

Speaker 1:

This meeting is being recorded.

Kelly Decker:

Hi, it's Tuesday, January 25th, 2022. This is the meeting of the Fire Emergency Management Committee. First, I'm going to ask everybody to stand for the pledge. I do have a flag behind me. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic, for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Tim Simmons:

God bless America.

Kelly Decker:

I'm going to do roll call. When I call you just state your name. Say that you're present. Chairwoman Fuller.

Misty Fuller:

Misty Fuller, present.

Kelly Decker:

Mr. Decker.

Mike Decker:

Mike Decker, third ward council, present.

Kelly Decker:

Mr. Livingston.

Denis Livingston:

Denis Livingston, present.

Kelly Decker:

Mr. Simmons.

Tim Simmons:

Tim Simmons, present.

Kelly Decker:

Mr. Vicchiariello.

Tom Vicchiariello:

Tom Vicchiariello, present.

Kelly Decker:

Chief Brown.

Keith Brown:

Keith Brown, present.

Kelly Decker:

Ms. Miller.

Elizabeth Miller:

Liz Miller, present.

Kelly Decker:

Mr. Foster.

Regis Foster:

Regis Foster, present.

Kelly Decker:

Miss Newhauser.

Melissa Newhauser:

Melissa Newhauser, present.

Kelly Decker:

Mr. Siegel. Mr. Siegel? I can't hear you. He can't be heard. I'm Mayor Kelly Decker, present. I'm bringing one more person on right now. It says, "Zoom user."

Misty Fuller:

It's Maria.

Kelly Decker:

It's Maria.

Keith Brown:

Assistant Chief Fuller is here with me also.

Kelly Decker:

Just have him say his name, Chief Fuller.

Anthony Fuller:

Anthony Fuller, assistant chief, present.

Kelly Decker:

Thank you, and Ms. Mann?

Maria Mann:

Maria Mann, present.

Kelly Decker:

Miss Fuller, it's all yours.

Misty Fuller:

Thank you, Kelly. We have nobody from the public for public comment that I see. We'll move on and actually we have no minutes for the December 2021 meeting because there was no meeting. We will move on to the chief's report. You can take it away, Keith.

Keith Brown:

Under new business, I think I've already discussed just openly with everybody we're looking to form a work group. That's what I'm used to with the Army on a get better plan, on an improvement plan to create a lifecycle for the apparatus and the support vehicles. I know we have to have fire. We have to have finance.

Keith Brown:

We have to have I'm saying Laura involved to try to figure out the spending plan and a replacement plan. We'll sit down and try to work out this to get us caught up and get us on a track so we know where we're at and a good replacement plan that we can follow. Any questions or anybody on that?

Tim Simmons:

I would like to be included in that work group.

Keith Brown:

We can, like I said, meet offline and try to get an idea. I don't know where the finances are for bonds or whatever the issue. We have to try to work that all out, the logistics of that, and then we can come up with a plan for replacement and get better.

Tom Vicchiariello:

Chief, if you could include me also, especially in any emails, so that I can bring you up to date on things like that.

Keith Brown:

Sure, absolutely, we don't-

Elizabeth Miller:

Go ahead. I was going to say I'll get a head start looking over some things and I'll sit down with Laura, but I think an email would be good to get started to see when would be a good time to sit down or Zoom, whatever we're going to do.

Keith Brown:

Right, that works.

Mike Decker:

Keith, I'd like to be included on that also.

Keith Brown:

That was the first work group. We got a pretty good start on that. We know where we're going with that. The second one is one of the biggest things we've been talking about. It's another work group on the feasibility of a centralized fire station. That would require looking at potential possible properties, ideas, and put some stuff together.

Keith Brown:

That one there, I know that I talked with Valerie and we have to have, I suggest we have her on that because there's a lot of financing possibly out there, but we got to make sure the scope falls within the funds that possibly are available. I think she'd be a key person to have on that with who else ever would like to be on there.

Denis Livingston:

They meet tomorrow night and we're going to have a Zoom meeting on that.

Regis Foster:

I was just going to say that, Denis, because myself, Liz, and Denis are on CDA, Keith. We're going to be bringing this stuff up. We'll be happy to be on that committee, Keith.

Elizabeth Miller:

I agree.

Keith Brown:

We'll get a work group together. We'll get an email chain going. We can do a lot of it by sending ideas back and forth and then we'll have meetings as they see fit.

Kelly Decker:

Keith, we're really going to have to put something together decisively so Valerie has all the information to proceed with that.

Keith Brown:

Right, I'm used to, like I said, we have to get together. We have to list the pros and cons of every possibility there that falls within the scope I can go on, where it can be located, and why we can't locate it far one side of the city or the other because that will affect our ISO rating. It's got to be centralized and we know what we need. We've got to sit down and address a bunch of issues and then we'll have COAs for all the potential, course of action.

Keith Brown:

If I throw out a term that I'm used to with the Army and you don't know it, just ask me, but we always had to do COAs, course of action, one, two, three, four, whatever. Then, we work by that how we work the issue. Any other questions on that? You all got a copy of the 2021 plan. You saw we bumped up. We did more runs. We are at 26% mutual aid. We're going farther and further and more often to assist our neighbors.

Keith Brown:

That's showing how busy we are and we've had higher numbers in the past, but that was bumped up due to tropical storms and or in the past before we went into that lean period, we didn't have a fire inspector. We were getting bombarded by a ton of nuisance fire alarms. Ever since Bob came onboard, he has been doing a good job of addressing them so we're not going to the same old place over and over and over and over.

Keith Brown:

Our numbers are pretty legit. They're just not all bumped up by going to the same place three or four or five times a day. That can be reviewed and looked at and you can see across the city how many calls there are. It's pretty even by all the wards and districts. We have maps in case you're wondering how it got broken up and what zones. We try to do that to have better information on where we're going and anything that might be needed in that area.

Keith Brown:

That's that report there. Update on the two vehicles, the F550, the rescue support, that contract has been let. It's been out. They're working on that, working on the timeframes of trying to get that. That should be here by second quarter of this year, mid summer, barring any disasters with of course getting chasses and stuff like that. Everything is still on track. We haven't had any issues due to COVID and the rest of the world shutting down.

Keith Brown:

We did the final pre con meeting on engine one the other day. The final specs are being sent back and approved. That won't be until the first quarter of 2023, sometime next year before that one will arrive back in the city. That's why we always talk about from the time we get approval we're looking at 18 months to put an apparatus on the street. That's a big issue there. Another issue I'd like to, we don't have to address it tonight.

Keith Brown:

We can talk about it offline, but the training center, I know there's been some issues with the gate and the right away and all that. We have tremendous illegally dumping down there and it's not going to be my follow through on this year to continually burn couches and debris that should not be burnt down there.

Keith Brown:

We really need to see if we can come to some idea or some issue of how we can keep that gate locked. We'd like to do some training down there and props. With that open, it leaves all our props and stuff like that open for people to either destroy and or get hurt on. We can talk about that offline and try to figure out some way to address that issue down there.

Keith Brown:

The illegal dumping is going to be crazy down there if we don't do something about keeping that locked up. That's about it for tonight to start off the year with other than of course they've given me inauguration by fire where three weeks into January we've already got two working structure fires. That has been a fun start to the term and that's about it that we have right now.

Kelly Decker:

Keith, when are we going to have specifications on that new truck, in other words, blueprints and stuff like that on Neversink's new one?

Keith Brown:

We have the final draft now. We did a pre con meeting the other day, spent about nine hours here. It's all done right now. As soon as we finalize that, they'll put everything back on the drawing and then that will be it. It should be back to us very soon.

Kelly Decker:

Thanks, Chief.

Misty Fuller:

Does anybody else have any questions for the chief? No? Tom, do you want to take it away for the emergency management report?

Tom Vicchiariello:

We'll start with vehicles. As everybody knows, we always have issues with truck seven. We have a lot. We have five outstanding issues from last year and we have a group getting people to work on KME since without a business, it's becoming more and more difficult. We do have a company down in Congress, New York that we're going to be sending the truck down to hopefully next week as soon as they get all the parts together that we need to do a lot of the repairs.

Tom Vicchiariello:

That'll probably be down there for I'm guessing seven to 10 days to get some of this stuff. We always have issues with truck seven ever since we've had it. It's just a shame to pay all that money for a truck that always has something wrong with it. Moving along, other than that, we have a couple other outstanding issues from last year. A lot of our trucks are now all tractor trailers, dump trucks, et cetera, et cetera.

Tom Vicchiariello:

We have a considerable amount of things that are operated by air and we're constantly battling air leak problems on a lot of the trucks. We have a couple considerable ones on engine five that we're looking to get taken care of. That will be the two major projects that we're undertaking right now. In February, we start state inspections for all the vehicles and that runs through October by the time we get them all done.

Tom Vicchiariello:

In the spring, obviously we do our spring maintenance. We start doing all the oil changes once the weather gets better and we can get something into the DPW where they're not working out in the cold all the time. That'll be starting soon. That's about everything on the apparatus. Is there any questions?

Tom Vicchiariello:

Going into emergency management, I'll try and explain some of this stuff to the newer people that might not understand where we're coming from. First of all, which is Rio Dam, a new dam company has bought them out, the control of Rio Dam. Their name is Eagle Creek and they're a large, large company all over the country, mainly out in the Midwest, but they've taken over control of the dam.

Tom Vicchiariello:

Back in March, they started a new process for their emergency action plan where they've hired Code Red. I hope everybody knows what Code Red is. It's an overall splash telephone company that alerts people for issues in your area. When it came to actual planning for port service they wanted me to be the responsible person 24 hours a day, seven days a week to issue the Code Red alert if something were to happen.

Tom Vicchiariello:

I wasn't willing to do that because I'm not going to be guaranteed to be here all the rest of my life doing the same thing for 24 hours a day, seven days a week. My suggestion was maybe we could have the PD take it over because there's always a desk sergeant there and maybe that was the more practical way to go. After discussing it with the police department, they felt that they really didn't want to take that responsibility either.

Tom Vicchiariello:

Now we suggested we go to the 911 dispatch working through the people over at emergency management over at Orange County. They more or less have agreed that 911 would do it. The only issue is for our residents here in the city within the inundation area. Jack Flynn, my co-part in Deer Park, was willing to take on that responsibility for 24 hours a day, seven days a week where I wasn't.

Tom Vicchiariello:

As of right now, and this just came down from Eagle Creek in the last week or so, Orange County has agreed. Orange County emergency management also uses Code Red. I've been trying to get my contact over at Orange County to verify this and she hasn't gotten back to me within a few days. According to Eagle Creek, they are going to be taking all the responsibility to issue any Code Red emergency action for Rio Dam through Orange County. That's the way that is transgressing.

Tom Vicchiariello:

I hope that works out the way they said it was and I hope it works, but I'm trying to get that verified, which I couldn't. Tomorrow night, Orange County emergency management is having a meeting on climate change resilience basically for Orange County itself. I will be taking part in that. Every year, I'll go back. I'll go back a little bit. Maybe 15 years ago, FEMA decided that they would no longer accept what used to be our emergency action plan for the city.

Tom Vicchiariello:

They made us go to an overall mitigation plan. Jack Flynn I guess for another day is the mitigation official for the city. I hope Jack has a great retirement, but that's going to be somebody that really has to know all the ins and outs of the mitigation process. We didn't do away with our emergency action plan, but that was included in the mitigation plan.

Tom Vicchiariello:

Every year around this time, Orange County, Dominic Green is in charge of it over there, sends out notices to us that any mitigation project that the city might want to attempt to get funds for should be filled out and sent for Valerie or Jack to Orange County through FEMA through Orange County. Any of those projects will be put on the list to try and get money for. That process is going on right now, but I don't know now that Jack will no longer be with us how that's going to work out.

Tom Vicchiariello:

I would just like to speak a minute on the Farnham house. People probably really don't really know what we do up there. In the event of an emergency, that is an office for fire department, Orange County Fire, the police department, DPW, the telephone company, Orange and Rockland, obviously myself, and the ambulance. For three years now, I've been working up there with no heat. Don't tell our fire inspector this, but I do use space heaters to keep warm up there.

Tom Vicchiariello:

I have to work usually when the sun is blasting in the front office so I can stay a little bit warm. I worked there today and it was really, really nasty. Anyway, I know the city is in the process of upgrading. They've been up there putting in all new fancy lights and sealing the doors, but we still have no furnace. It really makes things difficult to do up there.

Tom Vicchiariello:

The second issue up there through a federal mandate, a lot of people probably don't know this, but the city is required to have a backup city hall. Up in the Farnham house, we have all the facilities up there to move the mayor's office, the city clerk's office, the building department, the police department, and DPW up there. We have phone lines.

Tom Vicchiariello:

We have all the emergency communications, all the radios, et cetera, et cetera, up there. If a situation should arise where the sewer system backs up again and fills the basement of city hall up with sewage and you can't work there, you're either going to have to come up there and work with me in the cold or you're not going to have any place to go. Just so you know, the backup city hall is really not operable right now.

Tom Vicchiariello:

I just would speak a little bit on the river. As everybody probably has noticed, we've had a really good, lucky, wet fall and the river has been running way above average. As of just the last couple days, it's down to only running at three foot, but if it was only running at three foot for the last month or so, we would have a lot more ice on that river than you're seeing right now just because the flow is so great and we're not getting a lot.

Tom Vicchiariello:

There's ice built up up river, but that's normal. Just to let you know, we've really been lucky to have all the water running down that river we've had since we had a couple below zero days and the weather we've had for not much ice on the river. The reservoirs, people don't realize how important, we have to keep our eyes and our ears on the reservoirs to make sure, and the state does this, not too much water, but not a lot of water.

Tom Vicchiariello:

Cannonsville is at 75, which is perfect for this time of year. Pepacton is a little bit high. That's about 82, running 82, 83 right now, but the Neversink is really high. The Neversink Dam has got a lot of water in it for this time of year. Obviously, that's something we have to watch out for should we have a lot of rain in the spring for flooding on the Neversink side. The only other thing is stay tuned and we'll see what happens this weekend. We could have a lot. We might not have anything. That's all I have.

Misty Fuller:

Thank you, Tom. Does anybody have any questions for Tom?

Maria Mann:

I do. Tom, you mentioned that the Farnham house has no heat and that has been discussed for quite some time. Without there being any heat in the building, I'm assuming that the water is turned off so the pipes don't freeze.

Tom Vicchiariello:

Three years ago, there was a problem with the boiler and they shut the boiler down. They came in and they unhooked all the radiators and drained all the water out of the building, yes.

Kelly Decker:

No, she means the water pipes. Yes, they've winterized everything.

Maria Mann:

They're winterized, but now-

Tom Vicchiariello:

They drained all the water out. They didn't winterize them. They drained all the water out of the system.

Kelly Decker:

No, no, she's talking about like your sinks in your bathroom.

Tom Vicchiariello:

They drained all the water out.

Kelly Decker:

Did they drain all that as well?

Tom Vicchiariello:
Everything is drained.

Maria Mann:
There's no bathroom?

Tom Vicchiariello:
No, there's no bathrooms. You have to run over to Neversink.

Kelly Decker:
I will tell you what I'm going to do tomorrow is I'm going to talk to Jack and Steve and see if we can get some pricing from local plumbers to see what it would cost to put a system in there. What we did is we got a price from Siemens-

Maria Mann:
Siemens.

Kelly Decker:
That was just outrageous, I mean literally ludicrous. It was \$14,000 a year for 20 years to put a new system in. I think we'll reach out to local plumbers and see if we can get three prices and go from there.

Tom Vicchiariello:
It's not a very big boiler. That's crazy.

Mike Decker:
We thought the same thing, Tom.

Kelly Decker:
Makes me want to become a plumber.

Tom Vicchiariello:
There you go.

Misty Fuller:
Does anybody else have anything for Tom? No? There's nobody still for public comment, correct? With that, we can end the meeting. The next meeting is going to be held on Tuesday, February 22nd and we had to do 6:00 PM too because of President's Day. We had to move it to Tuesday and do 6:00 PM. If anything changes with that, I will let everybody know and that's it. I make a motion we end the meeting.

Kelly Decker:
Second.

Misty Fuller:

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Goodnight, everybody.

Tom Vicchiariello:

Thank you.

Keith Brown:

Thank you.