

**Borough of Windber, Windber Fire, Ogle Township, Paint Township  
Special Meeting – Location Windber Fire Hall 18<sup>th</sup> and Somerset Ave.  
August 5, 2010 – 7:00 PM  
MINUTES**

**Call to order** – 7:00 pm – Council President Anthony Turcato

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Attendees -**

**Windber Borough Council** - President - Anthony Turcato (AT), James Furmanchik (JF), George Ledney (GL), James Spinos (JS), Borough Manager Fred Oliveros (FO), Recording Secretary - Cynthia McCracken

**Windber Fire Department**– Chief Craig Cicon, Assistant Chief Aaron Cicon

**Ogle Township Supervisors** – Harvey Weyandt, Dana Sklinar, John Zeglin

**Paint Township Supervisors** – not in attendance

**General Discussion**

- Discussion between Ogle Township, Windber Fire Department, and Borough Management regarding the Municipal funding of the Fire Department
- Paint Township declined to participate due to legal constraints regarding advertizing of the meeting.
- Windber Borough makes a financial contribution- there is no set tax.
- Mr. Oliveros reported on the financial contribution by Windber Borough
  - Annually \$36,000 to the Windber Fire Department, which equates to 0.8 of a mill (1 mill = \$46,000) or \$8.19/person (based upon 2000 census figure of 4,395).
- Ogle Twp – we do not give much other than the Foreign Fire Funds. Population is 588 people - we give approximately \$1000 out of the general fund to Windber Fire Dept., which equates to approximately \$9.13/ person. They expressed their willingness to help and to ask if each entity is carrying their fair share. With the absence of Paint Township, it is difficult to make certain that that is happening.
- Chief Cicon indicated that Windber Fire Company gets approximately \$3400 from Paint Twp. per year, as indicated by bills presented for specific expenses allowed by Paint Township.

**Discussion on the various concerns**

- Ogle requires an accounting for any expenses without stipulation for allocation.
- Mr. Furmanchik indicated that the reason we are here is
  - to maintain a strong Fire Department for our communities and
  - what we have to do to make that happen
- Mr. Spinos asked if a set amount of income yearly would make it easier for the Fire Department to acquire loans to offset any shortfall any grant payments
- Explanation of the grant procedure by Windber Fire Company, and that a set amount of the requested amount is guaranteed, and the Fire Company has to fund the remainder.
- Mr Furmanchik asked, “What kind of monetary donation would you like to impose on the taxpayers in order to support the fire company - say \$10 per head?” Mr. Furmanchik stated that you have to do what is best for the community rather than worrying about reelection. Do you think it would be a better thing per person or measurement in millage?
- Mr. Turcato stated from a loan standpoint, that there is no stability in either accounting, be it millage or donation.
- Mr, Turcato indicated that a resolution is one step below an ordinance.
- Aaron Cicon asked if you went to the taxpayers with a specific reason for the increase, would you get a better response from the taxpayers?
- Mr. Furmanchik indicated a concern with fire service in the community, and in any case you will get a better response for the increase if you have a specific reason.
- Mr. Turcato commented that if Paint Twp. does not come in, it is a large amount of dollars for our municipalities to come up with
- Mr. Furmanchik stated that we owe it to our municipalities to come to an agreement
- For Windber Borough, talking one mill = \$10.50 per person
- Ogle Township stated that EMS is extremely important to us. It is their job to explain that an increase is in the interest of all residents
- Windber Fire Company expressed their desire to get a fair shake for everyone involved. They indicated that they send out fund raiser information.
- Mr. Turcato stated that the dedication of the tax dollars would be for general solvency of the fire departments,

not necessarily the purchase of new equipment.

- Aaron Cicon expressed the need to change gears as we have applied for a grant for a new ladder truck costing approximately \$900,000
- Mr. Furmanchik and Mr. Cicon stated that the #1 concern is the age of the equipment

**Discussion of revenues and the allocation of funds**

- Aaron Cicon stated that any monies that would come in would benefit all companies involved. Technically set up a 50/50 split of Paint Township and Scalp Level
- In the best interest of all, Windber Fire Company took a decrease in allocation from Paint Twp. to 45% from 53%, and Scalp Level/Paint Fire Company received an increase to 45% from 35%
- The only benefit in a partnership would be the ability to get more grants
- The process of acquiring a grant for the ladder truck was explained
- Mr. Spinos asked how can the allocation decrease be fair when you are providing EMS service for all involved?
- Craig Cicon stated that when EMS is dispatched, they are required to go

**Discussion regarding getting Paint Township to sit down at the table to discuss the possibilities.**

- Mr. Furmanchik asked for someone to go with him to Paint Township
- Craig Cicon related his conversation with Andy Tvardzik of Paint Township; the meeting should have been advertized also by Paint Twp. so they would not be in violation of the Sunshine Laws
- Mr. Furmanchik expressed the need to schedule a meeting with Paint Twp. The other Windber Borough Council and Ogle Township Supervisor members are fine with that.
- Need to talk to all three Paint Twp. supervisors. Their next Township meeting is Tuesday August 17, 2010 at 3:30 pm. It was agreed that whoever can go will go.

**Discussion on merging.**

- Craig Cicon - If you want the fire departments to merge, you should merge the municipalities. Andy Tvardzik wants to merge all fire departments, including Scalp Level/Paint. The Scalp Level/Paint Fire Company indicated that a merger could not happen for 5 years.
- If the House Bill goes through, then the County will assume responsibility for the Fire and Municipal services.

Craig Cicon thanked everyone for being in attendance. Hopefully we will get Paint Township to the table in the future.

Mr. Furmanchik stated that this is good for all the municipalities.

**Adjourn – Mr. Turcato - 7:52 pm**