

MINUTES OF THE WAYNE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WORK SESSION REGARDING FIRE DEPARTMENT
MAY 24, 2022

The scheduled work session began at 7:00 pm.

Ms. Colvin-present; Mr. Patrick-present; Mr. Jacobs-present.

The following were present: Gus Edwards, Administrator; Paul Scherer, Fire Chief; Tom Carter; Dave Dowell; Tanner Patterson, Cody Smeltzer; Matt Mumma; Megan Jordan; Alex Becker; and Jeff Patton

Paul Scherer, Fire Chief, stated that the reason for this session was to discuss the history, future, and staffing for the fire department. He read the Fire Department mission statement for those in attendance. Resources are needed to provide the services that residents expect and deserve. He stated that the department has a great ISO rating. There was open discussion and explanation to all in attendance on what all is encompassed with this Insurance rating.

He continued to explain staffing and department operation. Volunteer firefighting is on a downward trend nationwide, as well as in the township. He explained that the Wayne Township fire department is used as a steppingstone to career positions elsewhere. There was discussion about future staffing needs due to members leaving the fire department. There have been several long-time community members who have retire and many of our younger career-oriented members are now moving on filling all the vacant fulltime roles in other departments. This is a complete turnaround from a generation ago.

Chief Scherer explained that call volume has been increasing over time and reviewed all the steps that have been taken to try to increase staffing and retention in the fire department over the years.

The department capital improvement purchase plan was reviewed and discussed, as was current funding for the department and history of past levies. and presented information on a proposed staffing plan and levy millage. Finally, he provided information about the current hiring process.

Diane reported on the pros and cons from recent members that have resigned from her exit survey calls.

Gus showed a cost analysis for different pay rates of full-time employees and the total cost of each employee to the jurisdiction with all benefits and additional costs incurred.

There was input and perspective given from elected officials, staff and members on all topics of the night and helped everyone have a better understanding of operations of the department and funding needed to carry out the mission statement.

No action was taken at this meeting as it was an educational and information gathering work session.

As there was no further business, the work session ended at 9:04 pm.

President, Board of Trustees