

CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP FIRE BOARD

8230 OLD YORK ROAD – ELKINS PARK, PA. 19027

January 6, 2022

The regular meeting of the Cheltenham Township Fire Board was held via zoom on Thursday January 6, 2022.

In attendance, via zoom were Glenside Fire Company Chief John McHugh, La Mott Fire Company Chief Kevin Lynch, Elkins Park Fire Company Chief Brian Levy, Elkins Park Fire Company President Mike Wolk, Cheltenham Fire Company Chief Chris Drach, Cheltenham Township Fire Marshal Scott Lynch, Cheltenham Police Lieutenant Dan Farley, Board of Commissioner's President Dan Norris, Mitch Zygmund-Felt, Ann Rappaport and Matt Aremen.

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Fire Marshal Lynch called the meeting to order at 19:04.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Chief Lynch and second by Chief Levy to approve the November 4, 2021 minutes. Motion carried.

4. CORRESPONDENCE:

- None

5. REPORT OF THE FIRE MARSHAL:

- Ashbourne Meadows ... 2ND set of town houses is completed is the process of final inspections, 3rd set of town houses in framing process currently. Construction completed on 5 SFD.
- February 2022 Cheltenham Township will be adopting the 2018 International Codes by resolution.
- Please have your Emergency Reporting done weekly.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Training Grounds:

- Progress

b. Operational Policies: None

c. MC Emergency Services Trunked Radio System Update: None

d. Cheltenham Township Water Rescue Task Force:

- Chief Lynch reported that the team leaders are working on a Township wide Operations Level training, some equipment has been purchased and currently on Big Blue.

e. Glenside Fire Company update on talks with the former OFC:

- Chief McHugh and Bob Chairlonza discussed GFC rendering into a lease agreement with the former OFC regarding the Air Truck. GFC now has possession of the air truck and is housing this piece of apparatus at GFC. GFC will maintain and have re-lettered shortly. Chief McHugh will further discuss with other Chiefs how they would like to have this on the current Box Cards. President Wolk mentioned that this may not be a good idea with the pending litigation between the former OFC and the Township. Chief Drach commented that this discussion should go back to the former OFC and the Township and reminded all that the only jurisdiction Fire Board has is the dispatch procedures. President Norris questioned who approves the purchasing of apparatus? Chief Drach informed all that each individual Fire Company is responsible for their apparatus. Commissioner Aremen commented that he thinks

this is a good idea. President Norris asked Fire Marshal Lynch to contact the Township's Solicitor and make them aware of this purchase. Chief Lynch commented that he is not approving any box changes until the Township's Solicitor signs off on this. Chief Lynch further commented to Chief McHugh that GFC should have notified the other Chiefs prior to this purchase; Chief McHugh agreed that an email should have been sent and will be in the future.

f. Maintenance Program:

- Chief Levy questioned the release of the previously approved money for the maintenance expenses and the recruitment and retention to the Fire Companies. Commissioner Zygmund-Felt was under the impression these monies were released and will make sure this this funding is released. Commissioner Zygmund-Felt will add this to the Public Safety agenda.

7. NEW BUSINESS: None

8. COMPANY REPORTS:

- **GLENSIDE:** Chief McHugh reported:
 - One new member this month and 1 additional members in process
 - Ladder 1 is back in service
- **LA MOTT:** Chief Lynch reported:
 - Membership campaign is moving forward, voted 1 new member in at December meeting, 3 applications to vote on at January meeting.
 - LFC is working on a Long Term Plan and looking into hiring a full time Fire Fighter.
- **ELKINS PARK:** Chief Levy reported:
 - 4 new members are starting Fire I at Bucks
 - New Officers for 2022, added a Safety Officer, will provide list to FM for distribution.
- **CHELTENHAM:** Chief Drach reported:
 - Progress

9. POLICE DEPARTMENT: No report

10. EMS: Director Hellendall reported: No report

11. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: EMC Hellendall Reported:

- COVID in rise again, please wear masks.

12. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

- Commissioner Rappaport thanked the Fire Marshal and the Property Maintenance Department for handling an elevator issue at Parkview of Elkins Park (1990 Ashbourne Road).
- President Norris expressed ongoing support for all of the volunteers.
- Commissioner Zygmund-Felt the releasing of Federal Funds for different purposes, will send information to the Fire Marshal for distribution.
- Commissioner Aremen commended all Fire Companies for their efforts in recruitment of new members. Commissioner Aremen also commended GFC for having the 1st female officer in the history of the fire company, Amber Glenning, Asst. Engineer.

13. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Commissioner Zygmund-Felt discussed concern from Township Officials regarding the "Thin red line" flags displayed on apparatus. Commissioner Zygmund-Felt further discussed a conversation he had with the Fire Marshal and he was informed by the Fire Marshal that this was nothing more than a symbol of support to all Fire Fighters, and he had received nothing but positive feedback. Commissioner Zygmund-Felt mentioned that there should be a statement from Fire Board presented at the January 12, 2022 Public Safety Meeting. Commissioner Rappaport discussed the research she did on the thin red line. Commissioner Rappaport asked why Fire Companies adopted the thin red

line. Chief Lynch explained that red signifies fire with no political agenda and this is not meant to upset anyone. President Wolk read a statement further explaining the thin red line and explained the courage behind it. Commissioner Rappaport commented that she appreciated the explanation but did not appreciate the defensiveness of the explanation. Commissioner Zygmund-Felt stated that he brought this to Fire Board to understand the use of this symbol and what it represents and the public should be aware of the use and it is for all the right reasons. Commissioner Aremen discussed the fact that symbols mean different things to different people and people are very passionate and believes that integrity was not questioned, just the use of the symbol and what this symbol stands for. Commissioner Aremen further commented that there needs to be discussion about this. Chief McHugh asked to have an explanation put on the website.

14. NEXT MEETING:

- The next scheduled meeting for Fire Board will be on Thursday February 3, 2022 7:00 pm, **via ZOOM.**

15. ADJOURNMENT:

- There being no further business a motion was made by Chief Lynch with a 2nd by Chief Drach to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 19:55.

As recorded by:

Scott P. Lynch

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Fire Marshal