

**Minutes  
Throop Borough Council  
Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
Borough Fire Chief and Volunteer Hose Companies  
Operational Procedures and General Purposes  
Special Work Session/Meeting 6:30 p.m.**

**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 - P

Secretary - Renee O'Malley - P

Chief Clerk/Treasurer - Robin Galli - P

**Announcements:**

\* The month end meeting scheduled for March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 was rescheduled to Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

**Work Session/Meeting Schedule:**

\* The March monthly work session/meeting will be held Tuesday, Mar. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

\* The Apr. mid month work session/meeting will be held on Mon. Apr. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 6:30p.m.

\* The Apr. monthly work session/meeting will be held on Mon. Apr. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Kucharski: First of all I want to thank everybody for coming. Thank you for your interest in the future of the Throop Fire Department which is why we are all here. I think we had a good meeting about 8 weeks ago in January and I think we had some good discussion from Councils perspective to reiterate our main concern - responsibility is for the health and safety of the residents of Throop and the fire departments obviously are one of the most intricate parts of that so obviously it presents some concerns when we have to look at the future and in terms of planning for the future. We can't just sit here blindly and wait for things to happen. It has to be proactive *Inaudible* and such. So we asked for a dialog and made some suggestions about perhaps some joint recruiting anyway so we asked that the chiefs, asked the fire chief Andy Hegedus to conduct a meeting with the chiefs and a meeting was held last Thursday. So I am going to ask Andy if he could give us a report on that meeting.

Hegedus: Ok. So we actually met Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 over at the Civic Center. I was present, Wayne Williams was present on behalf of Throop Hose Co #2 Chief Barone was present, Assistant Chief Chuck Tanana, Assistant Chief Randy Jarosh and Captain Jeff Granza of the Rescue. So we sat down and we opened a dialog with regards to why we were finally sitting down and getting together and getting everybody finally to agree to a time and a place where we could sit down. Some points were brought up, so the first point and I will just go based on my notes, and if Chief Barone or anybody else that was there wants to put input in of what else was said to add to something I may have over sighted please by all means feel free to interrupt me. The discussion started out with Chief Barone talking about do we need everybody on the road for AFA's because of safety risk. And remember AFA is an automatic fire alarm. Which make up a large percentage of the volume of calls in the Municipality. Whether it be residential or commercial like Gertrude Hawk or any of those other establishments. We have our fair share. Again we are only talking about Throop. We are not talking about any other out laying municipalities and excuse my back those of you behind me. So we did agree that there is a safety risk involved in that and the whole idea behind that is always been to minimize the amount of traffic especially in the middle of the night or in bad weather. Because the good piece about that is generally these AFA's are usually false in nature. Now I will dispute a little bit of that with Gertrude Hawk and I am about to have a conversation with them since the new owners have taken over that if they decide on a Friday night that they want to clean what's called the *inaudible* (painting) area where they put chocolate on candy and stuff like that and it shut down and then the third shift comes in and they are going to do all the steam cleaning those heat detectors are set at 135 degrees there. So they come in with a pressure washer that is generated about 165 degrees fahrenheit and creating steam and setting off the alarm so the question in the industry is - is that a false alarm? Is that not paying attention to what you're doing? Or is it an actual event? An actual event. I myself feel it's an actual event because the alarm did go off. It did what it is supposed to do. So we know it is working. We are trying to educate them on what they need to do to prevent these things from happening because we do have a false alarm ordinance that we probably need to start enforcing that will make them more aggressively want to participate in what's the right thing to do and that's put the system on test before you are going to do any type of that work.

Kucharski: And if I can just stop you for a minute

Hegedus: Sure.

Kucharski: I think given what you just said perhaps we should get together with Lou and have that conversation with them.

Hegedus: I am prepared to do that.

Kucharski: And involve Louie

Hegedus: Absolutely. There is an ordinance in place for that.

Kucharski: Just so that they understand

Hegedus: I think that is as of 2008. I have it at home the ordinance. I don't have it with me.

Kucharski: Obviously you just mentioned the safety issues of these vehicles racing up there and this can be prevented.

Hegedus: Yes. And our concern also too is, in the last 5 years since I assumed responsibilities of Borough Chief I've made them evacuate the building and that makes for some uncomfortableness at 2:30 in the morning on December 13<sup>th</sup> when it is 4 degrees out. And we want to make sure we get everyone back in the building as fast as possible. So they've moved in big strides but the person that was in charge of the physical plant, Ryan Stoa has moved on but I have a good relationship now with a gentleman by the name of Chris Kunio (Spelling?) who is responsible for the new part and Al Hollister who is responsible for the old part of the *inaudible*, how ever you say the *inaudible*, the new company that has taken over. So Chief Barone made a recommendation that you know if somebody is available if there is an AFA if one of the crews is full that the agency responding could hold the other fire companies on the investigation and then release them if there really isn't a fire so I took that into consideration that night as we wrote that down but I want to move into that a little bit further as we get into some other incidences and why we need to address that further. There was a question brought up as to why is Engine 27 out of service every night along with the brush truck well when I had my conversation with Chief Hartshorn Engine 27 is on Olyphant's box alarm I don't know to what capacity actually but by them being - if they were in service and they were unable to get out it leaves Olyphant short handed because they are depending on that piece of equipment so by taking them out of service and they do have some mechanical issues that they need to work on, nothing major, but it bumps up the next due engine so the, Chief Tully or Chief Powell or whoever is running the scene in Olyphant knows that the 27 engine is out of service and it would move up Blakely as the next engine to come over.

Kucharski: And you are talking about #2 right.

Hegedus: Yes. #2. So I think we were, I tried to rich out to Dave Tully I didn't have any luck but I am going to keep trying but I think what we all agreed there at the end of the night was that we probably are going to just shut the engine 27 down as far as com center is concerned. Right? Isn't that fair to say?

\_\_\_\_; It's up to Wayne.

Hegedus: Yea he did. What we need to do there if they aren't going to get out and it's mechanical and it's not going to be fixed soon I think it benefits everybody in fairness to Olyphant for them to find another engine company to put on their first alarm and then with us we are just rolling with whatever we have here. So that's up for you all *inaudible* still decide. Then the question was brought up by one of the members and I don't have it in my notes who brought it up from #1, the ladder, if on motor vehicle accidents the ladder was needed. Now back before I became the borough chief there was some conversations that took place because the ladder was equipped with hydraulic tools before the borough purchased the Pierce, that was the second set of tools so that if we got on a motor vehicle accident and something was wrong with the rescues tools that we would have another piece of apparatus that would have tools and that would be able to get the job done. The American La France and the Pierce both have full set of hydraulic tools so we have 3 full sets of tools in the borough and you know, Jerry help me here, that if you felt really unless it was a major accident you really didn't want to come out on MVA's.

Jerry Barone: Well basically what the whole thing is leading to is because Council is complaining we weren't getting out and that is one of the big subjects that we brought up. Why

should everybody be on the road on calls that everybody shouldn't be on. You follow me? That was the *inaudible* that we were getting at.

Magliocchi: Yea but don't you want everybody on the road in case it's needed? Like if you are going to Gertrude Hawks and Rescue #3 gets out and they're on their way and the building is blazing and you guys are just sitting back waiting to see if you're needed that's a long response time. So I don't know

Barone: Let me clarify that because #1 in fire training we talk about *inaudible* which it is, alright, the Gertrude Hawks building. Cinder block, structure so on and so forth alright. Whoever gets there we are going to respond but we're not going to get on the road if they say 99% of the calls we've had so far are no major fires. You had electrical fire. More than once we had belts burning off of the big drums that spin the chocolate. You follow me.

Magliocchi: I was using it as an example but I'm saying even a house, so is there that much of a response time difference where you're already on scene before

Barone: That's different. No. Let's clarify. One thing we brought up about commercial structures, occupied 24 hours a day alright they have regular people there to tell you, called it automatic detection system, adt or whoever, we set it off with steam to slow everybody down. Structure fires, everybody is on the road. There is no waiting back. Automatic alarm in residential structures is everybody - we agreed to everybody is on the road because as the rule of thumb the ones we have had over the years, I will give you an example, newer structures, there was something going on there was smoke in the residence nobody was home at 2 incidents. Yea everybody has to be on the road. But what I am getting at is most of these commercial structures where they are occupied, you follow me?

Magliocchi: Yea

Barone: And there is no big fire in there.

Magliocchi: So you're saying is when there is for instance a fire alarm at Gertrude Hawks you guys would rather just sit in your garage and wait until you hear from #

Barone: Unless they are not on the road. If they're not on the road then we're going to go. Or what's been going on and the Chief can tell you is they've been calling the fire alarm organization that they do business with and telling them hey it's a false trip.

Magliocchi: Now see I don't know how they work here but I know in Dunmore and in a lot of our buildings they don't care. You can call ADT. Once that trips they are not going by your word that they come in

Hegedus: Right and Chief Barone's point is correct in theory. The #1 problem at Gertrude Hawk is that it is an antiquated fire alarm system and when I say it is antiquated the issue is that you can receive a signal in any part of the building, what we call it in the industry is an addressable point, so if that heat detector is in the panning room and it goes off, it does not tell us nor does it tell simplex grinnel their carrier, where the situation is. The, most of it is hypothesis by the people that are working

Magliocchi: So it's an addressable one.

Hegedus: No it is not addressable. And it is literally 10's of thousands of dollars to bring that up to an addressable system and I went round and round with Ryan about that about getting maybe *inaudible* simplex to change that. There is a lot involved. The issue becomes that we have had numerous instances where they were working there in the building and #1 the fire alarm didn't go off or they didn't hear it and then there are other times it went off and nobody knew where it was going off in the building. And there is multiple floors. We have at least 3 divisions so that means that there is manpower needed for that piece so you know and as much as I agree and I am

not changing my stance because we talked about minimizing the risks if we say 50% of the time Dave, that is the night supervisor calls me on the cell phone on the way up and says Andy I know it's a smoke detector in the loading dock area so whatever crew gets there first I am going to be able to tell 2 of the firefighters to go to the loading dock area, literally look up at the smoke detectors and see which one is blinking. They literally have to walk up and down the aisles while 2 other firefighters need to go to the alarm panel to see if they can silence it and reset it and to see if we have a faulty device or if actually something is going on there. So there's a lot of moving parts and pieces so you know we want to hold that on the back here as far as addressing how Gertrude Hawk is a unique one. That would be no different for Nivert they have the same thing. Their system is not an addressable system it's an older one so you can have a heat detector or smoke detector go off in the building, snap on tools, most of the alarm systems in the borough don't have addressable points. It's just because of the age

Kucharski: But do we have issues with those entities?

Hegedus: Not to the extent we do with Gertrude Hawk. No.

Kucharski: Well, again, I think, and we can go around and around and I understand exactly what you're saying but I think we have to hold them accountable

Hegedus: Yes.

Kucharski: For their own facility.

Hegedus: Yes.

Kucharski: And if we're bringing all the borough equipment in and risking peoples safety then I think it is time that they have to fess up and fix their system.

Hegedus: Well and I think part of that

Kucharski: And if not then they have to go by the ordinance.

Magliocchi, Kucharski and Hegedus speaking at once.

Hegedus: There is a fine and nobody wants to be that person and I can tell you the numerous times that we have gone up there I've gotten bashed on Facebook why we are not fining Gertrude Hawks and all that kind of stuff and we are here to provide a service to the community, not to penalize everybody all the time. And I will tell you openly and honestly, I never wanted to be the person to have David Hawk walk into this Council Chamber and say you know the 450 jobs we have up there? Their going. Because you are busting us over the fire alarm system. Which is a small piece of that but yet they need to correct some of the things. But as the issue is being done with the zoning and related matters and code enforcement there needs to be some consideration built into, I know one company that I won't mention that a friend in the industry went to see them within the last 10 years of this municipality to put a correct fire system in the building and the comment they made was that's why we came to Throop. Because there are no rules. And that's something for us to look at. And I have addressed it with previous Councils. So that is something you know and there's probably 30 or 40 people working in that facility and that's what they were bold enough to say. We don't need because that's the way Throop is. So we need to address that.

Kucharski: Well that should be over. And it is part of this discussion so let's make sure that is addressed.

Hegedus: Yes. As far as the ABA's, the major issue becomes the Casey Highway and with all the incidences that have occurred everywhere you know everybody's safety on the roadside is paramount. There's been unfortunately tow truck operators killed. There's been firefighters killed and you know we can have the lane shut down and have 5 pieces of apparatus and have the State Police lights going and everything and they are still driving by 75mph. So you know we

need to talk about collectively with the ladder, not just on a single motor vehicle but we need blocking protection to help the other vehicles. And it's the same thing, if the ladder were to get out first and they have the resources, the firefighters to do an extraction or do an evaluation or whatever and the rescue gets there secondary then the rescue can be the blocker for that vehicle but we need to work on that as well. We did touch manpower and recruiting and I think that we all agreed that if we had an answer, and I may have mentioned this to a few of you, if anyone of us had the answer on how to do this from a manpower and recruitments perspective we'd have the good fortune of working in the commissioners office and having a good state job because noone has the answer. We did come up pro actively that the rescue has gone up to the high school the last 2 years for career day and tried to recruit some firefighters and get some people interested. I think we all felt that we are a little late at the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade level. We need to be looking at the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders who are starting to find their way. Who are starting to get an interest in things whether its scouting or things of that nature and put more emphases on going to the middle school and showing them and bringing them around. So I think that is a piece that we all agreed on that we would work together to do more of that kind of stuff up at the Mid Valley Secondary Center. I have already spoken to one of the administrators up there and they are more than receptive on any time we want to do it so I think that was a positive start and a good piece of communication to get the ball rolling. And I think it's also to tell these other organizations whether it be little league or soccer or whomever that for some kids there are other things to do as well but we do know overwhelmingly that the kids who get engaged at 6, 7 and 8<sup>th</sup> grade have friends and usually come with a buddy or a friend and that makes it last and work a little bit better because they have somebody that they are getting along with and hanging around with. We've seen several instances of that at the rescue.

Kucharski: Let me ask you this Andy. Do we have a junior firefighters program?

Hegedus: We do at the Rescue.

Kucharski: Jerry do you guys?

Barone: Yes we've always had it. But they're not breaking the doors down.

Magliocchi: That's another thing, I know it has been talked about before, I mean you have 3 firehouses that are trying to recruit members where in my opinion if you have one firehouse I think it is a little easier to recruit members in my personal opinion. I mean even now if #1 only has so many guys to get out and #3 has more that's one operation where you are able to get 2 trucks out fully staffed and fully equipped. I think me personally one house in a small town like this is absolutely the best way to go as far as recruiting members, getting members, working together, getting a piece of equipment out that you actually need for the job. I mean some people may agree to disagree but I mean that's

Hegedus: I understand Chief Barone's point that there is nobody breaking the door down but we actually have 8 junior members. And some of them are legacy members, some who have joined because

Kucharski: What's a legacy member?

Hegedus: Their father or parents were a firefighter. We've also been fortunate that we pulled from the scouting ranks. We've had 2 junior members who have come in, in the last 5 years. They're grown men now but they both became eagle scouts, It was very important for me to make sure that they became their eagle scouts. I had the good fortune to be a sponsor of an eagle scout. It meant a lot to me when I received my pin from him but we do have an active program and the piece is to get them interested now so that they tell another friend. We actually have 2 young men who hang around the fire house more than a lot of the members that are 13 years old

and are literally sending me texts and other officers texts of the days until their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday. And that Reese Menichetti and Devon Budzinski. I mean they are chomping at the bit to come in and you know they have both been around because their dads have been in the fire service a long time so we are continuing to grow that way.

Kucharski: So they have to be 14?

Hegedus: 14. And then there is some rules and regulations. So we did cover that. We talked about announcing on the operations, you know there are certainly times that I'm not available that I have work or I am out of town and can't make a call but what we are going to do to clear up some of the confusion on the radio is that the first arriving piece is going to announce that they are going to be *inaudible* and command. A lot of municipalities do that. Best example that comes to mind all the time is Greenwood or Dunmore. When Chief DeNaples arrives on the scene he says Chief 6 assuming command. I don't like to do it that way I like to have a conversation with the first person. If I am the first person there like at Gertrude Hawk or wherever I would say that I am going to be command 27 but we have given leeway. We all agreed that I am open to any officer or someone who is riding in what we call the officers seat to be that person that will assume command until a higher ranking officer would get there. So if there was somebody who was not an officer per say in the organization but was able to get the ball rolling and get things going and whether Chief Barone shows up or one of his assistants and you know I'm not there or Captain Granza or Lieutenant Abda then they would make way for that person to be in charge. So we all agreed on that. We went over some issues we had with mayday verifications and what that means is that if there is a firefighter down the proper procedures for that because we did have an incident when one of the firefighters got hurt on the Dunmore St. fire. There was a little bit of confusion it's been resolved through training and discussion and I don't think we have any problems with that. In conversation with Ladder 27, and one more thing about the radio protocols is we generally operate it per the county's request. The county dispatches on the red channel. You can't talk back to them on the red channel because it's dispatch only. They assign us a channel and in our area the old mid valley channel is now called the gray channel. So 99% of the time we operate on the gray channel. The benefit to communicating on the gray channel is that things are recorded. The disadvantage to operating on the gray channel is that there are a lot of people talking. And there is a lot of communication going on so we've agreed that we will determine we have 2 local channels that we call tact 2 and tact 3 that incident command will make the determination that interior operations will run one of the tact channels tact 2 and maybe exterior will operate tact 3 and then those people that are operations or interior command will report to incident command and then everything is documented on the radio for purposes on the gray channel. It's a lot less communication and noise on the gray channel so that's a big help for us too. The question that we posed to Chief Barone and his officers was that what really based on the run cards do they see themselves in the role and I think that's the piece that we were not able to get to as far as active members, none of us know who is going to be able to respond to a call at any given time so in order for us to say you know ladder 27 will always be the first due truck company operations on the fire ground just based on manpower we can't count on that. I think we agreed in principle, correct me if I am wrong Chief Barone, that the ladder 27's function at this point based on manpower and subject to change is that they are going to be like a wild card, a utility apparatus. They are going to do whatever incident command needs them to do based on the man power. Now the key to that working properly is that we have to be notified at dispatch that the ladder is 27 ladder to com center and com center will acknowledge them and they can say we're responding to 513 Center

St with a crew of 3. So now incident command can have an idea of what they may need to do. Incident Command may their engine company operations set up they may have their second due engine set up they may have their truck company set up to do what needs to be done coming from Dickson City and it may be whatever role is needed based on the man power that we can get them to work. So is that fair.

Barone: That is basically what we agreed to.

Hegedus: Are you ok with that still?

Barone: Yes. The other thing we did talk about is like say we were out first and we had enough that things are going to change like down the road change just for that situation. But if the ladder is out first and has enough people and during the day the rescue don't have enough we're coming in as a truck company we're coming in as an engine *inaudible* company.

Magliocchi: What do you mean by things change.

Hegedus: Well if , let's say there was an incident or there was an event going on at the ladder during the day and they have 6 or 8 firefighters down there and they got out immediately on a structure fire we want them to perform first due engine company operations. We want them to go right to work and then the rescue becomes the second due engine or whoever gets there and supplies the water and does what needs to be done. I think that we agreed that that would work based on the circumstances. We're ok with that, it's just that we have to make sure that we are communicating constantly that we understand the manpower levels because that's the most critical piece. We know when Dickson City is coming they are coming with 5 or 6. That's a given with the ladder or the engine. And the same thing goes with Blakely. They're coming with 5 or 6. The rescue, if the rescue is coming, now that we have the American La France in service I mean we are coming with the possibility of 14 firefighters on 2 pieces of apparatus. So that's a lot of manpower. And we've had that happen over the last couple of days. So that's where we are not getting and you know and we've also I have had conversations with my officers to say that depending on the type of call we may, if 7 people show up 4 may go on the pierce and 3 may take the American because we don't know what we are going to need, what's going to fail. We don't know but we have the ability to get those 2 pieces out because we have that missing engine right now.

Magliocchi: See and that's what I was talking about before and I know it's always a touchy subject with this word but if you had one house and all these pieces of equipment available to everyone it makes things a lot easier and doing a lot of research and everything I know the state really promotes consolidation. I don't know where #1, #2 or #3 stand on it but to me I think it is a huge future outlook for the Borough. I think not only member wise, response time wise, even financially it goes down if you do a lot of research on it the state promotes you to have one firehouse especially in a smaller town like this. I know some of them don't some of them do but with that I mean I always looked at if you have all these three firehouses willing to participate you get from each firehouse you start a committee and you try and plan for the future of Throop where everyone has an input on what type of firehouse would be best suitable for this town and be able to move forward as far as, I see it I just think 1 house I know it has always been talked about but I see 1 house definitely being a benefit to the town. I mean that's my opinion. I know everyone has different opinions but that's where I stand on it.

Hegedus: That basically covers what we went over at the meeting. We spent over 2 hours. We were there until about 9:15 and we appreciate Corey hanging and letting us stay over there for an extra 15 minutes and for Council allowing us to use it. I felt we left with some productivity but we still have a couple of unanswered questions when it comes to the manpower piece. And I

think that is the piece we really need to address.

Magliocchi: You can have all the equipment in the world but without the manpower it's useless.

Hegedus: I mean looking at the lists

Magliocchi: And to depend on a more or less what you say a wild card I mean to me that's

Hegedus: It's not even in position because the rescue when we go to Dickson City we primarily *inaudible* a wild card function.

Magliocchi: That's also a different town.

Hegedus: Well that's what I am saying. That application works. If the communication is done properly if you know how many people are coming and what the expectation is it can work. But it is the roll of the dice and that's why I use the term wild card. You want to call it a utility player or whatever but you can't, we really can't depend on anybody in any of these circumstances because we are 100% volunteer. That's the biggest wild card in this whole scenario.

Magliocchi: And my biggest thing was, to be honest with you, you guys support our borough no matter what firehouse it is for you guys to have to have your own fund raisers to provide money to run your firehouse to me isn't right either. That's why I say if you have 1 you shouldn't have to do fund raisers, you shouldn't have to do anything to support this borough. This borough should be able to support the firehouse so you guys can do your job and volunteer. Volunteering at a fire is enough for me to begin with so never mind volunteering for fund raisers and trying to raise money.

Hegedus: Well its very forward thinking and I can respect you saying that. It's getting harder and harder.

Magliocchi: Fund raisers aren't easy.

Hegedus: Most times they are a lot of fun but they are a lot of work. And you can only sell so many chicken dinners and some many wing events and whatever.

Magliocchi: I'm not saying it's a bad thing. With one house it would be optional for fun.

Both speaking at once.

Hegedus: Just based on the limited things we have in the town that there are a lot of events that whatever organization church, fire company, the little league anybody runs this community supports.

Magliocchi: Fund raisers in the mail from #1, #2 and #3. And it's like I gave to #1 so I'm not giving to #3.

Hegedus: That's an issue. Yes. That's where, other than us getting into the manpower of the rosters I think I can turn it back over to Council as to what questions they would like to ask me or ask the other company that is present. Is anybody else here from #2?

Williams: No.

Hegedus: I know when I spoke to Chief Hartshorn he apologized. He's going 140 mph with his son and baseball and all this kind of stuff and basketball so. But he is interested in seeing things get finalized. That's what he told me. And I think that is the conversation you had with him as well. He would like to see it figured out one way or the other. They're in favor of what's going to be best for the borough is what he asked me to relay so. Take that for what it's worth.

Kucharski: Well again I would like to thank you, thank all of you seems like you had a very fruitful in-depth discussion on the issues.

Hegedus: It was a good conversation.

Kucharski: I think it is just a start though. What I would personally like to see happen is perhaps these meetings can occur on a quarterly basis and perhaps it would be sometime at the beginning

of the month so that at the end of the month on a quarterly basis Andy you could come back and give us a report similar to what you've done with respect to what's being done to move forward. Bob you're probably 100% right what you're saying and probably in the next several years that's what's going to happen but I think we are just at the beginning point. I think you have to crawl before you walk. You need to start a dialog which we didn't have and I think this is a great start. Magliocchi: And it is to me but I don't think I want to, no offense, but I'm not looking for a dialog to see the response time and everything else like that. I understand it's only volunteer so if someone is only getting out 10 times and someone is getting out 100 times I don't like to penalize somebody because they don't have the volunteers to respond to the fires. Basically what I would like to see is I want to put a motion on because I know I can't technically ask everybody just here I know there is a lot more fire members but basically this is just to see at a house stand point of where your entire house stands. So this motion like I read is just basically to send a letter to you guys and if somebody wants to speak on behalf of it they can but I will just read the motion first.

To send a letter to Throop Hose Co #1, #2 and Volunteer Hose Company #3 asking if they will agree to and participate in the consolidation of all Throop Borough Fire and Emergency Services. A written reply is due within 30 days of the date on the letter.

So basically what I am making this motion to ask is I want to see where each individual fire house stands and if they are willing to basically consider consolidation, start a committee. I mean consolidation you are talking years down the road so it's technically not going to happen over night but the people willing to participate you can start a committee, get some people from each fire house and think of a plan that best suits the borough. I would rather like to do this now than later because when the time comes where if we did need to and we didn't have a choice it's already in play.

\_\_\_\_\_ : What happens if somebody says no?

Magliocchi: I'd rather not basically go that route. I would hope that everyone would like to but I can't

Kucharski: Well I had talked to Louie earlier and he had some discussions with DCED and before I ask him to give a report on that I would just like Wayne to report on #2. I know we had some discussions and you talked about the future of #2 and I mean you had some ideas on how to move forward.

Williams: It's still the same. There is 2 options. We can basically do as #3 has. They have a lot of members from outside of the community like Olyphant and or Dickson City to come over and support our community. We can also, Chief Hartshorn is a member of a fire department in Olyphant and there are probably 6 or 7 members that are willing to come over here and do the same thing for us that is being done for #3 and even #1. They'll come over and support our fire house in case of calls and things like that. But as it sits right now our membership is down so you just can't respond with just 1 or 2 guys. But we are open to either consolidate, merge, get our *inaudible* back up after the first quarter is over. As you said there is a mechanical issue on the engine that the air tank, we purchased an air tank last year that was supposed to be put on and never got put on so we have to send it out to get that done. But other than that the engine is in perfect shape *inaudible* to get us over the hump or whatever we need to do.

Magliocchi: So by what you're saying you would probably be interested in going this route.

Williams: We would be interested in whatever would benefit the borough at this point. Because like you said and I said this from the first day I joined down there and that was in 2004 I never believed that volunteers should be volunteering their time to protect the community and raise money protect the community. There is so many people it takes so much time out of their lives to run affairs and run fund raisers and it's even though you may have a whole lot of members it is still the same 5 or 6 people that organize the fund raiser, set up for the fund raiser, work the fund raiser and it takes a lot of time. I mean there is sometimes it takes weeks and months to organize just one fund raiser and then people have lives, people have children and like I discussed it's not just local baseball or basketball anymore. Everybody is in these travel programs so you're traveling to New Jersey, New York and you are taking your families out of the community so I mean that's just

Magliocchi: And the fund raisers for them aren't easy never mind to operate an entire fire house which obviously isn't cheap I mean to try and raise that much money. I give credit to everybody that does it - it's a lot of work but me personally I feel you guys shouldn't have to do that to service our town. I mean that's how I stand on that. I mean if you wanted to have one I'd be like ok have one - it would almost be like technically for just a fun fund raiser event but to actually keep your firehouse going I don't think should actually

Hegedus: Just so I am clear you're position is that you think that you may be able to get some members to get back on

Both talking at once.

Williams: I was promised, I met with them prior to the last meeting we had here we had a meeting at the fire house with probably 5 members from Olyphant that are willing to come over and run until we get to a point where there is consolidation, merger, whatever. Just to staff to give our community support. Now I just had a conversation real quick with you on the way in that we should get together you, me Eric should sit down and discuss what the needs are.

Hegedus: And I think that's fair but I want to make sure that this isn't Andy and Eric doing something because originally Wayne when we talked 2 June's ago that if we were going to merge forces and consolidate that we would need #2 to say, to send a letter

Williams: It wasn't 2 June's ago it was a year ago.

Hegedus: Alright. Ok. It seems like forever. So let's say that the trustees that remained on Throop Hose Co #2 were to say send a letter to the Volunteer Hose Co of Throop and say we're interested in consolidating our forces

Williams: Ok but what do we do and I have been saying this all along, what do we do with all the equipment, what do we do with

*Inaudible*

Hegedus: I don't know.

Magliocchi: But you can get that answer in 30 days by the motion.

Three talking at once.

Hegedus: I don't think that plan matters after 30 days.

Williams: What plan?

Magliocchi: And maybe not.

Hegedus: If the rescue and the engine were going to get together.

Talking at once.

Williams: We need some place to put an extra engine. We need some place to put a brush truck

Williams, Hegedus and Magliocchi talking at once.

Hegedus: *Inaudible* certain firefighters to go down to the engine.

Williams: Right. Well that's something that has to be discussed and I have been saying all along. We need to plan. Several members of council cannot shove it down 3 different companies. I mean these companies have been in business for over 100 years. I don't want to be the person that is going to say it's over. Without at least planning and getting input

Kucharski: I don't think anybody on council wants to be that person.

Magliocchi: No and that's where to me the committee would come into place. You have a committee from each fire house of their own members amongst

Williams: Again I have been asking, I have been asking for over a year, who is going to cover life insurance for the members that are left down there. I've had a lot of suggestions but I never got anything solid or concrete.

Hegedus: Yes but I don't think that we ever got to that point yet. There are 13 life members that remain down there that if that company goes out of business that we told Wayne at our relief meeting back in December that they would lose their life insurance policy. That's not what anybody on the relief association wants to see happen. We will figure out a way. That's why I was asked to come to council and address that. How do we compensate for that. You know the policy is here right now that it is due for the month of April it's \$22,600.00 to cover all the members and support members on the life insurance policy. That's not anything that we want to see go away.

Williams: Right but I am not going to just close the doors down there and then 13 people be

Hegedus: Nobody wants that. I don't want to see that.

Williams: Right.

Kucharski: That's all part of discussions that have to be had.

Williams: That's exactly what I am talking about. So to point a finger at me and say it hasn't happened over the course of a year or 2 years

Hegedus: No I am not saying that.

Williams: I'm saying there are a lot of things that need to happen before

Hegedus: Don't take it that way. That's not what I meant. We were trying to figure out

Williams: Right and that's what we need to do and that's what I think we all need to do.

Kucharski: Well it's time that we have to stop talking about it and start moving

Hegedus: You have the lawyer slowing it down. You weren't getting answers. I'm not saying you slowed the process down by any means. I just want to see whatever we can do.

Williams: Absolutely. I think we need to go forward and we need to do what is best for the community no matter what it takes.

Hegedus: Right.

Kucharski: Well again this all just adds even more fuel to the fire to have quarterly meetings.

These things can be discussed and brought back to us and if there is any action council needs to take we'll take it and not just talk about it. Do it. Well Bobby was talking about a committee, I would just like Lou to talk a little bit about the fact that he had a conversation today

TAPE ENDED.

Kucharski: We can't do it even if we want to. We cannot do it. So Lou do you want to talk a little bit briefly about your conversation today?

Cimini: I think that was

Kucharski: Basically the *inaudible*.

Cimini: Yes. They will come in but the 3 companies have to agree and it's not just about consolidation they will do a feasibility study as to how to best provide the most efficient services for the borough. Sometimes the answer is consolidation sometimes it is not but you need all 3

companies to agree before they will come in.

Magliocchi: Alright so we can send a letter out to all of them

Kucharski: Well I mean while we are here that's something that I don't know me personally if most of the people on council agree to that I think that would be an exercise worth while and whatever the opinion is remember it is advisory. It's simply an advisory opinion. It's not something that we can or want to force on anybody. I think it may just be a tool to help us move forward and discuss or solve I should say some of the issues that were discussed here today.

Hegedus: The issue is manpower. That's the issue.

Kucharski: And Throop isn't alone. It's across the country.

Hegedus: Right.

Magliocchi: Another thing that they brought up is and highly recommend is not giving any allotments. They recommend each fire house turning in invoices and we pay a certain amount of invoices where that's also going to have to be put on for a motion

Hegedus: I understand that and I could appreciate that but that is also that is direct contrast to what Act 1133 says. Act 1133 says as a municipality you are required to give funding. Now if it is semantics to submit the bills then

Magliocchi: Well that is what it is. You are giving us the invoices up to a certain amount whatever the allotment is but anymore instead of us handing out allotment check you guys are going to hand us invoices and you'll be paid that way.

Hegedus: Then what happens to the other things?

Magliocchi: That would be on you guys because if we give you \$23,000 or whatever the case is once you hit 23 of our money, how are you coming up with that money to begin with?

Hegedus: So now we are back to fund raising to pay the bills.

Magliocchi: Well that's how it was before

Hegedus & Magliocchi speaking at once.

\_\_\_\_\_ : The bottom line is you'll never get away with it.

Magliocchi: Well yes you would get away with it. If it was consolidated to one house I don't think anybody would have to do fund raising and there is no reason they should. They do that but I don't think they are required too. Am I correct.

Hegedus: They fund raise because there are things that are needed and I think we have proven over, when council several years decided to cut the funding from \$35,000 to \$17,500.00 and then we got back to where we are at now with 23 and change. I'm sure #1's report, I'm sure our report is showing that \$23,000 does not pay the bills. The liability insurance alone is \$16,000.00 and theirs is right in the ball park because we have the same thing.

Magliocchi: Well this is where I am going financially if you look at all of the statistics where basically if you have one house 3 separate insurances

Hegedus: No question

Magliocchi: Obviously way cheaper. If you're saying the 3 houses now get \$75,000 do you know what you guys would have in one house for \$75,000/year? There is no reason to cut the allotment. We pay that. So if we could put that into one house every year you guys wouldn't need to do anything. People would kill for something like that. You would have the best of everything and you should I mean you service the town. That's how I look at it. I mean we pay that money now. What's the difference.

Hegedus: But paying the bills now is not going to eliminate what you said.

Magliocchi: No it was just something that was recommended.

Hegedus: We'll still have to fund raise because we are still \$20,000.00 up side down.

Magliocchi: But what I'm saying is that you are still 3 separate houses.

Hegedus: Right.

Magliocchi: If we were to turn it into one house I personally would never go against anything. And everybody can quote me on this that I would never refuse anything that you need. There is no reason too. That's where I stand. You're emergency services.

Both talking at once.

Magliocchi: Just like as far as I am with the police. I am 100% proactive. But if we can do it the best of the best why not take that route. Why not have *inaudible*

Hegedus: Well I think that needs to be

Kucharski: Why not have the study?

Magliocchi: Right. We can. It is definitely a route. I don't know if #1, #2 or #3 are willing to participate in the study but I mean

Kucharski & Magliocchi talking at once.

Kucharski: That's the advantage of having it done. And again I just want to reiterate, it is simply advisory. To give us some help.

Hegedus: Ok but let's be frank here now because we need this to come to a head here and this needs to stop because it is consuming too many people it's, to use your phrase, we're kicking the can, we need to make a decision. What is the consequence if someone says they're not on board?

Kucharski: They won't do the study.

Hegedus: Ok. Then what happens?

Magliocchi: Well I mean we can do the study with the other 2. We can have them come into the borough and say do a study on the whole borough. What it cost and everything and he says well this is your best route and if that's the route that we chose then obviously the houses not willing to participate would obviously have to be de-certified. I mean that is the only other route. Not that, that's the route anybody wants to go but that's the only route. If we were to go as a consolidated borough what other options do you have on a house that doesn't want to consolidate? And my biggest question is, why wouldn't you want too?

Hegedus: Well we don't know yet.

Magliocchi: No I am just saying

Hegedus: It could be financial, it could be

Both talking at once.

Hegedus: what is the borough going to commit to paying and doing.

Magliocchi: Well I think the borough should commit to paying

Hegedus: right but you won't know that until you start the ball rolling.

Magliocchi: Right and that's what I am trying to do, I mean so we have a motion just to start to see who is willing to participate. And that's the biggest key question obviously. And that's the start in my eyes.

Kucharski: Well since everybody is here, let me ask Jerry, I mean would you guys be willing to at least partake in a study? And

Barone: Talk to our President.

Benson: I'd say send a letter to the company and we will present it to our membership the second Sunday of April. *Inaudible*.

Hegedus: We'll give you our answer right now, we're on board.

Kucharski: Ok. Wayne?

Hegedus: We have had the conversation at *inaudible*.

Magliocchi: Well I don't know if they can make that decision so

Some talking at once.

Kucharski: So again this is simply to get an outside look and maybe they will come back and say hey look you know maybe there are other ways which is why I wanted to have a discussion. You know maybe everybody can be cross trained on other equipment or whatever I'm just thinking out loud here but alright I think that's a good way. So we know already

Hegedus: So you'll send a 30 day letter

Kucharski: Lou can you send a letter to #1 and then Dave by the second Tomasovitch and Magliocchi both talking.

Cimini: We'll need a response before we can have the study.

Magliocchi: Right so do we have to do it by motion? Or can we just send letters?

Cimini: Yes. I can send letters.

Magliocchi: Can do within 30 days the same as the other letter.

Hegedus: And I can say for the rescue the reason that we've talked about it was because it goes back to #2 having a conversation with us that we felt it was the best thing to do to help all of us. And to prevent them from shutting down per say.

Hegedus: I just want to be clear with Wayne that I'm not saying he slowed anything down.

Williams: *Inaudible*

Hegedus: It will be another police matter.

Kucharski: No but there have been several discussions and it's not on you or anybody, you know with respect to #2 and the lack of membership at this point and it is critical. You can't really operate with 2 or 3 people so I mean you either have to get some more members whether they're from Dickson or Olyphant who cares as long as they show up; or close the doors and

Hegedus: Well and this also has

Kucharski: Which I'd hate to see happen.

Hegedus: It creates implications for the relief association because the charter says that they are 3 independent fire companies that belong to the relief association so that would need to be dissolved and re chartered. So there are implications with that too.

Kucharski: I'm sure there are.

Magliocchi: If you were to say just consolidate can't you just keep it like the 3 separate charters.

Williams/Hegedus: No.

*Inaudible.*

Hegedus: And I've read the bylaws in the charter of the relief association and back when they were originally written, the charter it doesn't say anything about it's successors or anything like that. When you get a mortgage today it says you know you got your mortgage with PNC Bank and then assumed by their successors or whatever so there is nothing in there that says well if #2 became part of the rescue that everything would fall into place. So you would have to redo the charter. Which isn't a big deal. Just a couple of bucks to redo it and to reorganize.

Kucharski: Alright well again I am personally really happy with, it seems like you had a very cooperative discussion and everybody is on board and again, I don't want to sound like a broken record here but I think we all share the concern about the future of the Throop Fire Department and what we are going to do moving forward to ensure that it succeeds and continues to serve the citizens of the Borough.

Hegedus: I just have that 1 that I said I'd like to get back too that I still have a concern whether who's ever sitting in this seat that gets there first, say the ladder gets there first I have to make sure that the people with the rescue understand that you know it's not being done as spite work and I think Jerry and I talked about that that everybody has to be adult and understand that if

there is no need for somebody to go out then there is no need for somebody to go out. Because it is going to breathe some hard feelings and also I don't want it to be that when we do the reports and we talk about apparatus being cancelled that it's brought up that well they are cancelling us every time. We don't want to go through that again.

Kucharski: Well we asked you in January if you could provide us with a quarterly report in respect to # of calls and the response issues.

Hegedus: Right. Correct.

Magliocchi: What I think the biggest thing is from where I stand, I don't know about everybody else but I am just looking at to give you guys the best of the best. You guys work hard everyday, risk your lives and if we can provide that I am all for it. There's no reason not too.

Kucharski: Well I think everybody agrees with that. It's a no brainer.

Hegedus: I would honestly like to hear from #1. These have been a very one sided conversations. I certainly love to talk but I don't want to monopolize but, I'd like to hear, you know what's, we know what the problem is but what is the solution? And I don't think we are at that point yet.

Kucharski: No I think we are at the beginning right now.

Hegedus: Well I mean

Kucharski: We're at the beginning. That's why we have to continue dialog.

Hegedus: Well here we are 60 days later.

Kucharski: Well again, We had some progress I think.

Magliocchi: There is progress but it seems like it's just prolonged. I don't know where #1 stands. I'm not saying for any of you guys to speak on behalf of #1. I mean I know you guys operate in house just like everyone else but I mean any of you guys have any input that you'd like to let us know about.

Kucharski: Well I was going to ask if anybody either Wayne or Jerry, Dave if you have anything that you would like to add. Or anything you'd like to speak about?

Benson: The consolidation issue concerns me. I understand what Bobby's saying but the right now the town is flush with cash and if that gas pump up there, there would be more cash.

Kucharski: We hope.

Benson: I'm sure there will be.

Magliocchi: Well and that being said

Benson: *Inaudible*...figures, consolidation is not a cheap project. You got 1, 2 you got 3 pieces of apparatus plus the trailer. 2, 3 you have up there. 2? That's quite a big structure you're going to put up. We built ours base price was 349 before it was finished we were close to half a million on ours.

Kucharski: And how long ago was that?

Hegedus/Barone: 1996

Kucharski: So you're over a million bucks now.

Benson: Exactly and that place down there will not come close to housing all of the equipment that is in this town.

Kucharski: Exactly.

Benson: So you are talking about quite a bit of an investment and then go forward paying as apparatuses outdate their life expectancy, air tanks, equipment. It's a major project. You're putting a lot of pressure on future tax payers. A lot of pressure. Because right now they are paying 23 ½ each year to each company. I'd say 75 grand which *inaudible* when you decide you want to put this structure up so, and I don't see where you are going to get any more volunteers in. They are going to volunteer or they aren't going to volunteer. I don't see where a new

structure, you might actually lose some.

Magliocchi: Well you are going to take 3 volunteers from one house into one.

Benson: I understand that. I understand your consolidation *inaudible*

Magliocchi: There's a lot of perks and a lot of disadvantages.

Benson: There's a lot of personalities, a lot of *inaudible* through the years and a  
Several talking at once.

Kucharski: You are absolutely right Dave. There's companies, there's been competition

Benson: Yes it was. I remember the stories racing up Dunmore St. Back before I became a  
fireman.

Magliocchi: And to me that is a bad thing for a fire service.

Kucharski: Well it is.

Magliocchi: That competition.

Kucharski: I don't think it's as bad now as it was.

Benson: No. It's bad but it's not bad. There is nothing wrong with competition but when it gets  
to a point of spitefulness, hatefulness then you got a problem. But competition itself is not a  
problem. You know it's like you go play your brother in baseball. Competition. I'm just saying  
check and see the cost factor in this.

Kucharski: Well I think, Lou wouldn't that study encompass, I would imagine. These guys that  
is what they do

Magliocchi: There are tons of grants out there for  
Several talking at once.

Kucharski: But that's what they do. They're the specialists. They would come in and I'm sure  
that they study would encompass all of that.

Benson: 75/year compared to what you are looking at

Magliocchi: Well there is a lot of opportunities coming up where we

Benson: That's a big jump in

Magliocchi: You have possibly that financial *inaudible* there too so. I mean it is just something  
to explore by far. I mean it's - I don't think it could hurt. That's for sure.

Benson: Send a letter and we'll see what happens.

Kucharski: Ok. *Inaudible*. That it's simply a advisory opinion *inaudible*.

Cimini: Wait send a letter to

Kucharski: Just to #1 right?

Several talking at once.

Kucharski: You want to send it to all 3 ok. Because I thought you both agreed here so. Ok yes  
that is fine.

Hegedus: And I think according to everybody's bylaws that it should be the trustees that are the  
people that are coming here to have that conversation. They are the people that are responsible.  
*Inaudible*.

Kucharski: Well look at this point all we are asking is will everybody cooperate. Without all 3  
cooperating DCED will not do it. They flat out said they will not do it. So.

Hegedus: So where is, I'm not trying to push the issue, but where does that leave us at 30 days if  
the answer is no. What if our company we hold the vote again and they say no. What's going to  
happen?

Kucharski: Well that's something that has to be decided.

Hegedus: Ok. Fair enough.

Benson: You lost me on that. After 30 days

Hegedus: What happens if one of the companies or 2 of the companies come back and say they are not interested. Where are we then?

Magliocchi: You talking in the study motion?

Kucharski: Yes in the study.

Magliocchi: Well then obviously the participation isn't there. I don't understand how that is a good working relationship with the Borough or anyone.

Hegedus: Then where does that leave us?

Kucharski: *Inaudible*...some tough decisions. I hope we don't have to go there.

Hegedus: Ok.

Kucharski: Because that's the last thing I am sure everybody wants to do is to close any of these entities that have been in

Kucharski & Hegedus speaking at once.

Kucharski: #1 has been incorporated as long as the borough. 1894.

Hegedus: It is not a reflection of this council but we all received a letter a few years ago that said take the white helmets out of service and remove your chief position. And at the bottom of the letter it said failure to participate will result in loss of funding. Everybody from #1 remember that?

Barone: The ordinance changed again If you read 2009 it says and I quote,"may keep the chief positions in the fire department" so you better look at the last one.

Hegedus: No I'm saying

Barone: 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8. We're just talking about nonsense now. *Inaudible*

Hegedus: No. I'm saying that the last time council, that council, forced somebody to do something it said at the bottom of the letter that if you didn't do it you jeopardized your funding.

Barone: And then they had to change the Ordinance again. Cimini was here for that. That was the 4<sup>th</sup> time.

Hegedus: Right.

Magliocchi: What you are getting at is there is no reprimand.

Hegedus: Right.

Magliocchi: Unfortunately that was that council but this council

Hegedus: And that's what I said it is no reflection on this council.

Magliocchi: I mean like Rich said rather not go that route but we are looking for cooperation and regardless of the study for us.

Cimini: The letter that I am going to send out is to request a reply within 30 days as to whether or not they would agree to a study?

Kucharski: Yes.

Cimini: Ok.

Kucharski: From DCED.

Hegedus: A study of consolidation.

Magliocchi: No. This one is for the study of financials to

All talking.

Tomasovitch: I am very confused.

Cimini: So I is a letter asking whether or not they agree to a study by DCED. Just a study. The study is the study. They undertake that.

Kucharski: Well you mentioned what they would do. Look at consolidation, look at everything. Talking at once.

Cimini: Bob read another motion earlier to send to the 3 companies asking whether or not they

would agree to participate in consolidation.

Williams: Well you need that to do the study anyway. So just incorporate it in one letter and be done with it.

Cimini: Alright.

Magliocchi: So just add that on to the motion

Hegedus: You said they may consider doing it if 2 companies, so you may consider still sitting down.

Magliocchi: Well I mean yea, I mean it is going to be based on

Kucharski: Well DCED won't do it.

Cimini: DCED won't do it unless all 3

Hegedus: Ok. So then it would be council and the 2 companies or whatever.

Kucharski: Well again let's take it one inaudible at a time here. And a hopefully everybody will see the need to at least take a look at it again for the future of the fire department.

Hegedus: Alright well then can we talk about now about this life insurance. For the relief association as I asked back in February. Would Council consider picking up that bill? Right now for all the entities the 13 members that are remaining at Throop Hose Co #2, the roster at Throop Hose Co #1 and the roster of the Volunteer Hose Co of Throop the life insurance policy for 2018-209 is \$22,000 and change.

Tomasovitch: For firefighters I don't mind paying the bill but not

Magliocchi: Do we put anything towards it now?

Hegedus: No.

\_\_\_\_\_: That comes out of the relief fund.

Kucharski: Is that what the state reimburses? I thought we got money from the state?

Hegedus: We got, Dave Comstock is here, he is the treasurer, we got \$20,400.00 last year. We have how much Dave in the bank?

Comstock: Right now we got 46,000 - we just took the CD and cashed it in.

Hegedus: So if we pay that \$22,000 now we end up with about 26.

Tomasovitch: But the state is going to give you more money back.

Hegedus: So next year we get 20,000 but the whole point here is that *inaudible* \$3,000.00

Comstock: We don't know what we're going to get

Hegedus: we're upside - I'm sorry Dave. We're upside down \$3,000.00 right now. \$3500.00.

To cover the life insurance policy. Because this past October's allotment is 20,400 and we're like 22,000 in change so 3 grand we have to dip into the *inaudible* of our assets right now. And if we continue to do that because the allotment's have gone down each year over the last couple of years, the state allotments, we'll be out of money in 4 years. And that's not using any of that money to buy equipment or send people to training or do some of the things that are needed to do with that money. And we don't want to see that go away ever.

Kucharski: I think if somebody spends their lifetime as a member of the department I think we owe them something. And that's just

Hegedus: And that's why I am asking Council to pay the bill.

Kucharski: Well I don't know if council wants to pay the whole thing.

Tomasovitch: No council is not paying the whole bill.

Hegedus: I am only asking.

Kucharski: Well again I don't know if that is a topic for this meeting. I mean I know what you're saying but

Hegedus: It's a recruitment piece. If we're going to be bringing on firefighters that premium is

only going to go up and up and up like it has.

Kucharski: Ok well let's take it one step at a time. We have money to do it this year that is all part of the discussion on the study and you know the next step is to move forward. Is everybody ok with that? Anybody in the audience have any comments? Concerns.

Randy Jarosh: Is everybody on council in agreement like are you guys all looking at this the same way that Mr. Magliocchi is?

Kucharski: Me personally I'm looking at it with an open mind. I would like to see what the professionals have to say. And get what the best steps are moving forward. But the bottom line is the status quo. It's got to change for the betterment *inaudible*. Anyone else? Your motion will that be on tomorrow?

Magliocchi: Tonight.

Kucharski: Tonight. Ok.

### **1. Motion by Magliocchi**

### **Seconded by Williams**

To send a letter to Throop Hose Co #1, #2 and the Volunteer Hose Co of Throop known as #3 asking where they stand and if they will agree to participate in the DCED study of consolidation of all Throop Borough Fire and Emergency Services. Written reply is due within 30 days of the date on the letter.

On the question:

Barnick: I think that we should leave out the opinion of if they want to join together until the study is done.

Magliocchi: Well you'll know where they stand regardless.

Hegedus: DCED won't do the study

Barnick: No they can agree to do the study they don't have to say they agree right away to consolidate correct? Because how are they going to agree to something they don't know is even any good?

Magliocchi: Well if that is the fact then we know they are already in agreeance to it. We know where everyone stands before we even move forward.

Kucharski: They can even say we don't have an opinion on consolidation until we see what the study says. And I think that would be a valid response.

Magliocchi: I'd like to know both first so

Kucharski: Well that can be their opinion that's all I am saying.

Magliocchi: Well no right and that's their choice I mean.

**All in favor**

**Motion carried**

Hegedus: How about this, will you pay for the fire fighters and the relief association will pay for the support members life insurance? If we get those numbers split up?

Kucharski: Well again bring that before council. Get the numbers and bring us the information and we'll consider it. It's not like it's - it's a lot of money to you all - it's a lot of money but in the overall picture in the big picture it really isn't.

Hegedus: Well I can tell you 20 years ago today we had \$150,000.00 in the bank and this premium has just continued to grow and grow and grow. And we had to take a measure that we had to relieve ourselves of that accident and health policy for \$6200.00 because it just feasibly it's not the right thing for the relief association to do because we need primarily to worry about the life insurance policy and if we continue to pay that 6,000 over 3 years that's \$18,000.00 out of that remaining \$23,000.00.

Kucharski: Well again I'm sure that is something that we could

Tomasovitch: Like I said I don't mind paying for the firefighters. The ones that are risking their lives.

Hegedus: I will get it broken up. I will submit to Robin.

Kucharski: Ok.

Magliocchi: I am not that familiar with it yet. I mean so I will call you *inaudible*. Like I said before whatever they need I am not against so. I said that and I'll stick to it but just so I know where they stand financially so in other words if that could afford it for the next couple of years fine but if they need it because they can't afford it then.

Hegedus: Well the other option that I said is it feasible for us to jump on the Borough's life insurance policy for it's employees?

Kucharski: Didn't we talk about that at the January meeting?

Hegedus: Yes.

Kucharski: As far as I don't remember specifically about the borough but I thought you talked about that there may be alternatives.

Hegedus: Yes well we said can we jump on the borough's policy for life insurance.

Kucharski: Get the information to Robin or Lou and that's something we will certainly can take a look at. It's a no brainer.

Hegedus asked if we are going to set another meeting date.

Tomasovitch: We have to wait for 30 days.

Kucharski: 30 days #1 for the study but so now this is the March meeting, April, May, June would be the next quarterly meeting so that in the *inaudible* you would meet and continue to dialog about the issues that you brought up and things that are not resolved mean while we can go about the study and in June you can give us a report along with the number of calls, etc. etc.

Hegedus: Ok.

Ron Green: Can I ask a quick question? Mr. President can I speak for one second? Can I ask a question?

Benson: Sure.

Green: Are you people looking at the whole live picture of this whole thing by the consolidation? Now Bobby you just made a statement that you would give us annnything we needed. Am I right?

Magliocchi: Yes.

Green: If we moved in. Are you aware of 1 air pack ok so now you need air packs every year, every so often they run out they are no good so you have to replace them all. They are \$1500/piece.

Magliocchi: What do you do now?

Green: Well now let's ask that question. We go into one building do you get one grant anymore or will you get 3?

\_\_\_\_\_: you are going to get 1.

Green: You are going to get one. You are going to get one grant where 3 grants were before

where you able to get big things.

Kucharski: That's speculation. I mean you don't know what it would be.

All talking at once.

Green: Now one person you are going to put him in fire gear. You're talking over \$800-\$1000.00 - \$1500.00 for one set of gear.

Hegedus: 7 grand, 6 grand You have to look at the whole picture here.

Kucharski: That's why I want a study.

Green: Now that's all the money you are going to be spending. Now I am going to tell you people what you people should be doing, you should be putting down the road thinking of this, like Mr. Barone said, they are not banging on the doors to get in here to join. You people should be looking for the future to be putting on a paid fire company. If you are going to put them all in one.

Magliocchi: Never afford it.

Tomasovitch: That's not going to happen.

Kucharski: I don't think that will happen.

Magliocchi: You are talking \$2 million, we wouldn't actually have anything in our budget. We wouldn't do a thing in this town if we had to do that.

Kucharski: It's all coming down to a study.

Green: I am just bringing up the points of what they are going to be expending if you put them all in one. You don't *inaudible*

Magliocchi: That's why we want a study.

Green: You put everybody in one building instead of getting 3 grants for 40,000 or 100,000/year when these grants come out, you are only going to get one. Am I right Andy?

Hegedus: Absolutely.

Magliocchi: The state actually promotes consolidation if you read on it and there are plenty of grants out there for it but I just look at Dickson City as an example though. How does Dickson City do it?

Barone: Dickson City was always one fire company.

All talking at once.

Kucharski: Ronnie let me ask you this what do yo mean by one grant? The 23,500 that we give?

Green: No not yours. The state grant.

Hegedus: 15,000/year from the fire commissioners office is \$45,000 so we go to one station we are probably looking at \$25,000.

All talking at once.

Magliocchi: You're talking about air packs but 2 minutes ago you said go to a paid fire department. That's night and day comparison.

Tanana: Ronnie how much money would you save on insurances, light bills, heat bills, everything? Un-needed equipment that nearly never leaves the buildings now, ok. So you have to take everything into consideration when you look at the big picture, ok. Because right now out of the borough allotments *inaudible* goes towards insurance companies so. Over 10 years out of \$840,000.00 that this borough gave out in cash to the 3 fire departments, at least almost \$400,000.00 of it went to an insurance company. Let that number sink in.

Green: Like I said to before like you know how much these things are. One cylinder. How much does one cylinder cost?

Hegedus: \$7500.00 for a breathing apparatus.

Green: There you go.

Tanana: Let's say right now it cost, let's just say out of the 23,600.00 that covers your building, vehicle insurance and probably most of your utilities right?

Several said no.

Most.

Tanana: What I am saying is the electric is real high in all of the stations. In the summer time because of central air. Halls to rent so now there is 3 of them so there is 3 electric bills that are probably sky rocketed in the summer time where you'd only have 1 so the money you are going to save is going to - you're going to have to still do a little fund raising but the money you are going to save is going to be able to afford you to buy gear. Buy the cylinders. Not the *Inaudible*.  
Benson: Not going to save that much.

Tanana: Well

Magliocchi: Well that's what I said before about consolidation is where I never said to force consolidation where there is the only option but I'm saying I think it is a huge outlook where - it's something we need to explore. I mean there's no reason not to. And if the borough does save money and that's the best route why wouldn't you want too. If you are here for the town that's what it should be about we're here for the town not individual fire departments.

Benson: I understand but I still don't believe that the borough would save money.

All talking at once.

Kucharski: I am not going to sit here all night and speculate but that is all we are doing. So let's try to do the study and then we can have these discussions. Alright. I don't want to cut anybody off but we are already just going around and around. I respect your statements Ron.

The meeting was adjourned.

Meeting minutes by Renee O'Malley  
Borough Secretary