham followed by group reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Ted Meminger took the podium to review the updated report, allowing for questions and comments while being discussed. Meminger stated that the request for financial assistance will begin in year 2021 to allow for the Township and Borough to budget the money being requested and will extend in to 2021 for full implementation of hiring necessary staff.

Kevin Barns spoke to the staffing shortage, explaining there is no crystal ball to know what the call volume will be, but need to be ready at all times. It was stated that Rescue Hose is one of the few fire companies that hasn't had to utilize paid staffing hours.

Cheryl Mowen mentioned that COVID-19 has further diminished the volunteerism, which was already suffering.

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Tim Myers addressed the question of revenue sources for Rescue Hose by stating that Rescue Hose is ultimately operating off proceeds from their investments, but also receive donations from the public, Township and Borough. When asked, Myers stated that most of the Rescue Hose investments are at Orrstown Bank, with some at F&M Trust.

Rich Wertman spoke to the steadily increasing cost of equipment, the significantly higher call volumes and potential impact of the new warehouses being built.

It was asked that if the funding being requested in the presentation by both local governments was in addition to the annual donations that are currently being budgeted for, and the response was yes.

Ted Meminger thanked both the Borough and Township for attending the meeting.

The question was proposed if there should be some type of “contractual” agreement with Rescue Hose to provide EMS/Fire service. After some discussion, it was decided that there was no need to create a formal contract and that operations could continue as usual as both parties were satisfied with the reporting practices regarding revenue and expenditures.

The meeting then turned to discussion among the Borough and Township on various topics relating to how to fund the requests presented, touching on Fire Tax, a Fee and utilizing Cash Balance reserves.

The Borough of Greencastle unanimously approved a motion to support the funding request proposed by implementing a Fire Tax, with the caveat that the Borough still needs to work the request in to and approve their 2021 budget.

The Township stated that they previously discussed and are in full support of the funding request through their General Fund and will put the necessary figures in the budget for 2021.

Benjamin Thomas, Jr. made closing remarks stating that both local governments should be in contact with the Governor to work toward changing the county code.

A motion by Rick Baer and H. Duane Kinzer passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Becknell,
Recording Secretary