

**Peninsula Township  
Special Joint Meeting  
Town Board & Fire Board  
February 1, 2016**

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Town Board: **Avery; Byron; Hoffman; Witkop**

Fire Board: **Atkinson; Sprenger; Goode**

Also present were *Fire Chief Ronk* and *Mary Ann Abbott*, recording secretary.

Absent: Correia ; Weatherholt ; Rosi ; Andrus; Ball

**MOTION: Byron/Witkop** to approve Monica Hoffman as the Chair.

**PASSED UNAN**

**Approve Agenda**

**TOWN BOARD MOTION: Byron/Witkop** to approve agenda

**PASSED UNAN**

**FIRE BOARD MOTION: Atkinson/Goode** to approve agenda

**PASSED UNAN**

**Brief Citizen comments - for items not on the Agenda**

*Anne Griffiths, 14548 Bluff Road* expressed her concern that a letter for Robert Cooney, Prosecuting Attorney Grand Traverse County to Peninsula Township Attorney Peter Wendling and copy to Township Clerk regarding land division complaint was approved under last meetings consent agenda and that members of the Town Board did not bring the matter up for discussion.

**Hoffman** it will be added on next month's agenda.

**Conflict of Interest**

Town Board: None

Fire Board: None

**Business**

**1. ISO Continued Discussion**

**Hoffman** the Town Board and Fire Board were asked to send in any questions that they had following the last meeting. They will have another joint meeting next Tuesday (February 9, 2016) one hour before the regular Town Board meeting

**Sprenger** the Fire Board will also be discussing this at tonight's regular meeting

**Sprenger** suggests that they review the questions submitted. Question 1. I am concerned about the figures that states we currently save homeowners \$18,128,943.00 through insurance saving annually...When the entire tax liability is \$20,000,000.00. Please provide solid facts on this?

**Sprenger** stated that he did reach out to ask where the report obtained those figures. He suggested that it may be a generic number multiplied times the number of dwellings. **Ronk** stated that this number is not as important as the reality that the liability will go up due to the ISO rating and that he would rather talk about how to improve the fire department. There are difficulties and we need to focus on these. Discussion continued on the how ratings affect homeowner's insurance, cost of implementing every recommendation of the ISO, and if there have been discussions with Traverse City Fire.

**Sprenger** indicated that the Fire Board should have solid numbers from TC Fire to look at in the next two weeks.

**Avery** Emphasis should be on good ambulance services.

**Hoffman** asked Ronk for a copy of his presentation to put on the website.

**Witkop** we all agree that our decisions here could effect people's insurance rates and we would rather have money spent with the Fire Department than with Insurance companies. Concerned that we are not talking to other agencies within the area to determine deficiencies. **Sprenger** gave brief history of who has been contacted over this issue. **Ronk** What you have is that you are understaffed and have archaic equipment and you could fix both at the same time.

**Bryon** how willing is this board to go out on the number of stations, locations and staffing issue. What is realistic for this Peninsula?

**Ronk** You need 15 people 5 a day 24-hour coverage 2 stations staffed. You need a second station staffed. 1.5 million for staff. Equipment is about 2.5 million. Then you look at buildings. If it is spread out over 20 years it is do-able.

**Sprenger** Question Two. Throughout the 12/8/15 presentation it was mentioned that we lacked the proper uniforms, pumps hoses and training and yet the township has always had money in the department budget for these items. Why have these items not been purchases/updated?

**Sprenger** We have pretty much worked through these items since the report.

**Sprenger** Question Three. One of the recommendations is that there are ALWAYS four people who respond to any emergency. What is the plan if the township keeps the safe boat to be sure there are enough people to cover on land and on the water emergencies?

**Ronk** You will never be able to guarantee that you will have four in reserve people available for emergencies That is where mutual aid comes into play and joining a larger service. I understand that the Safe Boat is a hot topic.

**Hoffman** We cannot staff for every scenario. **Ronk** Four people a day are twice what you have now.

**Sprenger** Question Four. With regards to ALWAYS having four people respond, can we pay people to be at home an on call if needed?

**Ronk** you do not get ISO credit for that

**Witkop** Is there a distance they should be from a fire to get credit from ISO. **Ronk** five miles from a staffed station. We just do not have the volunteer department available

**Sprenger** How much of the rating are lower since 2012 are due to ISO standards changing.... verses the work or lack of staff etc?

**Hoffman** we do not need to dwell on this question. Encourages everyone to look at there own insurance and see how your own insurance will be affected.

**Hoffman** We will go over Sherm's report at the next meeting.

#### **Citizen Comment**

None

#### **Board Comments**

Town Board: None

Fire Board:

**Goode** There is an individual who has offered to help the Fire Board if needed. He will provide contact information to Clerk.

**Ronk** Is it appropriate for us to put some accurate numbers for next meeting? **Hoffman** Suggestion is that Sherm and Ronk get together and put together with some good figures.

**Witkop** We all agree that we have some deficiencies and I would like to see options

**Hoffman** Next Joint meeting is next Tuesday, February 9-2016 at 6:00 PM

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 P.M. Respectfully submitted by Mary Ann Abbott, Recording Secretary.