

Workshop Meeting
March 6, 2012
4:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Gregory Paolini; Council President Ed Danyluk; Council Members Richard Rodgers, Herb Ewald, Kevin Pile, Thomas Strittmatter and Robert Morgan; Borough Manager Richard Wargo; Secretary/Treasurer Amanda Claycomb; Solicitor Michael Carbonara

Absent: William Kory (out of town)

Meeting Agenda

Mr. Danyluk stated he would like to give all of Council a chance to voice their opinion on the potential consolidation of Southmont Volunteer Fire Company and Upper Yoder Fire Department.

Kevin Pile

- The issue with what to do with the fire equipment needs to be figured out so progress can be made.
- The fire company needs to give Council bottom line figures to compare with other local departments (possibly Westmont if proposal is received)
- Would like a spreadsheet made up to compare any proposals received.

Tom Strittmatter

- Requested a letter be written to Council from the Southmont and Upper Yoder Fire Department Consolidation Steering Committee to help address issues that have been raised (letter received 2/29/12).
- Upper Yoder supervisor is willing to sit down with Council and hold a discussion.
- Workers compensation figures should not be the responsibility of the fire department, it is always paid by the municipality.

Bob Morgan

- Would not like to negotiate with the Upper Yoder supervisor.
- Would like to see a formal proposal from the fire department noting if they are unwilling to provide a proposal, a consolidation should not take place and Southmont Borough should continue with the services currently being provided by Southmont Volunteer Fire Company
- Expects same service as currently provided.

Richard Rodgers

- Council should make a decision and move on as the issue is taking too much time.
- Agreed with Mr. Morgan that a formal proposal should be submitted.
- Mayor Paolini previously inquired what the cost of fire protection is and Mr. Rodgers noted Upper Yoder Township currently bases their rate on the amount of structures. The cost for Southmont Borough based on the amount of structures would be approximately \$18,709.
- Does not like the idea of using millage to determine contributions.

- The fire engine would provide more fire protection if it were stored at the current location.
- Need to deal with the actual issues, not personality differences.
- Would like to include liability insurance as part of a formal proposal.
- Agreement would need to include an escape clause.

**** Mr. Wargo stated he spoke with Mr. Billy Kautch regarding the 1983 fire truck noting Mr. Kautch estimated the truck to be worth approximately \$5,000 or as much as \$10,000 depending on the condition of the truck.****

Herb Ewald

- Most of Council have not served as volunteer fireman and do not realize the time and effort put in.
- Fire equipment should not be an issue as it is not worth much.
- Does not want to get involved with Westmont
- Agreed that a formal proposal needs to be obtained.
- Should let the fire department run the fire department.

Gregory Paolini

- Concerns of fire department regarding future operations (lack of manpower, funds, etc.) are real.
- Consolidation should occur if proposal is good.

Ed Danyluk

- Would like to move forward and get the issues resolved.
- Will appoint two Council members to sit down with the fire department and resolve any issues.

The general consensus of Council is to make sure the services will remain the same at the best cost to the Borough. Solicitor Carbonara stated it would be easier for Council to compile a proposal to give to the fire departments instead of the fire departments submitting a proposal to Council. Mr. Wargo will obtain the costs of workers compensation and liability insurance and will compose a request for proposal.

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to adjourn the Workshop Meeting of March 6, 2012 at 4:50 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Mr. Kory absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda D. Claycomb
 Secretary/Treasurer