

VILLAGE OF SCOTTSVILLE  
FIRE COMMISSION MEETING  
 Tuesday, January 12, 2016- 6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor gee called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

**Present:** Mayor Paul Gee, Deputy Mayor Leslie Wagar, Trustee Rick Clark, Trustee Ruth Thompson and Attorney Peter Skivington (late arrival)

**Absent:** Trustee Jim Clark, Scottsville Fire Chief Jeff Brown, Scottsville Fire Company President Frank Wunder and Executive Deputy Chief of Compliance and Safety Jay Coates

**Also present:** Scottsville Fire Department Assistant Chief Bob Valerio, Scottsville EMS Chief Matt Jarrett, Carole Brown, Scottsville EMS Assistant Chief Ed Wihlen, Village Code Enforcement Officer Bob Panik (late arrival), Village Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Katie Moffe (late arrival) and Village DPW Superintendent Steve Farrell (late arrival)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

**MOTION:** made by Trustee Thompson and seconded by Deputy Mayor Wagar to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, December 8, 2015 Fire Commissioners meeting as submitted.

**VOTE:** Carried 3-0 with 1 abstention

Trustee Jim Clark  
 Trustee Rick Clark  
 Mayor Paul Gee

ABSENT  
 ABSTAIN  
 AYE

Deputy Mayor Leslie Wagar - AYE  
 Trustee Ruth Thompson - AYE

NEW MEMBERS - None

PUBLIC BEFORE THE BOARD - None

REPORTS:

A) FIRE CHIEF JEFF BROWN (absent) – Assistant Chief Bob Valerio gave the report

Monthly Briefing:

- Call/Activity summary December
- Grant is for compressor is complete.
- PESH training starting in January.

- Working with Jay and Brian on future planning.
- Slow month
- New Village Fire Marshal Bob Panik is on call 24 hours a day if needed

Upcoming Events:

Fill-in to Henrietta Company #2 on Saturday January 16th

B) EMS CHIEF MATT JARRETT

Rescue Squad Operations:

- EMS has migrated over to the County's new radio system. It is working very well and the equipment has been installed in the ambulances. Thank you to Jay Coates and Mike Connelie for all the work they have put into the program.
- The Med Ex contract is on the Village Board Agenda for approval. It has been reviewed by Chief Jarrett and Attorney Skivington and has to have a couple items fine tuned. It should be approved pending final review by Chief Jarrett, Mayor Gee and Attorney Skivington. Med Ex would also need to approve the changes.
- Consolidation Study – The process began in 2011 to evaluate how emergency services were delivered Town and Village-wide. Various local mergers were reviewed. The Federal government is trying to save money. The biggest issue centers around the dramatic increase in the Medicaid population and the reimbursement (which is about 30% of costs). Corporate health plans pay back around 120% of costs. Scottsville is well funded, but there is a problem covering calls with volunteers. About 30% of the Scottsville calls last year had to be answered by another agency. For every time we need assistance, two ambulance bills are generated (ours and the other responding agency). To operate properly, Scottsville would need paid people. That cost would project to be about \$100,000 per year. We cannot make that up. We would be operating at a loss every year.  
We are looking to change the structure of Henrietta Ambulance to include Chili and Scottsville. Henrietta is the largest and the easiest to reconfigure and they hold paramedic licenses. Each current ambulance would have a presence on the new Board, along with the local governments. Chili Ambulance would be dissolved and their assets turned over to the new organization. Scottsville would need to find out how their assets and reserve funds would be handled because of municipal ownership. The Village would terminate its Medicare and Medicaid provider numbers and transfer the operating authority to the new entity. The time frame to accomplish this would be the better part of a year.

Attorney Skivington arrived at 6:17 PM.

In two weeks and one day, all three Boards will meet and ask questions related to the consolidation. It is being asked that all three Boards approve the consolidation in February and begin the slow process of converting over. We need to find out how to dissolve a Village Department and transfer assets.

Assistant Chief Valerio asked several questions regarding staffing and ambulance placement of Chief Jarrett and Assistant Chief Wihlen. Chief Jarrett assured him that the service level would not degrade. We will become better able to dictate time standards (response time) and better guarantee prompter service in the future.

Code Enforcement Officer Bob Panik and Deputy Clerk Treasurer Katie Mofte arrived at 6:28 PM.

DPW Superintendent Steve Farrell arrived at 6:31 PM.

Trustee Thompson asked Chief Jarrett how the department members feel about this. They are largely supportive. Calls will be answered from the station with “on staff” crews. No longer will members have to travel from their homes to pick up an ambulance upon receipt of a call.

Mayor Gee felt that by joining a larger group, we can increase service levels and keep the tax burden steady. As we are now, the financial drain will just keep increasing and the end result would be higher taxes to help cover the increased costs. This consolidation appears to be the prudent cost-effective thing to do.

Trustee Thompson told Chief Jarrett that the Boy Scouts are picking out a date for the annual spaghetti dinner and will be in touch with him.

Mrs. Merritt would like to get a scanner so that she knows what is going on. She was one of the residents who wanted the fire whistle repaired. Trustee Thompson asked if we could get her a scanner. Chief Jarrett said that she has the option of purchasing a scanner (Radio Shack, around \$800) and could probably pick up calls until the County radio conversion is completed. An app for a Smart-Phone could also be used.

C) EXECUTIVE DEPUTY CHIEF OF COMPLIANCE AND SAFETY  
JAY COATES (absent)

D) PRESIDENT FIRE COMPANY – FRANK WUNDER (absent)

Mayor Gee mentioned that this year’s dividend program from Utica National , which covered our volunteer fire department, resulted in a \$2,430.85 payment back to the Village.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** made by Deputy Mayor Wagar and seconded by Trustee Thompson to adjourn the Fire Commissioners’ Meeting at 6:45 PM.

**VOTE:** Carried 4-0

Trustee Jim Clark  
Trustee Rick Clark  
Mayor Paul Gee

ABSENT  
ABSTAIN  
AYE

Deputy Mayor Leslie Wagar - AYE  
Trustee Ruth Thompson - AYE

Respectfully submitted by,  
*Lee Mikewicz*  
Village Clerk