

FIRE PROTECTION TASK FORCE
January 28, 2016

Call to Order:

Gay Dunne called the Thursday, January 28, 2016, meeting of the Fire Protection Task Force together at 5:45 PM.

Members Present:

Gay Dunne, Bellefonte Borough Council Member;
Randy Brachbill, Council Member
Tim Schreffler
Chief Schneider
Brian Walker

Members Absent:

Tom Mensch

Staff Present:

Ralph Stewart, Bellefonte Borough Manager
Don Holderman, Assistant Borough Manager

Guests:

Approval of Minutes:

Tim Schreffler(?) made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2015 Fire Protection Task Force meeting. (?) seconded the motion. On the last paragraph of the first page where Nick Lingenfelter is vice president it is the Keystone Community (?). Mrs. Dunne has corrections on attendance. A voice vote was unanimous to approve the minutes as corrected.

KCP Grant Update:

There is no update on the KCP Grant. Currently the money is not available. Ms. Dainty will inform the Fire Protection Task Force when money is available.

Manpower Marketing:

Karen Harvey has a consistent conflict with the timing of this meeting in the month so she will no longer be able to do it. Mrs. Dunne would like someone to take over this position. Chief Schneider reported both fire companies are working on recruit retention efforts at this time. It was suggested to let them come to the Fire Protection Task Force for the help they need. Mr. Schreffler feels both fire companies need to have back-up people to have representation at this meeting to be able to take information back to the fire companies. A school teacher suggested the fire departments go into the schools to give presentations about the fire

departments and what is available. Mr. Schreffler is willing to lead the charge in the schools. Chief Schneider is disappointed that the committee has not had success getting non-council members and non-firefighters interested in working in this group and on these topics. He feels the efforts need to be increased to get non-fire department members to participate. Mr. Stewart feels CPI should be a recruitment center. Mr. Schreffler stated the fire departments of Bellefonte had success on individuals that had to do public service and there was a lot of success that resulted in recruitments. It would be possible to work with attorneys and judges to get recruits. ARD would be another avenue to obtain recruits, but there would need to be ~~someone a fire company member~~ there to oversee the person. . It is people that have made mistakes but they are not hardened criminals. Mr. Holderman said it could be advertised on the Borough website to see if there is anyone with the qualifications to serve on ~~this~~ ***Marketing/Manpower*** committee. Mr. Schreffler suggested have a booth at the Arts & Crafts Fair providing brochures about the fire departments and share the need for volunteers. Chief Schneider feels a large portion of the population feels the firefighters are paid for their services. Mrs. Dunne suggested a table could be set up at the Volunteer Fair on March 5th. ~~If you have a volunteer from the ARD program there would need to be someone to oversee the person.~~ It was also suggested that high school students could be involved to do their hours of community service. They must have thirty hours of community service between 9th and 12th grade. Mr. Holderman suggested contacting the Guidance Counselors and have students contact the fire department of the Borough Building.

Mrs. Dunne would like to give up her position as head of the Fire Protection Task Force because of her multiple positions. She will still work with her sub-committee. Mr. Brachbill is willing to chair the committee but felt like it should be decided among the group. Mr. Stewart stated the Safety Committee on Council has traditionally been involved in public safety so this would be a good fit for Mr. Brachbill. He would include the Safety Committee members from Council, which would result in two more people on the Fire Protection Task Force.

Mr. *Schreffler*(?) made a motion to appoint Randy Brachbill as chair of the Fire Protection Task Force. *Mr. Walker seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

Someone needs to guide the fire companies to have a recruit and retention theme on their websites. Chief Schneider said when this committee was formed the goal was not to have 20 members on the committee. He suggested that Mr. Schreffler could form a sub-committee regarding getting information into the schools. Chief Schneider stated also if you get more people on the committee then the meeting would last more than an hour. *Mr. Walker will participate on the Marketing/Manpower committee.*

It was suggested that this Task Force have a page on Facebook. It was also suggested a Google site could be done and documents could be shared. Chief Schneider expressed that his experience with social media has been nothing but negative. Chief Schneider will get an officer and member from each company to add to the Recruit Retention Sub-Committee.

A point missing in recruitment and retention is that there isn't a document that lists the job description for a fire fighter. Mr. Schreffler is willing to work on that. *Development of job descriptions of supportive positions within the fire companies was also suggested.*

The AFG ~~SAFER~~ Grant for ~~Safer~~ will come out later this year and it takes usually 1 -1 ½ years until award. It is a federal grant. It is not a fixed date. It is basically when the feds say they are ready to send it out for the next round.

At the next Council meeting Mr. Stewart will put a note on the agenda stating the Fire Protection Task Force is seeking to replenish the Council representation.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Fire Protection Task Force will be March 24, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment:

Mr. (?) made a motion to adjourn the Fire Protection Task Force meeting at 6:55 PM.