

Centre Documenters

Meeting: COG (Council of Governments)

Township: Upper Bald Eagle

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Date: 02/06/2024

Start Time: 7:00

End Time: 8:01

Notes

1. Call Meeting to Order & Pledge of Allegiance
 - Members present: Joe Bloom- Port Matilda Borough, Ron Servello- Halfmoon Township, Karen Dillon-Ballock, Keith Reese- Worth Township, Tim Reese- Taylor Township
 - 21 audience members, not including the council
2. Public Comments
3. Correspondence
 - No public comments or correspondence
4. Fire Company Financials
 - Fire company financials: The bank loan that the fire company has been given is ending soon. The bank that they are currently using would be able to provide a bridge loan to them, but they would have to pay interest.
 - The Fire company is holding raffles to help raise money. Information about the meat raffle and the outdoorsman raffle should be found on the Port Matilda township website shortly after the meeting.
 - They also applied for a \$20,000 loan but only received \$14,423 due to not enough FF1s (Firefighters).
 - Fire Company officials mentioned the need to bring in more trainees.
 - The company also needs to start ordering supplies, so they asked for 82 tourniquets. They are out of gloves and want 4 for \$525.00 and firefighting hoods that are 6 for \$633.00.

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- Three new pagers were bought, and spent \$2,000. There were also six additional charges for vehicles, and \$96.00 for installation.
 - Volunteer financial services
 - Fee for her to do the work in the advertisement. Council tried to work out what kind of advertising would be the most effective, but couldn't come to an agreement.
 - The council would like to see invoices along with payments, even though the most recent invoices are from August 2023.
5. Approve Meeting Minutes for January 9, 2024- Unanimous Motion carried
6. Approve COG Treasurer's Report for February 3, 2024- Unanimous motion carried
7. Municipal Awareness: What's going on in your Township/Borough?
- Municipal awareness
 - Halfmoon Township- The township is "in between snowfalls", so there's not much to report.
 - Port Matilda Borough- Community leaders "got back" in their building at the last meeting. There is a new secretary, who has started. The budget, all townships where listed, rectifying water issues. Mention of trucks getting stuck on the hill, seems to be a common occurrence.
 - Houston Township- Working on the building process, not specified.
 - Taylor Township- Only had one out of three trucks working during the recent snow storms. That same truck that was repaired broke down. Another truck ran off the road, totaled and repaired. The township is still working on building projects.
 - Worth Township- Major renovation work on sawmill and orchard. They are working with Houston using their wood chipper, and show gratitude for that.
8. Port Matilda EMS
- Fundraisers, including a paint night, are being held at the sportsman club.
 - Port Matilda is having trouble getting volunteers and retaining them. There are also less students available due to classes.
 - They are also struggling with hourly help. While there is still money for scholarships, volunteers and workers were taking fewer hours during the holidays.
 - Port Matilda EMS plans to raise money through transferring patients from one hospital to another.
 - On a positive note, memberships are improving now, and the EMS is on par with

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what it was 2 years ago, which the spokesman said is “close to normal.”

9. Port Matilda Fire Company

- Fire Company Chief’s Report
 - March 28, 2024, is the date for the official approval of the loan, but the company will not get money until April 20, 2024, which led to a conversation about interest, principle and the amount of money it could cost the township. These numbers are currently unknown.
 - The fire company is having problems with their firetruck. They are hoping to replace two front doors, which are currently being held down by bungee cords.
 - People need to bring back gear if they are not working at the Fire Department anymore, this has to happen in the next month due to lack of equipment.
 - There is a pump that needs maintenance.
 - An engine tanker ran off the road due to a car being in their lane, they were forced swerve and caught the bank, causing serious damage
 - Accepted for volunteer center county, an algorithm that assists with giving municipalities volunteers
 - There are people that want to volunteer, but they don’t have facebook and do not have access to the Fire Departments asking for volunteers.
 - The battery was swollen on the side of the fire engine and there was a hot alternator after helping the stuck truck. This may be cause for concern and they will look into this further.

10. Adjournment

Final Notes from your Documenters

Summary

After you've taken your notes, summarize the 3 most important outcomes from your notes. Ask yourself, what would you tell your neighbor about this meeting?

- The meeting minutes for January 9, 2024 and the COG treasurer's report for February 23, 2024 were both approved unanimously
- An engine tanker ran off the road, and is having further problems.
- Both the EMS and Fire Department are in need of new volunteers

Follow-Up Questions

What are you left wondering? Ask up to 3 of your own follow-up questions.

- What are the next steps for the fire company and their loan? With their current loan coming to an end, the council seemed concerned about accepting a bridge loan and acquiring the interest that would follow.
- With the repairs needed on the fire trucks, how will this affect the safety of the community? If their most reliable truck is being worked on for 2+ months, how will the Port Matilda fire department guarantee that a near-by fire department will be at the scene if they can't get there.

Was there anything you didn't understand about the meeting?

- There were a lot of tangents about unrelated topics that were difficult to understand.

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