

**Meeting
Throop Borough Council
Special Meeting/Volunteer Hose Companies
Monday, January 15th, 2018, 6:30 p.m.
Operational Procedures, General Purposes**

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

“God Bless Our Troops and the Coalition”

ROLL CALL:

Members of Council:

Mike Chorba - P

Jim Barnick - P

Rich Kucharski - **President** - P

Charlene Tomasovitch - P

Wayne Williams - P

Vince Tanana - P

Bob Magliocchi - **Vice President** - P

Solicitor - Louis A. Cimini - P

Mayor - Joe Tropiak - P

Assistant Treasurer - Lenore Dolan - A

Secretary - Renee O'Malley - P

Chief Clerk/Treasurer - Robin Galli - P

Kucharski: First of all I just want to thank everybody for being here tonight, on a bitterly cold evening. As you know Councils number one responsible is to protect the welfare of the citizens of the town. With that being the case we have had quite a bit of discussion. I've been on council for 2 years now and there have been discussions off and on particularly the past year about essentially about the future of the Throop fire department and there obviously are quite a few concerns on the part of council. Some of the things that, first of all we are concerned about the response time, the number of responses I should say. The lack of recruitment by some of the companies and how that impacts the overall future of the fire department. Quite frankly I'll be very honest and it's part of the public record, part of the discussions that council entertained were we actually looked at consolidation however anytime consolidation was discussed we recognize the fact that each company is chartered and that certainly could not be forced and that's the last thing we would want to do is try to force consolidation on anyone. In addition to that with respect to the individual companies, I know when I first got on council there was some

discussion about #2 and the future of #2 and actually at that particular time they were talking about looking into consolidation in fact that they hired an attorney to look at that and here we are 2 years down the road and it's really gone nowhere at this point. I talked to Wayne today and #2 is down to 3 members. Now that apparently isn't the total situation but with respect to the membership it is on the low side. The good side is Wayne indicates to me that they are looking at ways to recruit. Apparently 1 of the chiefs is involved with the Olyphant fire department and there may be several members from Olyphant that would be interested in joining #2 which is good news. Then with respect to response times, your responses I should say, there is concern on both the part of #1 and #2 and we asked Andy to get some information from the com center with respect to that. Now I am just going to read these numbers now and everyone will have an opportunity to comment as we move through some questions and you'll see in your packet there's several questions that were developed. But starting with #1, and again this is from com center as I'm told there were 105 dispatches and this is for the year 2017. 105 dispatches. A total of 7 responses for 6.67%; of those no responses 72 were for no crew and that was 68.57% and 27 were cancelled and as Andy explained there can be several reasons for cancellations. Either as the first company gets on the scene and the police say ok we don't need anyone else and/or he was explaining that there were situations for example when Gertrude Hawks was cleaning some equipment and the steam set off the alarm and he got there first in the command car and it was obvious there was no fire so there was no need to bring the equipment out endangering everyone rushing to a non fire. As far as #2 is concerned; they were dispatched 103 times, they made 9 arrivals on the scene 8.74%; no crew 36 times 34.95 and 21 were cancelled and that was 20.39 and then #3 were dispatched 119 times they made the scene 85 times 71.43%, did not crew twice - looks like it should be three - and 17 were cancelled 14.29%. So again that obviously raises concern on the part of Council because it is a - as I said at the onset it is our responsibility to protect the safety and welfare of the citizens of the town and if we don't have our equipment getting out there that puts everyone in jeopardy so as I said several things were discussed at the meetings, first was consolidation - recognizing everybody's charters; the other was funding and looking at funding *inaudible* the companies turnout and we actually we did a projection based on that and it is something that I asked we not entertain at least until we had an opportunity to talk to everyone and have an open discussion. Then the final issue that was talked about was the forced consolidation and anyone that refused, the council would revoke their ability to respond. That is the last thing in the world that we want to do. Believe me. With respect to everybody but especially #1 - you guys have been around since 1894 since the town was incorporated. So you know with all due respect my late father was a member forever and the last thing in the world that we would want to do. However the issue is serious enough and based on the numbers that we really need to start a dialog and we have to start talking about the future and what we are going to do to move forward. That being said we certainly recognize and respect 1000% the commitment of all the volunteers the hours of training that you have to go through the commitment getting up in the middle of the night in freezing weather like tonight and we also recognize that this isn't just a problem in Throop this is actually a national problem and it's basically the lack of volunteers, the extent and the number of hours that are involved in the training. So again it's not just a local problem, obviously it's a national problem. In preparation what we did and that's part of the agenda here, we asked Wayne and Vince to prepare some questions and topics for discussion and even the agenda does say audience comments on tonight's agenda and certainly anyone is welcome and encouraged to comment but what I'd like

to do at least to try to maintain some sort of decorum and not get this into a free for all and again that's the last thing that we want to happen. We want this to be an open discussion among everybody. We all have the mutual concern for the citizens of the town. That's our mutual concern and I think everybody has that in their best interest. So what I'd like to do is ask each company in order starting with 1 then 2 & 3 to simply respond to some of the issues listed there and again speak freely as possible. If there is anything that is not correct with respect to the numbers make it known to us so we can react accordingly. Then at the end I'd like to get into perhaps some discussion on actually planning for the future of the Throop fire department. Let's face it - what worked 20 years ago probably is not going to work 10 years from now. So we really have to be proactive and try to come up with a cohesive plan that everybody is going to pitch in and work together and that's the way we will survive and if we don't, if we squabble and fight, it's not going to happen. And again based on the national trend and everything you see and read certainly nothing is expected to improve anytime soon in the future. One other thing I failed to mention, we also asked Andy to look at the responses that came from the Dickson ladder truck and the Dunmore ladder truck for the year and L23 is Dickson. Dickson responded 8 times and Dunmore once. That's just a bit of additional information.

Announcements:

* The month end meeting scheduled for Monday, January 29th, 2018 is rescheduled to Tuesday, January 30th, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

(Kucharski added that DEP is having a meeting at Mid Valley High School on that evening concerning the recently published health study that was related to the landfill. I would encourage as many residents of Throop to attend that meeting.)

Work Session/Meeting Schedule:

* The January monthly work session/meeting will be held Tuesday, January 30th, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

* The February mid-month work session/meeting will be held Monday, February 12th, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

* The February monthly work session/meeting will be held Monday, February 26th, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Audience comments on tonight's agenda:

Jerry Barone, Hose Co #1: We just went through the CAD system and my First Assistant Chief can give you the numbers. They don't match up exactly with what's Kucharski questioned what the CAD system is.

Barone: The computer aided dispatch for Lackawanna County. It's the com center. Now we are actually able to get in and see what the narratives are and what was said and so on and so forth. Julie is our first assistant.

Julie Barone: Good evening everyone. So as the Chief explained these numbers are based off of the CAD system. When we get a dispatch from the com center an incident is created. They enter

it into a CAD system so anything from a tree down to a car accident to a special investigation they put it in so its an incident *inaudible*. So going through this with research including going through our reports, our reporting system, so every time we go on a call we fill out a report *inaudible* fire department and then Mr. Comstock actually reports it to the state so the state has a number too. So this is just throwing some numbers out. So when Throop is dispatched, like the way that the CAD system comes through it actually shows that Throop was toned out 286 calls for the year and this was January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017. So of those calls doesn't actually mean that Throop had that many calls for us with the ladder we were only dispatched 98 calls for the ladder and squad 27-5 was dispatched 6 calls. So the other calls for the 286 Kucharski asked what 27-5 is.

Barone: Our squad. So it could be - we have it equipped as it can be a brush truck that could also go on car accidents, *inaudible* details, support. So with the 286 calls it doesn't actually mean like I said in Throop, it could've been for example the Rescue, Dickson 21 calls, Dunmore 25, Moscow to Covington Township, Luzerne county, Jefferson Township, Blakely. The engine went to Dunmore and then Olyphant. Some of those are special incidents like fireworks, parades, fire prevention different incidents like that or if the Chief had to do an investigation like a follow up, someone with a smoke detector or something like that you *inaudible* incident *inaudible*.

Kucharski: Let me ask a question, fireworks, parades,

Barone: like standbys. So there is a crew on scene and an incident is created so com center knows where we are at.

Kucharski: Ok so these were called in by com center.

Barone: No these were called in by us. Or by the Chief. Anybody can create an incident. Well within the fire department. Throughout those numbers, so the 98 calls we were dispatched to the 6 being squad 27-5, we do also have 2 additional. One was a special check to the retention pond over at schoolside. 226 called us on the air while we were at a pumping detail so we called com center to let them know we were going on a special investigation to make sure the retaining pond wasn't going over into Olyphant again. So that is another statistic there. We were cancelled after dispatch, we have 36 times and that can be anywhere, I have different statistics so it can be cancelled by the chief, cancelled by rescue 27, we were cancelled by the police 5 times, cancelled by

Kucharski: Excuse me. When you say your cancelled by the chief, your chief or Andy?

Barone: Yes. Well Chief 27.

Hegedus: Me. I have the breakdown of them all.

Barone: Cancelled by Dunmore. So if Dunmore is actually on - there is a little bit of confusion on the Casey Highway - so if Dunmore is dispatched but it is actually our area sometimes Dunmore gets there quicker *inaudible* fluids down state police are on scene they don't need us they cancel us. Same thing goes for us if it's actually in Dunmore *inaudible* Throop we may or either Dunmore takes it or we take it. We were cancelled by Scranton rescue 1 time, UGI twice, American Water once and then certain calls come in that EMS only so the dispatch goes out as the fire department has to come but we are actually cancelled. Then some of those calls, like Chief 27 hold all units, so like he would go do an investigation, hold all units at the station or the rescue would go and hold everybody so we would standby. There were 15 requests for the rescue 27 or engine 27 only within town so that could've come from PD, EMS, to do a welfare check, get into someone's house as an entry or some kind of special detail. And then there was a special request for the engine to only go once.

Tomasovitch: How many total dispatches?

Barone: For

Tomasovitch: For the whole year.

Barone: For the whole year I have for ladder 27 was 98 calls and squad 27-5 was 6 calls.

Hegedus: For your records I have everything listed as Throop Hose Co #1 so I have 105.

Kucharski: And then the total number of cancellations. I know you were breaking them down there.

Barone: I have 36 and like I said that could come from anywhere. That could've been police only want EMS so we're cancelled. It could've come from the Chief rescue, Dunmore already on scene. UGI doesn't want us there. American Water.

Kucharski: Ok.

Barone: And then I just stumbled on a note on the back. Per county reporting, ladder 27, squad 27-5 responded and arrived on scene without being cancelled 42 times. So according to the CAD system we were on scene 42 times. And like I said Mr. Comstock has a number, I don't have the number with me that the State actually gets and that is supposed to coincide with our reporting and the CAD system. Any questions?

Kucharski: Well the only thing, I mean I am questioning and Andy there is a few, we're showing #1 on the scene 7 times out of 105 and Julie what was your number again?

Hegedus: 42

Barone 42. According to the CAD system 42 times. This is the whole year January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017. So just because we didn't actually make it on scene it could've been cancelled, we could've been at the station they didn't need us so it doesn't mean we weren't there. I mentioned before certain calls don't necessarily mean all of us so if the chief had to do an investigation we stood by at the station than we are not going to the scene we're waiting.

Magliocchi: So when it says no crew - it says 72 times. What does no crew mean?

Barone: I don't know if that came from com center or where that came from.

Hegedus: That is no communication to com center. Never signed on.

Barone: And that could've been anything from com center not listening because their, actually they switched over their system this past year. We all have to sign on through mid valley mutual aid and they don't always hear us whether it be our portables or we're supposed to use our mobiles. We're supposed to start the truck, get in and do it that way but they don't always acknowledge us. Even if we are going to a call they don't - sometimes don't hear us and we get there and we're like we are on scene but they didn't hear that we were in route.

Barnick: So now where did these numbers come from?

Hegedus: These numbers come from live com center and every incident report that we fill out for the town.

Barnick: So my question is how don't they match up?

Hegedus: I don't have the answer.

Barnick: If that CAD system is from com center right?

Barone: What they were doing

Hegedus: She just said it is unreliable because sometimes they don't hear them but we have the report that is filled out just like they do on every incident and the officer is generally responsible and that's where I am getting my break downs and my information from because I am not *inaudible* every call either so I go back and look at these reports and I evaluated them and when they say ladder 27 cancelled in route I look at it I track it that way no response, not dispatched. Our call numbers match we just don't agree with the on scene part and I would have to do a

further dive with com center to compare their records to the records that were reported.

Magliocchi: So you're saying com center

Barnick: When you get a cancellation do they report that or is there no report for a cancellation?

Hegedus: No we track cancellations. Every incident has a report.

Barnick: No I mean you'll report the cancellation but you don't write a report for that.

Hegedus: Oh yes we do.

Barone: Now we don't. We don't track who is at the scene and who isn't. That's not up to us to report that. We just track our people who responded from our company, what we did because if we have to go into court we're not speaking for the other company we are speaking for what we did. Mr Comstock was on the scene or Mr Jarosh. We're not talking about what everybody did as a whole.

Magliocchi: That's a big number difference if you go through the 2 systems though. Is that common for com center? Communication errors?

Hegedus: No. I don't feel it is. That's my opinion. I think if it is appropriate for me to speak that I think I would like to see the 42 reports where they showed them on scene compared to the 42 reports in the CAD system versus the 42 reports that we would match up to the incident. Because I have every Borough incident. And when you read your numbers tonight those are Throop calls only. Everything that has to do with the rescue going out of town was extrapolated out of it. Only Throop events. And they are by company. They're not apparatus. So 98 and 6, 104 she has and I have 105. And it could be there was an incident in February when Chief Barone cancelled the ladder and sent the squad in it's place on a report in February that was to the LBIH crossover. The ladder was dispatched and he requested the squad instead so.

Barone: Was that due to weather?

Hegedus: I don't know. We don't have that on here. Whatever the circumstances were that could be where the report is off by one on your end maybe because we create another incident for that because there is another unit dispatched.

Magliocchi: So yours is just created with both units.

Hegedus: Yes. Right. If we were ever asked who was on the scene we'd have to say that 27 ladder was taken off and the squad was the unit that was added. So I don't think that we disagree with our response or our allotted calls, the disagreement, not disagreement, I don't mean to use that word, on the disparity is to match up the county records and their calls and the borough calls I have recorded based on the officers at the rescue submit them to me to see what ones we are missing and to look at them individually.

Kucharski: Ok.

Tanana: If you take the 36 that Assistant Chief Barone said they were cancelled and the 7 that says they were on scene that comes out to 43 and that is pretty close to the 42. But I mean cancellations are cancellations. The cancellations are, it doesn't matter if you are in route or not, it's not saying you were there or weren't there, you were cancelled. Cancelled are cancelled. It doesn't matter if you are in route, not in route, if you are at the station. You're cancelled you're cancelled. The thing of it is, is that with the no crew, this number is the 72, do you have that breakdown Julie of - on there like no even acknowledging the call or

Barone: No I don't and to be honest sometimes our members don't actually fill out the calls either they forget out of memory or *inaudible*

Tanana: That's a problem everywhere.

Hegedus: Yes. That's exactly *inaudible*

Barone: So maybe they did sign on and forgot to fill one out or they did fill one out and your

already cancelled. It's hard to say.

Tanana: So I mean if you take those 36 plus the 7 you're coming close to that 42 number. Cancels are cancels. I don't even think the cancels should even go toward the percentages of *inaudible*

Hegedus: The real way we should be looking at it is getting on scene like she said. How many times were you really on the scene because you cannot, unless you read or listened to every recording from com center, you can't identify if like Julie said there are some dispatchers that don't ever acknowledge it and you may be one the way when the report is done and they don't even have you on the scene so there are times that, that has happened but you know when I broke it down I went based off of the report that said no response. So no response doesn't only mean that they just didn't get to the call it means really technically that nobody signed on the air. That's what we were tracking.

Magliocchi: 7 times on scene and she is saying 42 so that is a big difference.

Hegedus: Well I said the only way to solve that is to compare the calls. Get the com center calls, the call log that I have and get their calls and see which ones match the reports. I'm willing to do that.

Barone: So, just a question, is it so instead of us being cancelled you'd rather us continue to the scene regardless of the outcome, regardless of the weather conditions just to get there to get the number?

Hegedus: No. It's not my concern. It's the 7 members of councils and you know I came up with 27 cancellations was the number and I broke them down by the month and in January, very briefly just to try to sure up these numbers, these are only ladder cancels, and I have the reports to tell you the reason if you want to hear it. 2 cancels in January, 1 cancellation by Lieutenant Granza, 1 by Captain Calvert. February 2 cancellations, Chief 27 A cancelled the ladder to send the squad, and then the other was like Julie said before Chief DeNaples cancelled one on the LVIIH. In March there were 2 cancellations, firefighter Bushpics cancelled them once, Captain Calvert cancelled them once. April 2 times myself cancelled them. May one time myself and Anthony Snyder. 3 times in June I cancelled them. In July 1 time I cancelled them, Captain Calvert, *inaudible*, Lieutenant Granza and Anthony Snyder. I cancelled them once in August, once in September. Once they were cancelled by Throop PD like Julie said is possible. 3 times in October once was, *inaudible*, twice myself. November were 3, 2 times by myself, once by com center and then in December 2 times by myself so it's a you know I have the reports because I was prepared to answer why were all these being cancelled when I was asked the question which is a fair question to be asked so if we want to spend the time I will tell you that the *inaudible* share of these cancellations are, I don't want to say what happens at 3 in the morning or 2 in the afternoon is a nuisance call but 99 times out of 100 that call is not a legitimate - we had 2 actual fires in the building this past year there. So you know out of consideration for everybody the command cars purpose was, and even used by my predecessor, as kind of a quick response vehicle to get out as fast as possible, safely to get to the site to determine if there really is a problem. You get there at 3 in the morning and you meet Al Hollister, the plant manager for the evening shift, and he says we are cleaning the *inaudible* area with the pressure washer at 165 degrees worth of hot water set off the heat detector. There is absolutely no need for anybody else to continue in and put them on the road.

Kucharski: That's the last thing we want. Somebody racing.

Hegedus: Exactly. I have said this from the get go I am not the person that is one in favor of cancelling units for a lot of different reasons, as you can see here by the responses or the

cancellations that I am about half of them so and I wouldn't hesitate to explain the reasons why I cancelled them.

Kucharski: With respect to the cancellations I understand your explanation. I think the more concern is the no crew.

Magliocchi: Right. But you're saying those numbers are high with the no crew because even though you were dispatched on the way and you don't make it to the scene it's not counting.

Barone: It should still count if we are on the way.

All talking at once.

Hegedus: Here is one of the no crew concerns is there can be someone at the fire station at #1 and they are listening to the call and they are there but they don't sign on or they don't get heard like Julie said. And then that goes down as well nobody heard from the ladder or the engine for that matter and so it is put down as - you have to make the assumption that it is not crewed. If the vehicle didn't get out you make the assumption that it's - as long as it's not cancelled or held - you have to make the assumption that it is not been crewed. Like I said to Council for the last 3 years, if we want all the apparatus to roll and all the companies want to do that, that's fine. But we have had 3 accidents in the last month that the police physically and emotionally didn't handle the call well and didn't want all the fire apparatus there.

Kucharski: Because you don't need them.

Hegedus: Right. The night when the guy drove the truck into the police station, it was an interesting event and they said they didn't need all these vehicles here and I said to - the center standard policy in area 27, our area, is that if there is a motor vehicle accident that the entire box is hit. And the box I mean ladder, rescue, engine, chief, Dickson City ambulance. And now with the addition of the American back in service the American as well. So everybody wakes up like Julie said even if we are going to Dickson City. The pager goes off has to wake everybody up. They unfortunately have to hit the pager and go back to sleep but like the night of the Police Station being hit everybody was notified and the only one that signed on - on the air was the rescue and I directed them to continue in. So, and when we did get there, there was an issue with the police, they didn't want the rescue there and I said well I'll address that with Keith, Chief Jones, and there was a need for us to be there because we weren't sure if the building was stable or if *inaudible* on the left side of the building. And the truck was still running so there is a lot of extenuating circumstances. I would say having been in the position prior to being an officer nobody wants to get cancelled but there are just calls that we know including our own membership that they don't make some of these calls because they classify them as nuisance calls.

Kucharski: And again, as concerned about the cancellations, I think they are justified, it's the no crew that is what really, I mean that's the *inaudible* of the issue. I mean you can have the best equipment in the world but if there is nobody there to drive it and get it out to the scene and people to operate the equipment then that's obviously a major concern for council.

Hegedus: And not disputing Julie's numbers, her 42 that she states, I'd be happy to sit with her or go through them and see where the disparity is in the reporting and then address the other you know 45 or 50 calls that we didn't see them.

Barone: I don't really think we are at that point now. I think we are moving forward. I mean I would love to sit down and go through 230 some calls again but

Hegedus: We don't have to go through 230

Barone: *Inaudible* better reporting in the future. I mean like I said I can't see 72 with no crew

Magliocchi: you're saying what 56 right?

Barone: I have *inaudible* 42 times but that's not actually how many we were like signed on for - I don't have that number with me. The report we have compared to what we reported to the state - I don't have that *inaudible*

Kucharski: I don't think we want everybody to go back and you know recreate a whole *inaudible* of reports here. What I'd like to see and I think you just hit the nail on the head Julie - let's try to clean this up so that moving forward we know that we can have an accurate report.

Hegedus: And I'm always open to suggestions. How do we do that?

Kucharski: I have no idea. That's - I have no experience with respect to how it's done. You guys are the experts.

Tomasovitch: *inaudible*

All talking at once.

Magliocchi: *Inaudible* com center though right?

Barone: It's a little bit of everything. You are relying on the crews to fill out the actual report, Talking at once.

Hegedus: That's a major part of the problem at rescue as well.

Magliocchi: well usually com center, if there was better communication then you wouldn't

Hegedus: We get a full incident report now that our company spent the money and invested in that, that report automatically goes into the CAD system. We don't have to sit and input that now. The only thing that you have to add is the narrative and the man power. And any special kind of things. You get everything pulled out of the county CAD system. There was a meeting and I know Mr. Comstock was there with me at the meeting and we purchased that emergency recording software and we're using it 2 months. So we purchased it and we let the county with emergency recording back fill 7 years of reports for us so it was an investment, it's an annual investment, but it eliminates - we know for sure now to Julies point when I open up and go into emergency reporting and I see 27 calls in January and then there's 22 reports at the station there is a disparity of 5 calls somewhere. Where are they? So we have to look at our reports and the county and I would lean more towards my dependabilities on county. *Inaudible* that report they are literally hitting a button that sends a report it is fed real time it is not even an overnight process it's not a *inaudible* fed . You can go on a call at 11:00 in the morning, if the ticket gets closed at let's say 1:00 in the afternoon by 2:00 that afternoon that report is in the system for you to go into and manipulate and put the head count in there and any special narratives or anything like that. So that would help, and I'll tell you what would be a benefit, if Council were willing to pay for it. It's a \$500.00 set up fee and \$100.00 a year no contract. And you can do that for the 3 companies for \$1500.00 a year we have all the reports that are in the system and who's ever, if Julie is the person responsible for bringing the information out of the system we pull it out of the system, we report quarterly or report it semi annually and we'll give it to Council as a report and then you can match up the calls.

Kucharski: Probably would be a worth while investment.

Hegedus: There's no disputing it. I don't know if Julie agrees with that.

Barone: It wouldn't be up to me it would be up to the company.

Kucharski: One of the things that I was going to ask for would be some sort of regular reporting with respect to the things that we just elaborated on here.

Hegedus: But I can only give you our company.

Kucharski: I understand that but if we have some sort of an automated process I don't know I think

Hegedus: Well we have that now. We'll have that completely for 2018.

Kucharski: Well than what are you talking about that we should purchase the additional
Hegedus: I think it should - each company has there own identification - their monitor in emergency reporting so - and it's very scientific I think it's 27-1,2 & 3. No it is actually 35-271, 272 & 273. And that's how it is set up and each company - it takes a lot of the leg work out of anybody having to physically fill out these state requirements. Now you still have to fill out your local incident report just for your insurance piece of mind that you - some idea that the officer or whomever on the call put that information *inaudible* record into that paper incident report that at the end of the year we just save them all put them in a binder and then they are also scanned so that we have them if we ever have to go back and look for them. Still we have a roster on the back of our report and I'm sure the ladder has as well that says who are the people that were on the call and so someone still has to physically type that information in but it is a lot less and I'm sure that Dave would agree that from the starting page, all the detail that is required and all the subcategories there are probably, for anybody that has done it, there are probably 75 subcategories and then 20 sub categories, 75 subcategories it is the most dated driven piece of glorified *inaudible* that you would ever want to see but the state is extrapolating that data and that is what they are using for FEMA to get AFG grant funding and all that kind of stuff and that's the whole reason behind this. But if you're inputting directly into their own system directly out of the county CAD - Dickson City is using it Chinchilla is using it and we are using it. We are the 3
Kucharski: Just #3

Hegedus: We bought it on our own. We paid the \$500.00 and then we got a \$100.00 a year service fee. It's peanuts for what it does.

Kucharski: Why don't you - can you get together some sort of proposal and bring it before Council and we'll act on it. If it makes everybody's life easier it is certainly well worth the - fairly minor investment.

Hegedus: It is a very minor investment that's why we took it upon ourselves as soon as we found out about it. And I know Dave was there with me so he understands how it works. Do you think it is beneficial?

Dave Comstock: I think it would benefit everybody I believe. Right now I am personally typing in each information and each box and it is a nightmare. It may take you 15 - 20 minutes just to do one report.

Kucharski: Well again bring us the information.

Hegedus: I will have it for the next meeting.

Kucharski: I mean we are really not here to split hairs over responses but that's the cruks of the issue as I said we have all this wonderful equipment and our concern is that if it is not getting out then it is not doing what it is intended to do. So I mean I'd like to at least try to get a handle on the actual numbers but more importantly moving forward have a fool proof way of knowing what the actual circumstances are. This way it gives us a better sense of what's actually going on out there. So if you all can get together

Barone: Something on that a little bit - well just to touch on that, we are volunteer and we can't make every call. Numerous people in the room work out of town, work hours away. I've had 4 people out on injury and things like that but between surgeries, babies things like that you can't - you don't think is coming

Kucharski: Well that's what I said at the outset, it's a volunteer situation and people certainly have other things to do in their lives.

Barone: Unfortunately it's not like it used to be where everybody worked in town and they could leave work. Employers won't let you do that anymore. Even if you go in late they're not

supposed to penalize you but secretly they are talking about it behind closed doors.

Kucharski: but to the extent that it jeopardizes the *inaudible* of the town that's our concern and what I'd like at the conclusion of this. I would like to perhaps try to come up with some ideas in terms of what can we do collaboratively to make this work for everybody.

Hegedus: Mr. President I know we discussed this and I said we know there are times that the ladder's not going to get out, we know there are times that the rescue's not going to get out, we know there are times that the engine's not going to get out that's the whole idea behind the county CAD system and the hours that are spent developing these box alarms so that we are covering the municipality. I want to make sure here tonight that everyone in this room can feel safe and sound in knowing that if the 3 vehicles in Throop are out of service or broken down or doing something else there is somebody else coming. We've had that for the last 30 years in the county CAD system. We have had a, the challenge becomes in that, we just redid the box alarms on Saturday we prepared what we thought were going to be the box alarms; there is a concern- the engine is out of service now - I found out yesterday night at 6:00 because I listen to the radio and the out of service report. So I immediately texted Wayne and said do you know what is going on? He said I didn't know they were out of service. He asked me if I would call com center. I called com center, and in the mean time Wayne exchanged a text that said Chief Hartshorn took it out to do some mechanical work. So that's ok. He notified Council, he left a voice mail on

TAPE ENDED.

Hegedus: I am satisfied with that but we

Kucharski: I would like to hear everybody else's concern but the bottom line is we need to know that the town is covered and the people are safe in the event of an emergency situation.

Hegedus: They are absolutely safe.

Kucharski: Well that's why we are here to ensure that is happening.

Hegedus: I don't think there is anybody from the other member companies that would disagree. The box alarms are in place for that reason.

Barone: *Inaudible* you guys help out Dickson City or Dunmore, it's mutual aid.

Kucharski: Alright let's try to get those numbers together and from now on is it possible to give us a monthly report at each council meeting with respect to this information that you

Hegedus: Would you consider quarterly?

Kucharski: Yes that may be - ok. Everybody ok with that? Quarterly reports from Andy? To council talking about the number of dispatches and

Hegedus: and then Robin or myself will get it to the other member companies for comparative purposes.

Kucharski: Great. That would be perfect.

-----: Are we going to use your sheets or the CAD system?

Hegedus: We will be going off the county CAD system. Because I have to pull out all of the out of town and there are times that the ladder gets called to Olyphant.

Barone: We haven't gone to Olyphant in quite a while.

Hegedus: Well there have been some dispatches.

Barone: I didn't see one the past year at all. Dickson and *inaudible*.

Hegedus: There has been some dispatches that if they were going out of town that doesn't get counted in the count because the rescue's not going. Or the engine goes out of town. The engine

is still on Olyphant's box. So we have heard that numerous times.

Kucharski: Ok.

Chorba: Julie how many seats on your truck?

Barone: 8 well 6 - it's tight. 6 and then 2 little people.

Chorba: What's an average crew size for a call?

Barone: 4 maybe. It depends because if people are coming from out of town or they are leaving work, some people could leave work after a little bit they will take the squad or they will come in their own personal vehicle so it's hard to determine and it's hard to determine what time of day. Like the fire during the day the other day we had 6 people but people were leaving work to get there.

Chorba: So 4 or 5 is a good number on the average?

Barone: I'd say more like it depends.

Magliocchi: How many do you need to get the truck out?

Barone: Really only 2. You have the driver an officer and some of the people come to meet us there. And we are multi function, we are not just an ariel ladder, we have water we have rescue tools whatever else they need.

Hegedus: And we do have them set up that way on numerous box alarms inside the town because they are a multi functional vehicle. They do have rescue tools and that goes back to my predecessor who and I'm sure Chief Barone would remember we had conversations about that and we actually have 3 good sets of tools in the town so you know if any major crash it would be, the ladder is on that MVA, motor vehicle accident because of their tools and they have stretched lines for water.

Magliocchi: So they're never really cancelled on an accident call.

Hegedus: Unless the police cancel us or we get there and it's, like in front of the building here the other day I get told by the police officer get out of here. We don't need you. I said at least let me check for fluids down. We had a multi car crash the day before Thanksgiving 3 kids going to school and the 3 cars smashed into each other because nobody could see east bound and they walloped each other and I got to the scene and the police said we don't want anybody here and I actually went back to the station and I now carry in the command car some speedy dry a 5 gallon jug because there was a need, there were fluids down but everybody was off the road. Their objective is to get the road cleared and keep traffic flowing and the last thing they want is it to be clogged up with fire apparatus and we hear that time and time again and after a call last week that we had at Harper Collins and Gertrude Hawk I had a discussion with -plans I spoke about it at our meeting yesterday to have a discussion with police about their location of their police vehicles on all calls because sometimes they are right in the way and sometimes it can impede the fire service doing what they need to do so we need to work together better on that.

Kucharski: Alright, Wayne's questions *inaudible* there's a little different twist here and I know that we did have some discussions as a Council with respect to this,

- What is an acceptable productivity level to expect from our fire department? For instance, responses, staffing, community training.

And Wayne I don't want to speak for you but I think part of the discussion was should funding be allocated based upon the number of responses. For example if #3 makes 75% of the responses but #2 only makes 25 should the split be 75/25. Is that what you were trying to get at Wayne?

Williams: Well there has been a lot of discussion not only by council but members of the community. Everybody has an opinion on how to take care of the fire service and I think until we get enough of responses from everybody and correct responses and input from the fire

departments I don't think a decision can be made. I think this is just one of the questions is to is this something that we need to do going forward is it something that we should look at if somebody is only making 8% of the calls are they worthy of getting a \$30,000 allotment every year when they are not spending the money in fuel, they aren't giving back to the community other than whatever, whether it be parades fireworks and I am speaking in response to the engine too because we can't crew. So do I feel that may be an avenue to go? Possibly. Another thing to look at to is what Olyphant does. I mean Olyphant has all their departments turn in their utilities and their insurances and the borough pays it that way and then just gives you a smaller stipend. Is that a way to go? I don't think - none of us up here have the right answers right now. I personally think this was a meeting to get input from the fire departments because these fire departments have been - you have been around a lot longer than most of us are alive. I've only been here since 2001 and the things I've seen the fire departments do in my 16 years here are incredible. Yes we are at a low right now but that's the way it is across the nation. Another thing that I would really like to do is get input on how we, how do we get volunteers to come out and help fire departments. Do we do something like give tax breaks, do we pay for life insurance for life? It's another thing we have to look at, we need to draw people out to volunteer because at this rate we aren't going anywhere. We're declining every year. I am looking for input how can we solve that issue?

Hegedus: First of all I think it is cyclical in the last 40 years in the fire service it has gone full circle. It has gone that there was a time that there was a 10-15 year period that before they became ladder 27 they were engine 27-1 and that was the place to be because they got out, they had all young members. People change, people move out of town, people grow up then the cycle changed and it went down to the rescue for awhile and people moved into town there was active people and I think everyone knows the history of all of that in the community and that is the piece that I think we have to prepare for that when you spoke about creating a single identity that we have to prepare for the cycles because it's not to say I mean we just lost 2 members to the career service and that's 3 in the last 5 years that moved out of town, fortunately once and awhile they are back in town. That hurts but we've supplemented it with a skill set or at least somebody who's willing to take an interest in the fire service. The person that is interested in a fire service isn't looking for a \$40/year tax break on their taxes because the majority of our fire service hopes going forward are starting at the explorer program 14 years of age and right now we have 5 junior firefighters that are under the age of 18 and we want to get them interested and I mean a \$40 tax break doesn't benefit them, a life insurance policy doesn't benefit them. It's getting them involved and getting them interested and we've done career days up the school, we've met with them. We've had open houses as other companies have had. We've had events. We've had participation. We get a very good response at fire prevention but the problem is they only go to 6th grade and we don't get to spend enough time with the middle school people. That is the formative time for them. To take an interest in this. And that is nothing that is unique to Throop, PA and I would say that if any of us here had the answer Tom Wolf would welcome you down to the State Capital and treat you like a king or queen because they don't have the answer either. It's just creating programs, creating interest and I think a part of that reaches back to that you have to get out and get on calls and get these juniors running so that they feel the experience or you include them in training and you have good in house programs and you get them interested so that they stay longer because for the boys it's *inaudible* smell of gasoline or perfume there is a chance you're going to lose them and the same thing goes for the female junior members their at a vulnerable time where they're making decisions and you know when we were kids there wasn't

lacrosse, field hockey, summer basketball or winter basketball, summer baseball, fall baseball all these things. Kids are preoccupied today and we're looking for that 14 - 20 year old and the only way you get noticed today is really by being on the calls and that's the challenge.

Kucharski: I think that you are 1000% right. What I think we have to do as the Throop Fire Department, have to undertake those activities and not just as Hose Company #3, or #2, or #1 but as the Throop Fire Department and that would help enrich each of the companies.

Hegedus: And I think from the training perspective we have done that numerous times. I think when everybody gets together there are no issues. We worked several times on Gombar's house not as much as we would've liked to and we never got to the rectory because of circumstances but you know we had a Sunday there, we had the engine there, we had a crew from the engine, we had Chief Barone there with the ladder. Unfortunately we didn't get to do some of the things just because of the location but when you ask the question and give everybody enough notice it's a pretty good turnout. No complaints on that end.

Kucharski: One of the things under the topics I have planning for the future and I think that is one of the things that we should definitely pursue as a fire department to get out there and try to do whatever we can to enhance recruitment and again from the entire departments perspective and not just 1 company.

Hegedus: And I agree and I think it becomes inclusion. I think that we have to extend the invitation and I think we've done a very good job at doing that and if people are available they do it. Like Julie said there are some of us that work out of town and things happen and it's a commitment to get who's going to go to fire prevention. I mean we are dealing with 1300 children up there now. It's a big event and for the last 4 years we have taken on Dickson City and Olyphant because we can't do it all and all it has done is send positive vibes and you know if we are going to do recruitment days up at the school for career days like we have planned I don't see any problem with the 3 companies going together and notifying them

Kucharski: Alright well let's make note of that in terms of what again one of the things I'd like to achieve here is to not only continue but to expand our dialog and communication and discussion. That's certainly one way to achieve that.

Magliocchi: I think what we need to actually do to is with each individual Hose Company, I don't know tonight or whatever and I'm not saying speak on behalf of the entire hose company but their opinion of the best move for the future. Like what do they want to see.

Kucharski: Well that is part of the discussion here.

Hegedus: This is where I am hoping that council is going to do what they've always said, to help me to say that I am not the guy that - who came up here and said that we need consolidation. And I think I need to hear that from the entire council here tonight to satisfy my position because I told you it's not easy being the bad guy. And it really needs to come from you all here that I have never approached Council

Tomasovitch: No you didn't.

Hegedus: and said that we need consolidation, put this company out of business, do any of this stuff and

Kucharski: That's why I said what I said at the onset ,

Hegedus: Well I just want to make sure that everybody in this room understands that.

Kucharski: We are not here trying to force that.

Magliocchi: I think my biggest question is based on the calls and what has been going on with the amount of members and stuff like that, is that the best thing for the future.

All talking at once.

Magliocchi: I am not a fireman so I am not going to argue on your opinion but I mean it is a question that I have. Is it the best thing

Tanana: I think everybody up here's question is, is it the best operating model for the future.

What is the operating model for the future? Is it co-location vs. consolidation? I mean where it doesn't matter whether you are from 1, 2 or 3 you are all in the same place you operate as 3 individual administrative companies but you are all crossed trained on everybody's equipment *inaudible* structure fire, ladders out first, the first 7 or 8 guys out on the ladder. Second and third

Hegedus: Mrs. Tomasovitch has said that 5 years in a row at least.

Tanana: But I mean to be traveling from this part to that part to that part - granted where the vols is and #1 is it is not that great of a travel time but.

Hegedus: Here is something that we talked about yesterday, first of all like you said they are 3 separate entities and Mrs. Tomasovitch knows it, I have answered her question many times. You can't just go down there and say to Throop Hose Co #1 - a we're taking the ladder we're going to use it. That's not how it works and she understood that after we had a nice conversation about that during a public meeting. But yesterday the conversation came up - yes what if we did reach out - like there was a time when the engine, even the ladder, I rode the ladder before I was an officer at the rescue and rode the ladder to Olyphant and went to work with Chief Barone, his son, the 2 Ganz brothers and a couple others and vice versa we picked people up when we were doing things and it was a good thing but the issue becomes now that if we do start to work as like a co-dependent fashion, ok so we say that it's a structure fire, we know that the first piece of apparatus we want out is the ladder. So we say alright this one this one this one let's get - have these 6 to go to crew for the ladder. So 3 of the members belong to the rescue so now they have to go to the rescue and get their gear go down to #1 and get on the ladder. It's just there's too many variables. It's not conducive at this time and I am going to say here, building a 5 million dollar fire station isn't going to solve any of these problems and Bob we've had that conversation. As much as we'd like to hope for it to be that, it's not going to make - our issue is manpower. Our issue isn't the qualifications of anybody doing anything that they need to do on the scene or getting manpower and services there - it's how are we going to get more people into the system that *inaudible* the future and carry on and get out to calls today. Wednesday was the perfect example I went to sleep Monday night and told my wife we're going to have a structure fire tonight because I have to go to Pittsburgh tomorrow and sure enough Wednesday afternoon I am sitting in a meeting and I get the text at 1:45 that there is a structure fire and I'm out of town, the Captain is working on his job, he's out of town, the lieutenant is at his job, he's out of town, so we were in more than capable hands but it just - things happen.

Kucharski: It's the nature of the volunteer.

Hegedus: It's like Asst. Chief Barone said we do what we can when we can. That's what it boils down too. Nobody is criticizing anybody in particular for the amount of calls that are made or the amount of calls that don't get made I don't make every call not everybody makes every call. Some people have the luxury that they can leave work, I don't have that luxury. Some people work close enough by that they can get here and do what needs to be done and not everybody has that today. And it's not like it was in the 80's for us, you show up to work at 1:00 in the afternoon and they'd say what happened. Well we had a structure fire and they'd say ok you're good for the rest of the day. It's not going to get solved by just saying build one building or force consolidation or do anything of this. I think it's in covet upon the 3 companies to say - we need to come up with a plan and let us tell council because we are the people in the field,

Kucharski: That's what we are looking for.

Hegedus: we are the people that are in the services of it and I worry and I've said it to council on numerous occasions when other people haven't been here be careful about what you want to see accomplished by owning equipment, owning buildings and doing all this kind of stuff because we don't want to create that negative vibe that is going to push people away and people that have been here for many, many years and say well we're going to give you everything and nobody read anything into this but it's just one of those things be careful what you wish for. Because we can say we're going to have the best of everything and do all this and it's not if you build it they will come.

Barone: Bob just kind of touching back on recruitment when before you got on consolidation we do already try to do recruitment through our - we do a letter drive, the fund-raisers twice a year. We do have it in our letter and then we do have things on our website and flyers that we post and such or we invite people to come to our firehouse but as you were saying if that is something that we are out to get together maybe that's something I'm not sure if Council's up for it but they would want to help us with recruitment and retention because they see different entities which we are different entities but with all of us being in one room right now I mean you know we have people but we don't have people all the time. Like I said it's volunteer. We don't have a cap on how many people that we are allowed to have and how many members but. So recruitment wise we do recruit. We try to anyway.

Kucharski: Well again that's why I feel that we really should have an ongoing open dialog so that issues like that can be discussed.

Hegedus: The best recruiters are the junior members that are joining because they tell a friend we get another friend and that's how we pushed 14 new juniors through going back to 2008.

Kucharski: Ok so then we could have a commitment from the 3 companies to try to work together jointly with respect to recruitment. Everybody agree with that?

Hegedus: Absolutely.

Barnick: Here's a question for the 3 too.

Barone: And it's not just the junior members like we would need some older people over 18 because junior *inaudible* they can't drive the truck. You need people that, we have people that are truck drivers, that have their CDL they help us drive, pump the truck. So you kind of have to look elsewhere as well. But then with family life not everyone wants to leave their family to come drive a truck in the middle of the night.

Kucharski: Yes we understand that. Right.

Barnick: Question for the 3 departments. If you were to consolidate wouldn't that take away part of your personnel problems? Wouldn't you have a lot more people there?

----You'd have the same number of people it would just be one building. You are not adding people by consolidating you're still dealing with 5 from this one, 5 from this one, 6 from this one.

Some talking at once. *Inaudible*.

---- It's not going to really add any more to your roster.

Tomasovitch: Why can't we get other people trained on certain trucks?

Attorney Cimini: You probably know about this - the National Volunteer Fire Council make me a firefighter.

---- The junior program?

Cimini: Well they have a junior but then they have a Make me a firefighter program.

Hegedus: Yes we have a recruit, we get recruiting materials from them but there just kind of the same stuff. It's nothing that our own members haven't come up with or thought of. Last year a

couple of the members went up to the middle school and set up an interactive display that they built on their own. They did a terrific job building this interactive display with some red lights. It got the kids walking by and say hey what's going on and stuff like that. You know we got a couple of bites from it. We got a junior from Dunmore High School now because the kid is interested, well he is actually not a junior right now, he is 18 now. He is a senior but he wanted to get active in the fire service and he went to Dunmore and they said well we don't really have this kind of program why don't you go over to Throop and so he called, we brought him through the program and he is starting to get engaged more. But it's not long term. Those are the issues too. But I do agree that we need to fill the rosters with people that can drive apparatus and call them scene support for the lack of a better word. We're not looking for people that need to run into burning buildings or do full rope rescue scenarios and that kind of stuff we are looking for people that want to get involved. I talked to a person yesterday that was at the soccer meeting there, he stopped at my house and we got to talking about one of our events and I said you know have you ever considered that and he said I have 2 children and he said I can't come up for air with all the things these 2 kids are doing. And I think that's the big difference today vs. when I was younger, that a lot of our parents, there weren't all these things for us to do as kids and that's the challenge we're faced up against today so you know. We're committed to the help, whatever we can do.

Kucharski: Is anybody here from #2 that wanted to responded to the response rates?

Williams: Well right now it's just me because our Chief had a basketball game with his son and another gentleman is working so I can't confirm or deny any of these numbers. I'm just going to go off of Andy's reporting that this is actually what did happen. I know probably that September - October is when we lost

Hegedus: probably fell off. When Josh and Greg left.

Williams: Right.

Inaudible.

Kucharski: So the next topic for discussion and Vince I think we kind of went around this and talked about it but the commitment to provide fire protection to borough residents from individual companies. I think it goes without saying that everybody wouldn't be here if you weren't committed.

Hegedus: Right. I don't question anybody's commitment.

Kucharski: No.

-----: You get any complaints from the residents about response?

Tanana: The residents really don't care who comes as long as somebody comes. They don't care what company comes. They don't neither here nor there as long as somebody comes they don't care who it is. But they can't sit there and say well you know, half of them probably don't even know we have a ladder truck if you were to ask them.

Hegedus: It's the same situation with the ambulance.

Tanana: With the rescue, with the ambulance same thing, oh Dickson City ambulance. Yea Throop ambulance has been defunct 3 years so that's our ambulance provider.

Hegedus: That's the biggest question that seems people ask that they are still asking and I can't even tell you how many years it is, is why isn't there an ambulance in Throop and I just say there isn't and we've got a provider and like I've told council on numerous occasions there are times when the 23 ambulance is not available specifically 6-10 every night because it's volunteer. And I've always said that if I don't care or our officers don't care nor should they but if they request an ambulance we don't care what color it is - it comes. It's just that there better be one there

when we need it and the county does that for us.

Kucharski: Ok. Next topic is the future of the current operational model. I think we have had quite a bit of discussion relative to that. I think it does go without saying that probably 15 plus years down the road the current operation model is certainly going to be outdated and

Hegedus: I am going to say 5.

Kucharski: 5. Could be 5.

Tanana: I think Jim asked before *inaudible* consolidation *inaudible* and Mr. Benson and Mr. Jarosh said you are not going to get anymore members per say but co-location or consolidation whatever you want to do - what it will do is if there is 6 people on the rescue and 4 of them are drivers 3 people are sitting down the engine with no driver what it will do is you back flow one person off of the ladder with the rescue and now you are getting 3 pieces out of the door.

Hegedus: We've had that conversation Mr. Williams and I.

Tanana: You're not going to get anymore as far as masses of people but what it's going to do is I know a lot of complaints from a lot of people why they stopped coming around. Well we don't have a driver, sick of sitting there or I'm a driver and I'm sick of nobody *inaudible*. And it happens all the time. I went through it with the rescue where at 4:00 in the morning going to station 98. I'm there waiting for people. And it's like why am I getting up at 4:00 in the morning to drive to Moosic but

Hegedus: The night has gotten tougher and tougher because of what assistant chief Barone said about the there are employer's that are not so sensitive today to you showing up 4 hours late for work because you were out at 3 in the morning on a motor vehicle accident or something serious whatever it is any kind of fire or whatever that you try to rush to get out of there and it's faith, family, work, fire department. And that's the way it really should be and of course your primary responsibility is to make a living and keep your employer satisfied.

Kucharski: Again I think this is certainly something that bears further discussion. There was some good ideas discussed here tonight and I think they bear further discussion. One of the things that I would like to recommend is perhaps for at least the foreseeable future is for the companies to have regular meetings I think council could facilitate if necessary. But just to try to pursue some of the ideas, I mean I don't know what the insurance issues are or any of the other regulations with respect to 1 member driving another companies truck or whatever.

Hegedus: I'm pretty sure but I'd have to ask the treasurer from #1 if they are still with Providence. Yes so we have the same insurance as the ladder so there is no issue. Our Provident insurance is far and away the best and when I say our I mean #1's and the rescue's is far and away the best that Bobby Magliocchi can get in the emergency response vehicle and do what needs to be done and if something God for bid happens we are covered under that Insurance. There is no ifs ands or buts about it. If we needed somebody to drive that vehicle it can be driven.

Barone: They can drive it but can they pump it.

Hegedus: We're just talking about - right - not the operational end of it Chief Barone. That's a whole other story. That generally seems to be a major challenge. Again like you've heard me say here before that the thing that always scared me and if any of us didn't learn our lessons from the Diocese of Scranton is to say well we're going to consolidate you and we're going to go to this station or that station or whatever and we have the same thing happen that happened to the 3 Churches in the Borough and 90% of the people that belonged to the Churches that were in the Borough do not go to the Throop Church now because they felt that it was you know a slap in the face and they were greeted at the bottom of the steps with a ha, ha you had to come here so you know it's, first of all we don't have a building that would serve all 3 companies and that's an

issue. I'm not saying that, that's not feasible down the road but it's going to take time and planning.

Kucharski: Well we have to crawl before we walk.

Hegedus: Well it's all baby steps.

Cimini: Andy how long do you think before you can get together and come back to council? With the other companies?

Hegedus: As far as what?

Cimini: You said that you were going to get together and present a plan to council on what you thought should be done.

Hegedus: Planning for the future you mean?

Cimini: Yes.

Hegedus: I would say, could we have 60 days? Does that work for the other companies?

Kucharski: First of all, well Wayne is the only one here from #2 but #1, Jerry, Dave is that something you guys would be interested in at least talking about and see what we could do?

Barone: We can always talk

Kucharski: Jerry are you ok with that?

Jerry Barone: Mr. President is speaking for us. *Inaudible* we'll take it back to our members. Most of them are here and that's why we told them to come here to hear what was going on because the perception was that our members didn't know what was going on and that wasn't true.

Kucharski: Well that's the last thing that we want to happen too. We want everyone to know what is going on and be proactive and move forward. Would you like Council to be involved in these initial meetings?

Hegedus: I think I'd like to see the 3 companies sit down and say you know what do we think the future holds for us. Look at our membership rosters and say where we think we need to be to continue and start from there. We really need to take a deep dive at this and go deep into the weeds and 60 days would be very impressive number but I think if it, at a minimum, if it starts the conversation that we say well what is it that you feel, you know I would ask Throop Hose Co #1, the first question is, where do you feel you fit in or what is the current status of, what's your perception of what's going on in the fire service in the town or something like that. We have to really do some deep diving here to find out, even to get to something where it's going to be to a point where it is going to be beneficial to bring it back to you. We sit down and say you know let's just hope we get more members and see things try to get better and hope for the best. And that's not going to accomplish anything. We really need, I think if we were looking at this as a business like you have said many times Mr. Magliocchi, you all have, the Borough of Throop is a business with a 6 million dollar budget. Well we have invested how many millions of dollars Mr. Tanana in the fire service over the last 20 years.

Tanana: Probably close to 1.4 million. Just in the last 11 years in allotments is \$840,000.00.

Hegedus: Right so it's a business, a legitimate business that we need to set up a model.

Tanana: That's for all 3 allotments.

Hegedus: I think it starts that if we are all sitting down, the first thing that I think I'd like to see done is - we want to figure out how can we reduce expenses because that's the first important thing because of the amount of money that we are given by council every year. I will tell you right now, for the volunteer hose company of throop, for the rescue, the funding that we receive we're \$31,000.00 in the hole for last year. It costs us \$56,000.00 to keep the doors open and I'm sure #1's numbers are not far behind. Are they Mr. Comstock?

Comstock: They are close to it.

Hegedus: Right and the days of us getting, and Chief Barone will remember getting and Dave Benson and Mr. Fuhr and Mr. Skutnik the days of us getting our \$1,000.00 allotment and the light bill was \$12.00 and there was no gas bill and all this stuff. Our insurance alone with Provident for the rescue is close to \$17,000.00. And I have addressed that with council that in my opinion I still feel that we are under insured since we put the addition on the building since we put the new vehicle in the building and all the equipment and everything. Based on the number's that we have and that's something that council has asked me to look into and when renewal time comes up that's the numbers I'll be - just explaining to you what's going on - but 16,000 out of the what is it Robin 23,000?

Galli: Yes.

Tanana: 23,625.

Hegedus: 23,625 almost \$17,000.00 is going to insurance and maybe what we can sit and say one of the things planning for the future is we have to put our thumb on the agent *Inaudible* with Provident and say listen we've got these three companies and here is what we are paying you in policy premiums and we need to sharpen that pencil, we need to come up with a better number or you know what - we'll do like #2 did - we'll go find somebody else. So those are the kind of things, I think short term we have to figure out how we can reduce our expenses to help us to continue to do the things we need to do like Assistant Chief Barone asking is there funding that we can do for, to have an event, to have an open house and do things like that. We are so far upside down, all the companies, that we don't have that extra money to hold an event or we had the Christmas tree lighting

Kucharski: Well bring some proposals to council and we would be certainly happy to entertain if it is going to be make a positive difference. But again right now I think we really have to look at tweaking the current operational model and that's what we would really like to see you all kind of get together. Bring your thoughts to us and anything else you need we'll try to support. Anything we can fund we can certainly be more than willing to entertain it. Not to sound like a broken record but the health and safety of the town that's the #1 and the residents that's the #1 concern for everybody and I know I can speak for everybody in this room.

Hegedus: Right. There is a large concern that people get turned away from the fire service to now because you're running in the past we would be running fund raisers to get equipment or we would do something or some kind of training or whatever and today we are running events to keep the lights on and we're running envelope drives to keep the lights on. I don't think there's anybody, any of the 3 companies that are sitting with \$100,000.00 in the bank to say we can do whatever we want to do. Some are more well off than others but if some of that financial burden can be lifted like Mr. Williams said that you can look at that Olyphant model and maybe the Borough pick up some of the slack on the utilities and things like that it would take some of the strain off and maybe it would get some members more motivated to come around. I know in the past we've had members that said I'm sick of doing fund raises because we are paying the light bill with it or we are paying the utility bill and it just gets them in a bad mood and when they get in a bad mood they get festered and there is nothing worse than people sitting around the fire station talking about these things and it just breeds that anger and the next thing you know people aren't coming around or they're not responding to calls.

Williams: Well another thing too is you are doing all this fund raising and people with families have to plan around doing fund raising along with spending time with their families and they can't go to the shore that weekend because the hose company is doing chicken BBQ and you're

constantly doing chicken BBQ's or pizza sales or wing sales or whatever.

----: I have to disagree with that because down at our place we hold 4 or 5 fund raisers a year and we get nothing but help. I don't know where you are going wrong but, we hold 2 chicken BBQ's, 2 breakfast, Mr. Barone runs the envelope drive.

Kucharski: The turn out is always great.

----: And actually this year we are planning on putting an extra fund raiser in so. But we get all the help we want for that. Fires - hmm - different story.

Tomasovitch: *Inaudible* a lot of older members?

----: Yep and we got a lot of young ones.

Tomasovitch: And all those people come out?

----: But it's both of them. The younger ones come out also.

Barone: And we have a lot of residents that thank us for putting on the fund raisers because the churches aren't like they used to be. There is no picnics. The cow flop but not picnics like there used to be

Kucharski: There is not going to be a cow flop this year I guess.

Hegedus: I don't think any of the fire companies fund raisers *inaudible*. They're fantastic

Kucharski: There is no question. Alright well. The other 2 here is; Borough commitment to fire service in terms of funding and equipment. Well obviously I think the borough has demonstrated commitment. Purchased the fire truck open to any other types of proposals anything that we can certainly do we are willing to listen. We can't do everything but there are a lot of things that we can do. Fortunately we are not a poor town. We do have some money that we can - we purchased the fire truck. It is my understanding that we borrowed from our own sunny day fund and paid our self back at 5% interest so you know there are ways that we could use some of the money that we have to benefit the fire service and benefit the citizens at the same time. Again as I mentioned today, any types of issues or proposals that you think perhaps we should entertain, bring us the information, we would certainly be more than happy to look at potentially funding them as long as we can do it. I don't think it should be an issue for the members of Council but if you don't ask we can't respond.

Magliocchi: With that being said, I look at it this way, you guys serve as *inaudible* volunteer so you guys do, do fund raisers to run the fire house. I think that's a good thing but I don't think you guys should have to make money to service the town especially being volunteers. I think that a fund raiser should be more or less - and that's why paying the bills is a big advantage for you guys because then your fund raisers go towards equipment and pieces that you actually need for the firehouse. You are basically volunteers trying to raise money to keep a firehouse to service the town. That's where I disagree. I think that if you look at council paying the bills, *inaudible*, then everything you guys raise can go towards the benefit of equipment and stuff that you guys *inaudible*. That's how I look at fund raising and stuff. Not saying you obviously have no problem with volunteers but you may get more. You're creating more money where you can get stuff for the house and stuff like that so I mean it's something to look into too.

Tanana: Because nothing is going to get cheaper. Hasn't gotten cheaper.

Hegedus: Just for your clarifications, the Borough did earn 5% when they purchased the Pierce because the discussion that took place with previous council was that they wanted to borrow the money and not borrow it even from themselves and I think Wayne was the Mayor at the time that we said where on earth is anybody going to earn 5%. They saved about \$21,000.00 on the purchase of that vehicle by paying, writing the check out up front and then they paid it back over the 3 years. Lou you remember that. Those are great kinds of opportunities and that is

something that council should be proud of.

All talking at once.

Kucharski: It's something that, you know if there is a bonifidable proposal it is certainly, that can be thought about again.

Magliocchi: The biggest thing is just getting each fire houses opinion on their outlook for the future.

Kucharski: Any other comments from Council? Joe.

Mayor Tropiak: I had one thing I'd like to mention to the chief. You talked about problems, discussions with the police in your vehicle hindering, would it benefit to have the chief of police, yourself, council members, borough manager, myself discuss that soon?

Hegedus: It would be a great help if you would sit down with the chief and myself and probably the borough administrator

TAPE ENDED.

Hegedus: and I would be happy to sit down with you and Mr. Cimini.

Both talking at once.

Kucharski: No certainly not.

Inaudible

Hegedus: and bring it back to you. That's what I would suggest.

Kucharski: Whatever. I am available.

Hegedus: And I don't think Chief Jones has ever not listened to what we've had to say. Ever.

Kucharski: Ok. Anyone else on Council? Ok. How about anyone in the audience from the fire companies? Or anyone else? Anymore comments? Ok just to recap really quickly, Andy we are going to ask you for quarterly reports with respect to response and try to iron out the numbers. You will be bringing us proposals with respect to that system.

Hegedus: And then we will share them with the other companies.

Kucharski: Yes. And we're also going to try to look at a joint recruitment process and again if you need any money ask. Also started discussion about perhaps some cross training with respect, particularly the ladder truck,

Hegedus: We have done that in the past.

Kucharski: As far as drivers and what not and operators as well.

Hegedus: The driver piece is going to be something that Throop Hose Co. #1 has to discuss amongst their members and all that kind of stuff because there is a tremendous responsibility

Kucharski: But we also want to have the discussion at least to start. You know if you come back and say we can't do it

Hegedus: I will tell you that chief Barone has told me on numerous times that we will never do our best to get the vehicle there, to get an operator there and anybody that needs to use the vehicle or operate off of it as long as they have their certified operator there that we were willing to do that is that fair to say *inaudible*?

Barone: Yep.

Kucharski: Ok so again so then we will continue the open dialog and discussion you'll come back to us with some sort of report or whatever for want of a better term in 60 days and planning for the future. Did I miss anything? Well once again I really appreciate everyone coming together. It was eye opening. There was no intent to coheres or bash anybody and I don't think we did that. I am really pleased with the discussion that we had and just look forward to working

with everyone in the future.

Sue Barone: Do you want to put a tentative date on that 60 days when you want to come back together?

Tanana: March.

Hegedus: Like for the, what's the 4th Monday in March. What's the date?

Chorba: 26th.

All talking at once.

Kucharski questioned if that is a council meeting date.

Chorba: It should be.

Kucharski: March 19th. Is that ok with everybody? So we'll re convene on March 19th at 6:30 here in Council Chambers.

Hegedus: For just the fire service? Or just the reports? At the regular monthly meeting.

Kucharski: No it will just be a meeting like this.

Hegedus: No March 26th.

Kucharski: March 26th is the council meeting. But we'd like to have it the week before similar to this type of meeting. I think it would be helpful, again open communication, everybody here hearing the same thing.

Hegedus: Ok.

Kucharski: Ok with that?

Hegedus: So we want the reports done for March 19th?

Kucharski: That's 60 days.

Tomasovitch: You're talking about 2 different things. He's talking about the quarterly report.

Kucharski: Oh no. Your first quarterly report - we'll let's say, end of March.

Tomasovitch: And then we want a meeting on the 19th.

Kucharski: But your 60 day meeting will be on the 19th.

Hegedus: Ok.

Kucharski: Thanks everybody. Stay warm.

The meeting was adjourned.

Meeting minutes by Renee O'Malley
Borough Secretary