

**Minutes**  
**Throop Borough Emergency Services Committee**  
**Tuesday, April 2, 2013**  
**Meeting 6:30 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL:**

**Members of Committee:**

Mark Mazak - P

Anthony Gangemi, **Chairman - P**

David Repchick - P

Chief Clerk/Treasurer -Robin Galli - P

Gangemi:

First off, the Borough recognizes the need and appreciates the service that is provided by the volunteers and the emergency service. This service requires a great dedication and carries a lot of responsibility. The amazing part to me is that this dedication and responsibility is not mandatory, it's voluntary. Work full time jobs, find time to train and you are willing to risk personal injury to help others. From my stand point, and I'm sure from Council, we want to say thanks. That's a great service that you are providing.

Speaking for myself as a non member, being perfectly honest with you I have no clue about the fire service and what you truly do day to day when it comes to running that. But to my advantage point, I want to and I'm sure my colleagues want to, help to facilitate and try to find a way to work together. I don't want to backwards and go back and point fingers. I would like to figure out if there are problems and if we can move forward.

Can you and will you respond as required?

What is it going to take for everybody to do their part?

Discuss what the role of the Fire Chief should be and their assistants.

It seems like if you guys are there can you respond, will you respond. Because that is why you're here. If you want to be fire departments and rescue departments and every other thing you are required to be, will you meet that obligation for the Borough.

Dave anything?

Repchick: I think you laid it out pretty well but I will just reiterate some of what you said and our concern is that the fire departments are responding or are able to respond and that for the health and safety of the people we have to try to do what we can to help to facilitate that. I know there are issues there are always issues. Although we can't work everything out we can definitely work some stuff out and maybe through some dialog, work and cooperation we can achieve something and move forward with it. And that's for everybody. Thanked the ambulance

representative for coming. That's what he believes Council is looking for. Bottom line the Borough can't afford a paid department. We have to do what we can to make the volunteer service work and hopefully you guys can help us get done what we need to get done.

Jerry Barone: The only thing I can say is that I think we are starting off on the right foot by at least having a committee so we can address stuff on a smaller level/scale. I know we are not talking about the past but if this would've happened years ago things would've been a lot better because it seems like you have people going to Council and you have so many stories out there. Personally we feel it is a good start that there is at least a committee.

Gangemi: Remember, speaking for me personally, you have been here before and will be here long after these seats are changed so it is up to you guys as it always has been to find a way to work together to be the three entities that you are if that's the way it is going to be and find a way to cooperate.

Barone: I can tell you from history, everybody argued over the years but that's why you have 3 departments. There was only one department then 2 broke off. We always got the job done.

Gangemi: Spoke of events and fundraisers and having a master calendar to coordinate. Also stated that if they are taking the time to train they should respond.

Mazak: Thinks Tony did a good job and what was said. Would like to reiterate one thing, It's time to move forward. We're here to listen to you. If there is anything we as a Borough could improve on or if there are any issues or concerns now is the time to air them out.

Can't identify: Mr. Gangemi, you just said not being able to respond. What were you referring too?

Gangemi: You each have your own responsibility and when that time comes that you are required to fulfill that obligation that you are going to be a viable fire department (for lack of better word), are you able to do it and are you going to respond?

Rinaldi: The biggest problem Throop has had is not that they don't want to respond people have jobs some 2 jobs. When I first joined here 21 years ago each dept had on average three times the people active that were able to go to a call. There has not been an influx of people. A lot of the problems are its not just a fire company, its selling tickets and fundraisers and people are turned off by that. Last meeting a lot of talk back and forth that people aren't coming out because Dunmore is coming to the calls. The truth of the matter is most people don't want to get out of bed for false alarms (Like Gertrude Hawks) at 4:00am.

Hegedus: That's a good point Dom but it has been exasperated now.

Discussion took place about a recent Dickson City fire.

Gangemi: Here is where I am going with this. The Borough contributes \$22,500.00 for each Hose Company. If you're not going to be an active Hose company the Borough has to start thinking about how we fulfill the needs. We have a requirement to do it. You guys want to do it

and thank you. Is one company the answer. I don't know what the answer is. Inaudible. Maybe it will maybe it won't but if that is going to happen there is so many complications, the charters and other stuff and I don't know if we are ready for that. I'm not pushing anybody down any path. I am asking some basic questions. How can we, you guys are here as volunteers - thank you, to respond to our needs in the borough. How can we meet those needs. Let's talk it out. It is Eric's responsibility to make sure that the fire scene is appropriately covered. My question to you guys is what are our needs and can you fulfill them?

Mazak: Andy, based on what you said, if Dunmore weren't on the box would you guys be out?

I know I will. I sign on at 2:37 in the morning.

Mazak: I know there was conversation here about Gertrude Hawks and it was said that well why should my guys go to Gertrude Hawks

No, no. I was relaying what Chief Barone told me about his members.

inaudible

It's a human nature thing - if you have to go you go.

Mazak: What we need to know as a Council is that if Dunmore is taken off the box are we going to be there?

Hegedus: That's an impossible question to answer.

That is impossible.

I can't say who is going to show up. Ever.

Repchick: I think what he is trying to say is would there be a more of a chance that somebody would try to make those kinds of calls.

Hegedus: For our company - that's the issue.

Gangemi: Would like to take scenarios. What are the calls that you get? What are the needs, responds requirements and can you meet them? Simple questions.

I don't think you can answer that question. It's a roll of the dice.

A discussion took place about being able to respond.

Hegedus: I am saying nobody can guarantee who is going to respond.

Mazak: I thought I got the drift before that there may have been a lack of response because Dunmore was on the box.

Hegedus: Not from us.

Mazak: How about you Jerry?

Barone:

Mazak: That's a concern. So in other words if Dunmore was taken off the box your company would be out in full force.

Barone: I am not going to say they are going to be out in full force. We've taken the initiative that people in town from other departments run with us. When Mr. Rinaldi's house burned we went with 7 people which is good for a day fire. And most of them were outsiders. And that was our plan because we know that we have people working and we have 2 or 3 that are in town all the time during the day and we pull out of towners. Some of the out of towners, Olyphant, say they aren't going to go because of the type of call it is they don't want to take off work to go.

Hegedus: Here is a good example of what Dominick said about the rescue. Monday, the pager went off, I'm home working and the pager goes off and I can't leave. It was not easy sitting there listening to what I can hear on my scanner.

Repchick: Between 3 companies we can't get enough people to cover. Everybody/town has their issues. I know people don't come out to join the fire companies like they used to.

Then add fund raising and 180 hours of training. That's mandatory. It's 6 months. Any new members we have taken in are not from Throop.

Gangemi: We understand. What do we do. You are the Fire Departments. What do we do?

Mazak: What do we do to make this better? To make this operation better. We need to hear from you because we don't know how to make it better. What would you like to see done to make this better.

Rinaldi: Somebody made a comment at the beginning of the meeting. Said you can't afford a paid fire company.

Repchick: I said it.

Rinaldi: In essence you have a paid fire department right now. You have a chief and assistant chief that are being paid by the borough and chief and is inaudible put Dunmore on the boxes because he knew he was at least getting an engine pump/rescue combination. Both of Dunmore's engines have the jaws of life and rescue tools on them. Equally equipped. The reason why he did that is because he knows (use his house as example) the difference between Dunmore's first engine getting there and the next piece was over 6 or 7 minutes. That 7 minutes would have been the difference between what I am dealing with now or losing my entire house. The fire made it half way into my home. 7 minutes it would have been through the whole first floor and the second floor. What you guys have to realize as non firefighters is the fact that fire doubles in size every three minutes. You are talking about the difference between we had an ice storm that morning. My kids were in that house until a half hour before the fire started. Had it been called off my daughter would've been in bed. The smoke was so bad when I got there, 4 minutes in, that I could not get in to my second floor from my back porch. My daughter wouldn't have gotten out. What I want everybody in this room to understand is what we are talking about is the difference between having a quarter of a million dollars in damage but everybody lived and a

couple ----- I am dead serious. 9 chances out of 10 if Dunmore wasn't on this box I would be burying one of my dogs. And I take this very personally. I don't want to see somebody's kid put in the ground because of a stupid argument between me & Andy or me & Jerry or Jerry & Andy. It's about the community and it's about you guys using your common sense to realize this isn't a joke it isn't about 22,000 it isn't about if he gets mad at you he isn't going to vote for you next time. It's about the community. And people living in the community and knowing you are going to have a fire truck in their front yard in a matter of a couple of minutes as opposed to three times that time. And it's not his fault it takes 10 minutes to get out the door just as much as the other day when they couldn't get out the door for 45 minutes. That is unusual for them even for that. But it just happened to be a time that noone was around.

Gangemi: I am hoping that our resort isn't to go to Dunmore because going to Dunmore is going to cause some other pressures on the Borough.

Hartshorn: We keep talking about Dunmore. For the last 20 years we had Dickson coming over automatically and no one says a word because they are not paid. That's all it is. Everybody is worried about them because they are a paid department. They are not asking the Borough for anything for coming over and the last 4 structure fires that we had I say if it wasn't for them they could've been a potential disaster. I think it was the best move that Throop could make by bringing them over. Whether anyone here likes it, it is the decision I made and I think it was a good decision there. But it has been like that for 20 years. Other towns come over for free. It's the same thing but they are paid. I don't understand.

Hegedus: You will if your house catches on fire.

Mazak: Again, I would like to revert back to what I said before. Dunmore might be an issue because Dunmore might not be coming over anymore. That's a possibility. Let's say they can't. I would like to get some input upon how to make this better because I still haven't heard that. That's what we are here for. Not whether Dunmore should be on the box - that's going to be a decision that will be made. Let's get some input from the Chief's and assistant Chief's on what we have to do to make this situation better.

Mark the key is getting more volunteers. More people.

Mazak: We can't get the people as a government we can help you try to get people. Is that the only issue I am hearing?

Barone: I am going to tell you the generalities of the state fire ----- The number one thing is you are supposed to be planning. The majority of your false alarms ----- and Dunmore has already taken that. They were going to maid rite constantly now they take a slow ride there because they know it is a false alarm.

Gangemi: This is what I was hoping to discuss. It sounds to me like a lot of you don't even want to be a fire department you are worrying about not having enough people you are not going to respond and I don't think that is the case.

Barone: We've done, and I think I have told some of you guys, During the day when there is a bad wreck somewhere, if they don't have a driver we go, and pick their guys up.

Repchick: That's the way it should be.

Mazak: We understand the situation - the guys work.

Barone: What I am getting at is the planning. This stuff has to be planned. MV Secondary Center, Nothing in that structure will burn, except little things. 3:00 in the morning nobody is in the building after hours. You do not need a full responsive apparatus to go to the building. That's planning.

Hegedus: Texas Roadhouse-about 6,7 years ago. We went 4 times during the week to nonsense, Saturday night fully involved structure fire. On the roof.

Hartshorn: You can't take stuff for granted. When the pager drops for the school at 3:00 in the morning it's the way the box is set up. If I get there and it's nothing I do cancel.

Gangemi: It's so many people have to make so many decisions and this isn't the only economic decision that any business have to make. You have to weigh risks against what you can afford to do. It's unfortunate and dangerous.

Can we take the top 10 most scenarios that happen and say how are you going to respond to that.

Hegedus: Back to the issue of do we have the man power to do that.

Rinaldi: It looks good on paper. You have 3 fire companies during the day. He's the only one available at his, Jerry is the only one available at his and you have 1 or 2 guys available at #2. If you have one building that's 4 guys you can get one piece with a good crew out the door.

Hegedus: That's why Dickson always seems like they are responding because they take what they need to take.

We're trying to explain the problems that we face and it seems like there is just a gap here between both sides.

I was asked by Dickson City the other night what happened and they said could you pick up people from the other companies. The problem is that when we are on--- box it goes out for the rescue. The other companies don't respond. It's a not on call so there is nobody to pick up. When it's in the Borough we've done that.

Mazak: What if Dunmore Council stops Dunmore from coming here? How is that going to affect your departments? What's going to happen? What's going to be the difference?

I don't think there will be anything different at our place.

Hegedus: The issue is, if we go through the list of who is available during the day and who is not

available during the night it is hard to put a full crew together.

Mazak: That is in your company.

Hegedus: Yea. And feel of the 3 companies they have the most resources.

Mazak asked Williams about his company.

Williams: Daytime is tough for us too. After 4-5:00 can get a crew.

Mazak: Jerry you more or less said that it won't be an issue.

Barone: We pull people from Olyphant.

Mazak: If dunmore is not on the box

Barone: inaudible

Mazak: So all 3 companies are assuring the committee here that if Dunmore's not an issue coming into town and if they are taken off the box it is not going to be an issue responding to calls except for during the day. Am I correct in saying that?

Hartshorn: thinks it will be an issue.

Mazak: Dunmore is not on the box, daytime we know with all companies is a problem but after working hours it is no problem to respond. Is that correct?

Hegedus added that he thinks it is a roll of the dice all the time.

All talking at once.

Hegedus: We know that there are people that are mad that Dunmore comes but I don't think, I will stand here and say I know for a fact that there isn't anybody in our company that isn't going to come to an alarm because Dunmore is coming here or not respond. It's not an issue.

Mazak: So Dunmore is not an issue you're saying.

Hegedus: Is it a moral issue at some of those 3:00 in the morning. It's absolutely an issue.

Mazak: It is an issue. Then say it. That's what I am getting at. That's why we are here to move forward not backwards.

Hegedus: Because a couple people aren't getting out at 3:00 in the morning because they are mad that Dunmore is coming here doesn't solve the problem. It only makes the problem worse because if something does happen up there and nobody gets out and Dunmore isn't coming here now you have a problem. We've organized here tonight and now it has become an issue by us

sitting down formally like we have here and now not coming up with a solution.

Mazak: Well we want to make it better. We didn't walk away from here without a solution yet. We have to say what we feel here. You can't sit in this room and get everyone together and not say what you feel. You can all speak for your companies. We want to make this better and we will do anything we can to make this better. There are people on our Council that have thoughts, if we knew that having one company would make this whole situation better and if that's the answer we would have to look at that. But we want to make this situation better and what we have to be concerned with is protecting the residents of this town. And that's why we are meeting. We have to walk away with this meeting and report back to Council and with some assurance. Everyone has to cooperate and be on the same page and now is the time to speak up.

Hegedus: I think to your point, the problem #1 is the word that is above the door, volunteer. You cannot make anyone do anything so people say lets put one department in place. That's an expensive venture for something that may even get worse.

All talking at once.

Repchick: We aren't saying we are not doing anything its just there are other things that have to be looked at. Don't take any of this wrong it's not that anybody has a problem with Dunmore or what they do that's not the issue. The issue is what if Dunmore comes and says we are not doing this anymore. We are a paid department and we are not going to go over there unless we get paid or whatever. There are still 3 companies that their prime responsibility is this Borough. Dickson, Olyphant all have problems and that's why we always worked together. That's is also a part of things that need to be considered for a solution.

The problem with Olyphant and Dickson City is Olyphant's tones go off and its —to the light they can go wherever they want to go and jump on any piece of apparatus is really needed. So the tones go off in Olyphant it's everybody's going to go where they need to go except they aren't in 1 building. The tones go off in Dickson City everybody comes to one building and they get that piece out. That doesn't happen here. We don't have that luxury.

Repchick: But even if you went out, you looked, you researched said we could put one building. Here's part of the problem to that we don't own your piece of equipment, his piece of equipment or his piece of equipment. And you guys can say you don't want to be a part of that, create your own and then the boroughs' got to buy equipment, a building and then see if they are going to manage.

Hegedus: I will tell you John Musewicz, Tony and I had a conversation probably 2 ½ yrs ago after the meeting about spit balling ideas and what do you think if everyone goes to one building and we're talking about everyone going into this building and do we look at buying St. John's and making that the Municipal building. Do we look at #1 being the municipal building. Do we sell #2 and #3's building's and put everyone in here and let everyone retain their identities until the dissolution process takes place which could take 7-10 years for non profit because you have to all this investigating. Are there bonds out there, did people owe money to the fire company to get it started. It would easily take 5 years for a company to dissolve itself through the legal



process.

Gangemi: Who wants to go down that path? Anybody?

Repchick: Nobody is coming up with anything.

?: The other way would be to start a new Throop volunteer fire company sponsored by the Borough. Whether it be here or wherever you decide to bring the stuff. Start your own volunteer fireman's relief and start over. The time process that it takes towards the dissolution of the other companies is irregardless because you have a brand new one and its not going to effect it.

Mazak: I don't think we are even there yet. Why are we discussing that.

All talking at once.

Hegedus: Bring everybody into one building. We could have that same luxury if all 3 companies agree to put their equipment here.

Mazak: Is that possible. Can all 3 companies agree to put their equipment here. Jerry is shaking his head no.

All talking at once.

Repchick: They have a new building, equipment. There aren't going to move. So what do we do. Put #2 and #3 together?

Barone: I will just give you an example. Food for thought. Taylor — 2 companies joined there were 3 there. The 2 companies that joined, the members quit and the trucks still sits in the buildings and 1 company got all the money.

Gangemi: So I am hearing that we have 3 companies and can't guarantee that we can get out.

Williams: Just something real quick, everyone keeps saying about Dunmore coming off the box, Dunmore's not going to respond. Something you 3 are forgetting is that we also provide utility to Dunmore when they are short staffed. So if they come off our box then obviously then we won't be responding over there which is going to cut them short.

Mazak: Well there is a rumor out there and does anybody know or have concrete evidence

Rinaldi: I do, because I am on the committee for Dunmore. I am the President of the fireman's Union. And this is straight from the Council President which I have permission to speak on his behalf tonight. It's not that Dunmore doesn't want to come to Throop but what Dunmore has that Throop does not is overtime. If we have one company in service we go out the door our secondary toner call the off duty fireman. And Dunmore then starts paying minimum of 2 hrs overtime. This is where the problem is presenting itself. Dunmore is investing a substantial amount of money to come to Throop.

Gangemi: That's right. So no matter how much lively hood or property is at stake money always takes precedence doesn't it.

Rinaldi: It's costing a substantial amount of money

Mazak: So it's not a rumor then?

Rinaldi: Not exactly.

Gangemi: We know it's going to happen. It's inevitable. So that's why

Rinaldi: Is it that difficult for Throop to say hey let's pay our own way.

Gangemi: But we don't have to yet.

Rinaldi: I'm not saying you have to. That's not what we are talking about. I'm saying ethics. You have a company that is doing you a favor during the day

Mazak: Is that what Dunmore wants? For us to pay our own way?

Rinaldi: If you have \$5000.00 in overtime

Mazak: Is that what Dunmore wants?

Rinaldi: Yes

Mazak: You said you are authorized to speak for the President. So Dunmore wants us to pay our own way.

Rinaldi: Yes - To contribute the money it is costing them to cover your calls. Yes.

Hegedus: Well we'll counter offer that. Tell Dunmore give us \$50,000.00. We'll put 2 guys in our station tomorrow at \$25,000.00 a piece and we'll take everything this side of Drinker St.

All talking at once.

Mazak: We're not doing that.

Hegedus: We'll pay the 3 guys. Split the 3 at \$50,000.00. There's an offer. Counter it. Every negotiation has a counter offer.

Barone: This is a suggestion. And I am not going to say to stop them from coming or not

Tape Ended.

Barone: And either # 2 or #3 run with them depending. They don't run anything except the

Chief's car.

Repchick: And for the same reason you said.

All talking at once.

Barone: Most of them were nonsense calls.

Hegedus: Jerry's right. That was a negotiation as well. But that was, you're killing us, we get to the main street exit and you're cancelling us. And so we said please let's come up with a plan - the plan was let's run the chief's car.

Gangemi: But did somebody not weigh the risk against the economics there.

Hartshorn: Last time this was brought up at the last Council meeting you were the one that said that well everything at every time is possible. Now it is a different story.

Gangemi: What I said was I personally if I am training I want to be part of the mix. That's my opinion. If I am training I want to be somebody that is called.

Hartshorn: Inaudible

Gangemi: I am not going in any direction. I am throwing whatever is out there.

Repchick: What way do you guys want it? There are 3 Chiefs here there are 3

Hegedus: Dave I know where you are going and I don't think you can do anything with 3 independent entities. Just don't have the resources. Not until you're at a centralized location.

Mazak: Eric, question for all the Chief's and assistant chiefs that are here, Can all of you people sit in one room talk to each other and make this situation better? And I would like everyone of you to answer that.

Hartshorn: No

Mazak: Maurice starting with you.

All talking at once.

Gangemi: Taking Mr Barone's suggestion which is a way I think you have to start

Menichetti: So we're not running 3 fire trucks to a fire alarm because we don't have the man power.

Gangemi: Well that's what you have to decide.

All talking at once.

Mazak: Wait that's not what I said.

Gangemi: Who goes?

Hegedus: With 3 independent buildings, who knows.

Mazak: That's not what I said.

Rinaldi: If you assign rescue to be the primary responding unit, and for whatever reason...the 4<sup>th</sup> of July you got people out at and they can't get out the door but there is 3 people available at #2. How do you know that? You have no way of knowing that.

All talking at once.

Hartshorn: We've had Chief's meetings, Andy you know,

Mazak: Again Eric we are going forward not backwards.

Hartshorn: I am not going backwards. We had Chief's meetings, we sat down and had a plan and we walk out the door and the plan just seems to

Mazak: I am asking the Chief's and Assistant Chiefs what I personally think and observed here this evening is that more dialog has to take place between the chief's and assistant chiefs and the Borough fire chief to make this situation better. And the question I have is, is it possible for all of you to sit in one room and make this better. That's what we are asking.

Gangemi: Or go back and suggest anything.

All talking at once.

Gangemi: Are you going to respond to what you need to respond too. I started this meeting with Can you and will you respond.

?: Well I don't know we have been doing it for 119 years.

Gangemi: that's right you have. So are you going to continue

All talking at once.

Hegedus: When this pager goes off we don't know who is going to respond.

All talking at once.

?: Personally I will sit in a room with anybody and try to come up with the answer.

Repchick: I understand what you are saying too but what I am saying is this You said like with Olyphant for example, they all jump on one engine. Why can't we do that?

Menichetti: I my opinion it's in this time it's to hard with 3 departments.

Mazak: What do you mean it's to hard?

Menichetti: It's to hard to get a full crew for 3 separate pieces.

Repchick: We don't need 3 separate pieces. Make them come to one company then.

?: I don't know.

Repchick: That's what we are discussing. Can you make that work.

?: I can make that work but I don't know about everybody else.

All talking at once.

Hegedus: Until everybody is under one roof nobody can guarantee that everybody is going to get out.

Gangemi: Disagrees. I think you can do it. Because with communications today I think you can. I think you are all smart enough to figure it out.

Repchick: Thinks they can do it too.

Mazak: So Andy you are saying that you can't guarantee that your guys are going to get out.

Hegedus: How is anybody going to guarantee?

All talking at once.

Rinaldi: When I am at the Boulevard though how do I know who is at the rescue.

Gangemi: I don't know. What do you need a camera, communications? I don't know. Figure it out there has to be a way.

Repchick: That's what we're asking you. If Jerry's got three people at his company he can't say hey I got 3 people here?

Barone: The 3 chief's get in 1 room

Mazak: Answer my question, Can the 3 chief's get in 1 room and resolve this and make this better. Yes or No?

?: No

Hegedus: We don't know what the problems are.

Rinaldi: We'd have to write down and identify what the problems are.

Mazak: You are the Chief's what kind of issues do you have?

Gangemi: Can you and will you respond?

All talking at once.

Gangemi: The problem is, can you and will you respond to whatever needs are required to protect the Borough.

?: We are doing that right now. I can't guarantee people.

Mazak: Ok I got 2 answers.

Hartshorn: No

Gangemi: Say Dunmore is not coming, are you going to get out?

Hegedus: Yes we are going to do our best. To get out.

?: If there is a call now we have a nice crew here.

Gangemi: This is what you want to do. If there are weaknesses when you can't get out how do we fix that. What do we need, equipment, technology. What do we need to do.

Hegedus: We don't have a problem with equipment, we have a problem with not enough people to man the equipment.

Hartshorn: The Borough is not never covered.

?: And you are talking about a difference between an automatic alarm and

Repchick and Gangemi added that somebody has got to go to know that it is a false alarm.

Hegedus: I am going to speak for myself. I am not against Dunmore coming when there is confirmed fire. And maybe this is part of what you're saying that the box alarm needs to be set up differently but the majority of people here...rescue 6 on the way. I don't even need to go to the station because I know we will be cancelled.

Mazak: What we have to be prepared for is when Rescue 6 is not on the box.

All talking at once.

Mazak: I am going to end with this. I have to see more cooperation. I don't see that cooperation here. Until we cooperate and all the chief's cooperate, we are going no place. And I am telling it like it is.

Hegedus: What do you suggest?

Mazak: Well that's why we are here and why I keep on saying and everyone is skirting the issue here. Well that's what we need is cooperation. What would you suggest?

Hegedus: I would suggest taking Dunmore off the box for non fire related.

Mazak: And how about the cooperation among you, Eric, Jerry, Wayne and the Chief and Maurice. My opinion - I think there is a lack of cooperation and until we all cooperate we are digging a hole and going no place. And we could sugar coat it anyway you want but we are going no place. I am tired of skirting the issues.

Julie Barone: I think there is a big problem with communication. Speaking from ---- we have gotten together in the past, done the chief thing, some of the things from the chief thing have fallen through or preplanning doesn't happen for whatever issue, mis communication with meetings just a big communication problem but I mean we have done it before. We have trained with other departments. We personally held a class at our place 2-3 years ago. Just a couple people from the rescue came. We emailed people communicated throughout the valley. It improved but

Hartshorn: We had classes at our place and a certain chief said he wouldn't step foot in our building and this was by our insurance agent because it is #2. If you want to get it out in the open let's get it out in the open.

Williams: There was a class at #1

All talking at once.

Hegedus: That ---- training session that took place at the ladder was the second Sunday of the month and #1 had a meeting, the rescue had a meeting the same day I don't know if it was Julie or Jerry that called up the fire station and said we are having a little get together with some training we are going to use the --- tool. Does anybody want to come.

Gangemi: Are you guys willing to get together? When you get together start planning. Thinking of the scenarios we are talking about. Can you and will you respond. Have a meeting. Somebody take minutes of that meeting. We will meet in a month. Again you can come back with what you guys have done and what plans you have put together.

Mazak: Jerry is that possible you think?

Barone: Yea. We used to do it all the time.

Mazak: Eric is it possible? I want all of you chief's to sit in a room and make this situation better make it better for And work as a team.

All talking at once.

Repchick: I understand what everybody is saying.

Hartshorn: Lets set it all up with the chief's, borough chief's and you 3 here so you can hear first

hand so that way nobody can leave and say that didn't happen or this didn't happen. Why don't we do that.

Repchick: We can do that but we have to open it just like tonight.

Hartshorn: Open it that's fine.

Gangemi: You have to have an idea about what you are going to talk about.

Hartshorn: We will. We will have a whole plan. You guys just sit there and listen.

Mazak: We aren't firemen. We don't know the first thing about But we know what's going on in the town isn't the best for the town right now and we want to make that better. And the only ones who can make that better are you people. We can't make it better. We need cooperation from all of you people here. All of the chief's. Until you all cooperate we are going no place.

Repchick: I'm not hearing what you can do I am hearing what you can't do.

Hegedus: What are you hearing are the issues then?

Mazak: Well you tell me what the issues are. Do you have any issues with anybody? The chief? No. (Hegedus); Do you Jerry? No; Do you have any issues with the chief? No (Williams) So there are no issues with the chief.

Gangemi: So can you and will you respond as required?

?: Yes.

Gangemi: That's what we need to know.

Barone: Provided we sit down and put a plan together.

Hegedus: What are we going to sit down and talk about?

Mazak: Have an agenda. Who is going to set up the agenda?

Repchick: I think Maurice had part of it already.

Gangemi: What's the response requirements, what's a box alarm, what buildings do you need

All talking at once.

Repchick: Who responds if it's just an alarm at a building? The chief

Mazak: Why doesn't everybody submit their questions to Andy of what they want on the agenda.

Hegedus: Why doesn't Council fund a survey with yes no answers.



Gangemi: The questions are...you know what you have to respond to correct?

?: Yes.

Gangemi: The types of alarms various alerts, alarms you have to respond to. What's the best approach. Can you get out? With the — you have. Do you want to correct some of that so you are responding more efficiently? Do you need better communication? At the end of the day if you can meet all your responsibilities, we are done.

Hegedus: I think all 3 companies can meet their responsibilities.

Gangemi: Right now you can't without Dunmore from what I just heard a half hour ago.

Mazak: I think the big thing is cooperation. That's the key.

Gangemi: Can you get a parade calendar together that you don't step on each others toes.

Hegedus: I came here in front of council years ago and said I would do it. When we were forced to submit our calendar of events that nobody bothered to share with anybody else.

Repchick: what he is talking about is that it was supposed to go to everybody so there wasn't functions on the same day.

All talking at once.

Hegedus: You have the website. Why don't you pay e-visions to maintain the calendar and the organizations submit their events to you.

Gangemi: That's no problem. Give them to Robin.

Hartshorn: What about the other

Repchick: We will try to send letters to them to send them here.

A discussion took place regarding an ordinance or organizing borough events on the borough website.

Hegedus: Who is complaining about it?

Gangemi: You guys are. I heard santa problems all kinds of stuff.

Hegedus: Who is complaining about the events conflicting.

Barone: We always have ours the same for the last 30 years.

Gangemi: You complained didn't you. Wasn't there a problem with some Santa parade or something?

Hegedus: There is always an issue with the Santa parade

Gangemi: Why don't we fix it then? So there is no issue. Who's making candy bags, Mary Ruth got involved with it. It's all a disaster.

?: You people got involved.

Gangemi: Well don't involve us because apparently we screw it up. Ok have a meeting. Talk about all the things that you need to respond to and how you are going to do it. Can you do it.

Mazak: Can I say something before they leave? It has nothing to do with this. But I got a lot of calls being the former athletic director at the high school and I still know a lot of the parents and I got a lot of phone calls in regards to the parade and the lack of response to the parade that was held for our basketball team and there was a response to Holy Cross's basketball team. Any response on that?

Wait you weren't at the mid valley parade?

Hegedus: No

Mazak: Were you at Holy Crosses?

Hegedus: The rescue did go - Yes - I think what needs to be done is set parameters. Are we going to go to 8 divisional championship games send offs or are we going to go to the state finals? Because they are apples and oranges.

Mazak: No they aren't.

Hegedus: Yes they are.

Mazak: Then you tell the parents that support your company.

Hegedus: You can't organize it 24 hours before.

Mazak: Why can't you?

Hegedus: Because people have things to do it doesn't happen fast enough.

Julie Barone: Especially on a holiday weekend.

Mazak: What's the holiday?

Julie Barone: The parade.

Mazak: Let me just say this to you. The parents of the basketball players and the cheerleaders are very upset with the companies and I don't know who they are that didn't go to Mid Valley's and went to Holy Cross's. Just a word.

Menichetti: Well we can tell them is that if they want join and next time there is a parade that

they can drive the apparatus.

Charlene Tomasovitch: I have to open my mouth right now. Those parades that was a disgrace that #3 and #1 were not there. First of all my if my kid was one of them I would be mad too.

Mazak: I had to throw that out there because I did get calls and I got numerous calls. And I didn't have an answer for them.

Gangemi: It was a tough day.

Barone: The Dunmore parade, we got a little more notice. At least our company did.

All talking at once.

Mazak: Jerry all I am saying is that it doesn't look good.

Barone: I know I agree with you.

Menichetti: I am upset. It's a volunteer organization if some (inaudible) not to mention how many kids from Throop go to Holy Cross.

Mazak: I didn't say you shouldn't go I never said that.

Barone: Mark, you were the athletic director, how much notice did you have when you were the athletic director that something like this was going to take place?

Mazak: In regards to games. It happens quick Jerry. You don't have days. It goes together quickly.

Hartshorn: It was 2 days in advance that they got the emails.

Hegedus: This is what happened with Holy Cross- I got a call from Sandy Menichetti who works at the school and said can I take the rescue.

Mazak: I'm not saying you shouldn't have gone, I am just saying that it looks bad when the Throop Fire Companies don't go to Mid Valley's and they go to Holy Cross. That's all.

Julie Barone: There was still a piece representing Throop there, was there not? Up at Mid Valley?

Hartshorn: Yes we were.

Julie Barone: So the —was still there. Just because the 3 trucks couldn't make it.

Menichetti: We get 20% return on our envelope drive and we miss one parade and everyone is all mad. 20% of the borough donates to our fund raiser each year.

Hegedus: Fund the fire service from the tax base, fund equipment, fund everything. We're up

there fighting to raise money to keep a 1991 vehicle to keep it on the street.

Mazak: Maybe if we can get things going in the right direction, maybe we could come up with some additional funds. Speaking for myself.

Hegedus: It's the businesses the residents go above and beyond.

Discussion took place regarding fining for false alarms.

Barone: If we send the bill it may enhance them to fix the alarms.

Gangemi: We would have to talk about how to facilitate that. As these meetings go on we should start looking at those details and see how much of your resources are being dedicated to false alarms.

All talking at once.

Discussion took place regarding scheduling a meeting.

Chief's meeting.

Hartshorn: Why can't you take my recommendation and have us sit here in council chambers with you three sitting there. What is the problem with that?

Repchick: Because we want you to have a plan before we come in.

Hartshorn: You can sit there and help us with our plan.

Repchick: We just tried that.

Hartshorn: The 7 of you will sit here at a council meeting and if we have our plan together and come in here you sit with us then we don't have to listen to the other 4 guys that ain't here saying how come this ain't done you're here sitting and listening to us. With you guys being here it's a different atmosphere.

Hegedus: I am going to go back, we have a meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>, and I am going to ask give me the top 5 issues that you feel and I will try to gather it.

Mazak: Yea maybe that's the way to do it. Maybe that's what you all should do also.

Gangemi: I want a plan for various types of alarms and various response requirements. How you are going to meet those.

Hartshorn: Inaudible. I am not taking them off until they are ready to come off. No way.

Mazak: I just want to see you guys get together and do the right thing. As far as money Maurice, I understand. We even talked about putting more money in the budget and we didn't.

Repchick: The reason we didn't is because of what Tony said. If they had a problem or needed something that they couldn't do it we would do it on a case by case basis.

Hegedus: We've done that before. I have come up here requesting \$9,000.00 to repair a roof and it created a disaster. And we didn't get it.

?: Then we had another major problem with the rescue to the tune of \$9,000.00 to the rear end. I came here and brought the invoice. Well we'll talk about it.

Mazak: The last time I sat here you got \$35,000.00 now it is \$22,500.00.

Hegedus: The whole idea about fund raising is to help you buy what you need so that we wouldn't tax the community.

All talking at once.

Hegedus spoke of the relief money and life insurance policy costs. And a roof leak.

Mazak: You had said Tony that maybe we should sit down with them individually and go over their finances. Not a bad idea.

Barone: Should be an ordinance if giving more money that it is mandatory from now on that they get that.

All talking at once.

Discussion took place about fundraising.

Gangemi: Thank you

Mazak: Thank you

Gangemi: we will send out an email and get a couple of dates.

Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes by Renee O'Malley  
Borough Secretary

