

**UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP**  
**FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES BOARD**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**  
**JANUARY 9, 2018**

The Upper Merion Township Fire and Rescue Services Board (FRSB) met for its regularly scheduled meeting on January 9, 2018; in the Administrative Conference Room in the Upper Merion Township Building. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by a pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**ROLL CALL:**

The following members of the FRSB were present: Bernie Gutkowski, Chairman; Chief Dennis Orangers, Vice-Chair, Swedeland Fire Company; Chief Jerry Recupido, Swedesburg Fire Company; Chief Ed Martin, Lafayette Ambulance; Mark Forster, King of Prussia Fire Company; Charles Rossi, Secretary; Chief Tom Nolan, Upper Merion Township Department of Public Safety; Deputy Fire Marshal William Daywalt, Staff Liaison; Bill Jenaway, Board of Supervisors Liaison; and Nick Hiriak, Upper Merion Township Finance Director.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion to approve the November 14, 2017 meeting minutes was made by Chief Orangers, and seconded by Chief Martin. All were in favor.

**REORGANIZATION:**

- A motion was made by Chief Orangers to elect Mr. Gutkowski as Chairman. The motion was seconded by Mr. Forster. All were in favor.
- A motion was made by Chief Recupido to elect Chief Orangers as Vice-Chairman. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rossi. All were in favor.
- A motion was made by Chief Recupido to elect Mr. Rossi as Secretary. The motion was seconded by Chief Orangers. All were in favor.

FRSB meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of the month in: March, May, July, September, and November.

**PENSION PROGRAM PRESENTATION:**

Mr. Hiriak attended the FRSB meeting to present information regarding the volunteer pension program. He explained that the pension may be accessed in the event of death, or if a member retires from the volunteer service. If a volunteer draws on the pension they may continue to volunteer, but can no longer take part in the pension program. The chiefs will bring this information to their respective stations, as well as draft an official policy to present to the Board of Supervisors.

**2018 BUDGET:**

The 2018 Budget was presented with a 3.5% increase in funds from the 2017 budget total. Chief Recupido made a motion to split the 3.5% increase among the three fire companies as follows: 40% to King of Prussia and 30% to both Swedeland and Swedesburg. The motion was seconded by Chief Martin, and all were in favor.

Mr. Forster motioned to have the Township relieve the Relief Association of the responsibility of paying for Workman's Compensation for volunteers due to a reduction in state allocations. The motion was seconded by Chief Orangers, and all were in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Chief Nolan was welcomed to the FRSB and reported that staff is creating the job description for the new Township Fire Chief's Position.

The chiefs distributed lists of their respective line officers for 2018. King of Prussia is experiencing a shortage of officers due to qualified volunteers moving out of the area.

King of Prussia had one firefighter suffer minor injuries on a call. Chief Martin reported that 317-3 was involved in an accident while transporting a patient, but no injuries were sustained.

Montgomery County will be using closest company dispatch on priority one calls, and will use GPS to define which organizations will respond.

The FRSB discussed how to start the volunteer stipend program. Someone from each organization will have to manage the quarterly allocation from the Township, and can seek advice from King of Prussia who has already implemented a stipend program.

**LIAISON REPORTS:****Board of Supervisors Liaison's Report:**

Supervisor Jenaway reported that the current FRSB ordinance will be changed in the near future and that the mission of the board will be put into writing.

**Staff Liaison's Report:**

Deputy Fire Marshal William Daywalt reported on response statistics and monthly activity reports for the months of November and December. He also explained that he will meet with the county to finalize the MDC project.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next regular meeting of the Upper Merion Township Fire and Rescue Services Board is scheduled for March 13, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. in the Administrative Conference Room of the Township Building.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm.

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Charles Rossi, Secretary

Sms

Minutes Approved:

Minutes Entered: