

**YORK AREA UNITED FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 18, 2025
APPROVED**

The York Area United Fire and Rescue Commission held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at YAUFRR Headquarters, 50 Commons Drive, York PA

MEMBERS IN

ATTENDANCE: Dan Rooney, Chairman, Spring Garden Township
Thomas Gwilt, Secretary, Spring Garden Township
Mark Swomley, Citizen-at-Large
George Dvoryak, Springettsbury Township
Craig Miller, Manchester Township
Harry Long, Manchester Township

NOT PRESENT: Deb McCune, Vice Chairperson, Manchester Township
Don Bishop, Springettsbury Township

ALSO IN

ATTENDANCE: Daniel Hoff, YAUFRR Chief
Walter Tilley, Solicitor
Lester Rhoads, YAUFRR
YAUFRR Battalion Chiefs and Firefighters
Sue Sipe, Stenographer

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Opening Ceremony

ROONEY Chairperson Rooney called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Employee Recognitions

HOFF Chief Hoff welcomed family members, friends and department personnel for attending the annual Employee Recognition program to take part in acknowledging efforts of the YAUFRR staff.

Recognition of firefighters who have achieved a significant anniversary or award:

5 Years of Service

Firefighter Brian Bosserman

Firefighter John Findley

Firefighter Andrew Pennington

Firefighter Adam Potter

Battalion Chief Scott Ryno – 5 years in 2023 but was accidentally missed in 2024

Recognition of Staff who completed Fire Officer Designation through the Commission on Professional Credentialing

Battalion Chief Matt Russ

Battalion Chief Todd Heilman

Chief Fire Officer Designation

Battalion Chief Matt Russ
Firefighter Nick Serikstad

Fire Chief's Commendation

Battalion Chief Joe Madzellan

Battalion Chief Award

Firefighter Austin Little

Fire Chief's Award

Lieutenant Celeste Jones

Chief Hoff introduced Battalion Chief Keith Cerzullo, who joined YAUFRR following his retirement from Fairfax County Fire Department on a part-time basis.

Chief Hoff acknowledged the skills and talents of the YAUFRR team. He stated it is an honor and a privilege to be their Chief.

ROONEY Chairman Rooney acknowledged Chief Hoff for his many accomplishments and great leadership of the YAUFRR team. He provided a history of Chief Hoff's background, including his educational background, professional affiliations and his many years of service with the fire department. He presented Chief Hoff with a Certificate of Recognition for his dedication and service with over 28 years in the career fire service. He also presented him with a token of appreciation.

HOFF Chief Hoff expressed his appreciation and thanked everyone for supporting him and the YAUFRR team.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

ROONEY Chairman Rooney announced there would be an Executive Session following the meeting to discuss collective bargaining.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

4. MANAGEMENT/ATTORNEY REPORTS

A. Solicitor Tilley

Solicitor Tilley had no additional report.

B. Daniel Hoff, Fire Chief

- HOFF** Chief Hoff announced Friday, April 11, 18 and 25 Spring Burns will be held at the York County Fire School in Manchester Township. He invited the commissioners to attend and participate in one of the sessions.
- DVORYAK** Mr. Dvoryak stated he saw an article in the news recently about a state agency which awarded grants to fire companies in Pennsylvania .
- HOFF** Chief Hoff stated it is the State Fire Commissioner’s Grant program and YAUFRR will be receiving \$20,000. He noted they were also successful in helping Springettsbury Township Volunteer Fire Company, Alert Fire Company and Victory Fire Company obtaining the same amount for their grants.
- DVORYAK** Mr. Dvoryak further noted the article referred to merged fire companies who can apply for additional funds.
- HOFF** Chief Hoff indicated the rules were recently changed to allow merged fire companies a longer period of time to apply and potentially receive up to \$60,000.
- DVORYAK** Mr. Dvoryak inquired about the incident report which reflected a request to take a look at provided resources.
- HOFF** Chief Hoff indicated he and Chief Madzellan were involved in a conversation with the records management vendor regarding a report which is generated but is not providing the information accurately, since there is a glitch in the system. He noted they are waiting for the vendor to correct it.
- DVORYAK** Mr. Dvoryak referred to Chief Hoff’s report on call volumes within the YAUFRR “first due area”.
- HOFF** Chief Hoff indicated that refers to the three charter townships.
- DVORYAK** Mr. Dvoryak inquired about the update which referred to a meeting held with four prolific users of YAUFRR resources.
- HOFF** Chief Hoff stated they met with the chief from York Township, the chief and a board member from Conewago Township, as well as conversations with the chiefs from Mt. Wolf and Manchester Borough. The discussions entailed the need to control their use of YAUFRR’s units, recognizing they are stand-alone departments with one station and do not have the resources, but need to understand YAUFRR’s first priority is to the charter municipalities. He noted these discussions are on-going.
- DVORYAK** Mr. Dvoryak asked if there was an agreement reached with Manchester Township on their collective bargaining.
- HOFF** Chief Hoff stated the agreement was reached in October 2024.
- DVORYAK** Mr. Dvoryak referred to three firefighter positions approved at the January Commission meeting. He asked if they are positions to fill the contract agreement.

HOFF Chief Hoff stated for that contract there were no additional personnel, the plan will be once they finish their training they will help constitute the three person staff on the ladder truck through reconfiguration of personnel.

5. ACCOUNTS PAYABLES

A. Payable Listing as of January 31, 2025

MR. DVORYAK MOVED TO APPROVE THE PAYABLE LISTING AS OF JANUARY 31, 2025. MR. MILLER WAS SECOND. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

6. BIDS, PROPOSALS & CONTRACTS

There were none.

7. COMMUNICATION FROM COMMISSIONERS

MILLER Mr. Miller introduced Harry Long as the Alternate from Manchester Township.

ROONEY Chairman Rooney noted there was a First Responders appreciation breakfast at St. Andrews Church on Saturday February 8, 2025. There were approximately 40-50 attendees.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Volunteer Committee

No report.

B. Personnel Committee

Upon discussion it was determined an agreement was reached to move forward with the job descriptions with final action to be placed on the agenda for the March meeting.

9. RESOLUTIONS AND AGREEMENTS

There were none.

10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 21, 2025

MR. DVORYAK MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 2025 FOR THE COMMISSION MEETING AS AMENDED. MR. GWILT WAS SECOND. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

11. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discuss: Charter Agreement Amendment

ROONEY Chairman Rooney stated the charter agreement amendment was deferred to the March meeting. A report was generated by Chief Hoff and his team to pull data to include population, households, square miles, population per square mile, daytime population, worker population, daytime residential population, and call volume for the last three years for each of the municipalities. This information was distributed to the Commissioners. Chairman Rooney stated the data created could serve as a model to create other data.

Discussion was held regarding increases in call volume.

DVORYAK Mr. Dvoryak referred to a previous report regarding fire department mergers. He believed the findings of the report revealed that call volume is a small percentage of what should steer a funding formula. He noted the only time the call volume comes in is when there are variable costs.

HOFF Chief Hoff stated he would research the reports that were referred to but he did not believe the referenced study was relative to Manchester Township joining YAUFRR.

B. Discuss: Strategic Plan Draft

Mr. Whitmore indicated he met with Chief Hoff and the Battalion Chiefs and they helped completed the critical tasks and the objective leads to complete the plan.

HOFF Chief Hoff stated the document is ready in draft format.

Discussion was held regarding Goal #5 - EMS Service Goal 5, and included discussion concerning the survey results relating to EMS calls. Mr. Dvoryak noted Springettsbury Township is outsourced to an ambulance company. He asked about the process for Manchester and Spring Garden as to how that would be handled. He considered the possibility that when the survey was conducted the ballot box may have been stuffed since he surmised some of the survey results reflected information that a resident would not ordinarily know.

Discussion was held determining if the Commission is in favor of keeping the current system of YAUFRR staff answering all EMS calls. It was recommended to obtain internal data relating to how many calls they respond to including data on First Capital and Life Team.

It was recommended to defer the action on the Strategic Plan for the next meeting.

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discuss/Approve: Billing and Cost Recovery Ordinance Draft

TILLEY Solicitor Tilley stated the goal of the ordinance is to provide authorization for YAUFRR to seek reimbursement for costs for emergency responses. He noted the way insurance

companies accept those types of invoices is if the municipality where the event occurs, authorizes it by ordinance. Solicitor Tilley stated he drafted an ordinance that authorizes YAUFRR to collect and be reimbursed for emergency services they provide. He indicated he did not limit it to YAUFRR but referenced emergency service providers generically. If adopted it would be not only apply for YAUFRR, but also for any emergency service provider in the Township. He noted it also defines what an emergency service provider is, so any other emergency service provider or other ambulance EMS service can rely on the ordinance to collect for the services billed. The ordinance provides that the billing rate is set by the emergency service provider.

A lengthy discussion ensued. Solicitor Tilley stated the approval is for the draft of the ordinance be passed onto the individual municipalities for review and adoption. Once approved by the municipalities, it then gives the authority to the YAUFRR Commission to invoice as appropriate. He further noted the insurance company will pay what the individual municipality authorizes YAUFRR to bill.

MR. SWOMLEY MOVED TO APPROVE FORWARDING THE BILLING AND COST RECOVERY ORDINANCE DRAFT TO EACH OF THE MUNICIPALITIES. MR. MILLER WAS SECOND. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

- B. Acknowledge: Receipt of Auditor General’s FF Cash Balance Pension Plan Compliance Report
- C. Acknowledge: Receipt of Auditor General’s Admin Cash Balance Pension Plan Compliance Report

MR. SWOMLEY MOVED TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL’S FIREFIGHTER AND ADMIN CASH BALANCE PENSION PLAN COMPLIANCE REPORTS. MR. DVORAK WAS SECOND. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

13. ADJOURNMENT

ROONEY Chairman Rooney adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file at YAUFRR Headquarters

Thomas Gwilt
Secretary/ses