

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE EAST PETERSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL

DATE AND TIME:	October 5, 2021	7:00 p.m.
LOCATION:	Community Center	6051 Pine Street
ATTENDANCE:	Council Members:	John Wolf, President Debra Miller, Vice President Adam Gochnauer John Herr Lauren Houck Randy Rannels John Schick James Malone
	Mayor:	Karen St. Clair
	Manager:	Jeff Moseman
	Public Works Foreman:	

President Wolf called the Council meeting to order: 7:00 p.m.

Pledge to Flag

Visitors: LNP Reporter, Tom Enlow, John Kottmyer, Don Schoenberger, Tammy Moseman, Josh Roberts, James Swarr, Steven Shenk, Autumn Shenk, Greg Bucher
James Swarr and Josh Roberts and LNP reporter were recording the meeting.

Bill Payment: Reviewed by Council.
No additions to regular bills. Volunteer firefighters' relief association - money is paid annually for fire department to the state.

Police Report: Report was submitted to Council.
Chief Steffen was not in attendance.

Mayor Malone:
Attended PA State Mayor's Association meeting. Talked about regulations for fireworks. Also talked about radar; a majority of people saying they support it, but not a majority of people willing to vote for it.
Discussions on how to pay for EMS. Attended veterans group breakfast.

EMS: Report submitted to Council.
Adam Marden was not in attendance.

Emergency Services Coordinator: No report given. Diane Garber was off work.

Chief Fire Official: Report submitted to Council.
John Kottmyer, CFO reported the following:
Tomorrow is Diane Garber's first day back. East Pete days went well – they will be looking at the plans for this event for next year to see if anything can be done better or changed for the future. Meetings with department chiefs to discuss operational issues or concerns within the departments. Meeting with the fire department presidents to discuss business items, budgets and concerns and capital improvements on the horizon. HAFSC set up three individual working groups: recruitment/retention, apparatus, and finance/fundraising. The separate subgroups work through the issues and report back to commission. Mr. Kottmyer reminded everyone this is fire prevention week, and to be safe from a fire safety perspective this week and all year long. They are working on fire safety programs, fire drills, etc. There is a fire extinguisher program at Brubaker's, and he would like to present a donation to the each of three fire departments for service to the community. Working on scheduling with all three at the same time. It is budget time of year and John Kottmyer pointed out he submitted information for council. Mr. Kottmyer explained that a piece of equipment from East Hempfield suffered a mechanical malfunction on the way

to a call and it threw a rod which led to the demise of the engine, and it has been out of use for weeks. This was a cardiac call and luckily, they were able to run up the street to respond to the emergency, but if this was a fire call, they would not have been able to run up the street with the equipment. Mr. Kottmyer said this piece of equipment was maintained and everything done right, but these things cannot always be predicted especially with an aging fleet. He explained the engine is a diesel Cummins and they can not get parts for that model/year. Cummins is focused on building new engines and if they buy a new 2021 engine for the 2007 truck, it will not have the DEF fluid. Even with a new engine, from an ISO perspective, it is a 2007. The only parts available are aftermarket parts which are not from the manufacturer, and they come without warranty or guarantee.

Fire Report: Report submitted to Council.

Chief Schoenberger reported 43 incidents with 8 calls being in the Borough, 26 in East Hempfield Township, 2 in Manheim Twps., 2 Lancaster Twps., 3 Manheim Borough, 2 West Hempfield Township, 200 staff hours, and 111 training hours and 295 of fire prevention. Thanked Greg Bucher for allowing them to use the house that had the fire for some training.

Don reported they were heavily involved in East Pete Day and the parade. Weekends have been busy with events for them.

Manager's Report: Report submitted to Council.

Finalizing 2022 budget and will present this at the Committee meeting to Council. Work is in progress on the traffic signal at State and Main. This is the last week for the foundation work. She pointed out they have been doing a great job getting the fire department through the intersection safely and quickly.

Foreman's Report: Report submitted to Council.

Jeff Moseman pointed out the following:

MS4 information on Illicit discharge was available at the back of the room for anyone interested.

Water department continuing to work on installing SCADA to the system.

With Hurricane Ida and the 7 inches of rain we got, there were no service interruptions, but they did reduce flow slightly. Underground work and conduit at State and Main are moving along very well and traffic control is going well. Elm street milled and overlaid to control stormwater flow has turned out well. Flushing and testing the water flow on that street and it is going well. Installed tether ball at the park. Worked on pool winterization. Worked on storm basin and storm water runoff issues residents were having. Prices received for Alcoa trees to replace the five trees removed at the park in the amount of 692.50 from Huber Nurseries.

Zoning Officer Report: Reports submitted to Council.

Engineering work TOA, MS4 on call services, permit review, property maintenance, and site inspections.

Greg Bucher asked why Graystone Road did not have to put sidewalks in and only put in a walking path. He pointed out that Main Street is a state road and they had to install sidewalks.

Property Violations: Report submitted to Council.

Greg Bucher asked who is authorized out in the field to inspect properties. He was told Matt Spellman BCO, Michael Bingham, zoning officer and Ryan Martin are the only authorized individuals to inspect properties for maintenance violations.

Solicitor/Collections Report: Report submitted to Council.

Northfield Drive has been paid. Lawnwood Ct. has been notified about a new violation. Graystone Road still up to date on payment plan- new letter sent for a violation. Jeanette Dr. 30-day letter sent for non-compliance.

HARC: (Hempfield Area Recreation Commission) – Debra Miller – Nothing to report at this time.

Hempfield Area Fire Service Commission – Pumper Discussion: Tammy Moseman said six weeks ago there was a mechanical issue on a truck and John Kottmyer has been looking into Demo trucks with average cost of \$535,000-\$565,000 vs. the cost of a new vehicle with the average cost of \$773,000. Ms. Moseman said at the last meeting the members talked about this, and John Wolf asked each of the fire departments their opinions. All the departments agreed that this reserve pumper is needed to have as a back-up truck for all the departments to use if one of their other trucks is being serviced. The reserve pumper will be shared between East Hempfield, Rohrerstown and East Petersburg. East Hempfield has always had two back-up pumpers because of the large area they serve. Ms. Moseman said that at the last HAFSC it was asked by Manager St. Clair what the percentage

and financing would be, and she was told that this information would be given at tonight's meeting. Ms. Moseman said the 2003 American LaFrance can be traded in for \$30,000 and the 2007 will be scrapped because it does not run. A motion was made at the HAFSC meeting to bring the pumper truck information to Borough Council meeting this evening for discussion. Randy Rannels was at the HAFSC meeting and said even though it will be an East Hempfield vehicle, it will be shared between the three departments, so it makes sense that the cost be shared by all three departments. Deb Miller requested a list of all the vehicles that are within the HAFSC between the three companies showing the age/year, model, and length of service. Ms. Miller said it will be helpful in decision making to see what we have currently.

John Kottmyer said that the newest truck they have between the three departments is in Rohrerstown and it is a 2011. These vehicles are commonly replaced after 10-15 years, so we must start somewhere because the fleet is aging. Mr. Kottmyer said ISO requires a certain amount of water be brought to a fire scene within a certain amount of time and in most cases, this requires two pumpers, currently we are down to three. If something would happen and we would be down to two, it then becomes a situation that relies on mutual aide, and this requires time for them to get there to help us. Mr. Kottmyer explained they can't get parts from Cummins, so they looked at the demonstrator truck which is a no-frills truck that they take out to shows to let people see the quality of their product. He explained it is easily adaptable for the three departments and will not require much training. The price for a brand new one is \$772,000 and the price for the demo he is looking at is in the \$535,000 - \$565,000 range. The Pierce is not available until November and the Saber is even longer, the E1 that he is recommending is available today and could have it as early as next week.

Greg Bucher asked if EP Fire Company would have a ladder truck go out will East Hempfield be willing to chip in 20% of the cost. Randy Rannels asked if it was EP Fire Company's pumper truck how would this play out. John Kottmyer said it would play out the same way following the commission agreement. Ms. Moseman asked what percentage rate the borough would use this vehicle and said she was under the impression that all three departments were asked to share cost for the pumper because it was a shared vehicle between the three departments. Mr. Lefevre said that the commission is intended to be a commission of three stations working together and he believes there is a movement that East Petersburg is going more towards rescue work, and everything is to be shared and this new piece of equipment could spend weeks or month in East Petersburg Borough if there is a unit down, and said replacement comes under the terms of the agreement. Mr. Bucher asked if there is a signed agreement stating that East Petersburg Borough would have to pay 20% of the cost of this new pumper or share in the cost for an East Hempfield apparatus piece. Adam Gochnauer said that the agreement does not state this, and he takes issue with spending this kind of money on a piece of equipment that will be residing in East Hempfield and Hempfield would be using almost exclusively because the Borough has no real reason for this vehicle and said that they currently have two pieces of apparatus in this Borough that can pump water and they don't need a third. Mr. Gochnauer said for anyone to say that the Borough will get 20% of the usage is very false and he doesn't see the Borough using it much at all. Mr. Gochnauer said if one of ours goes down, the ladder truck has 500 gallons on it, which means that the Borough has three vehicles that can pump water. He also said that he doesn't have a problem with East Hempfield needing a new pumper, but for East Petersburg to pay 20% of something that they might get 2% use out of is unacceptable and there is nothing in the agreement that says we have to. The agreement states that all finances are independent of each other, so he is not sure where the 20% came from. Mr. Gochnauer said that EP Fire co. is running 53% of their calls in East Hempfield, so he hopes that when the ladder truck needs replaced that East Hempfield would at least pay 53% or more of what that ladder truck cost because we are over there a lot more than they are over here. He said it would be hard to tell the residents they have to pay \$110,000 for a piece that they will probably never use. He feels that this is a Hempfield purchase not an East Petersburg purchase. John Kottmyer said he feels it is hard to get an aerial device in certain areas. Mr. Gochnauer said that the truck has reach to get anywhere. Ms. Houck asked where the new truck would be stored. Mr. Kottmyer said that it would be stored in East Hempfield, and it would be shared as a reserve vehicle. Ms. Houck pointed out that EP fire co. has their trucks currently figured out. Mr. Gochnauer said he would have liked this discussion to be that East Hempfield would pay 70% of a new ladder truck for us if we give them the 20% for the pumper they need and that we really do not have a use for.

Josh Roberts asked what the ISO rating is for this area. Mr. Kottmyer said he was not sure what it was exactly, but he thinks it is a split rating and explained that the biggest thing that saves a lot of us is fire hydrants and having the water pressure. Mr. Roberts asked how this additional engine would affect the ISO rating. Mr. Kottmyer said they are looking at what we have and what the backup plan is. Mr. Kottmyer explained that most of the engines are primary engines, and the ISO looks at what they have for back up for reserve capacity, and we don't have this. He explained a pumper is a pumper and a ladder truck is a ladder truck; one cannot be back up for the other. Mr. Roberts asked if the county has shown interest because it would benefit all the taxpayers of the county. Mr.

Shoenberger said that this discussion never came up but could be a good topic to bring up. Mr. Kottmyer said it can be a liability to get a loaner pumper and this can add to the issue.

Greg Bucher said that is a great concept to share costs for apparatus as this equipment gets more expensive over the years, but there is no agreement in place based on the percentage of property value, which is how fire tax works, that says everybody within the three company district kicks in every time equipment is needed. Mr. Bucher said he feels this is not fair to the taxpayers in East Petersburg. Mr. Gochnauer said that if they had a fire tax most of this would go away. Mr. Bucher said this also needs to be based on property value too and that you can't just ask for 20% when this municipality is 5 times larger than ours. Mr. Bucher said that to be fair it needs to be spelled out in a contract and base it on all the current property values of all the companies involved in this and that is how you fairly spread it not only to the municipalities, but back to the property owners and business owners, and this would ensure that the larger companies are paying a bigger share of it than a person who owns a townhome. He said that there is nothing fair about this. Manager St. Clair asked Mr. Kottmyer if there were any grants available through the state. Mr. Kottmyer said its not there like it used to be and now they want to see regionalization for AG grants, or you won't get it. Mr. Schick asked if prior to this agreement did East Hempfield have plans to replace this piece of equipment. Mr. Kottmyer said that the first one on the schedule to be replaced was the LaFrance and a replacement has been ordered and it will be ready in May. Mr. Schick asked if this one could just be kept for the backup. Mr. Kottmyer said it could, but there are no parts available if something happens. Mr. Lefevre addressed Adam Gochnauer's comment and said that the word apparatus is not in the agreement. The forging of the agreement dealt with how the two municipalities would work considering the size and variance and that is how they came to the 20/80 when they were talking about how they would fund the chief fire official and the mechanics of the agreement. In the past East Hempfield has helped East Petersburg Borough with apparatus purchases. Mr. Lefevre said that the unit that Mr. Kottmyer referred to will be purchased for \$773,000 is not part of the agreement because this was ordered before the commission agreement came into effect. He said that piece of equipment and every piece of equipment is available for the needs of the commission in whole and this is what they have tried to forge with the fire commission and if we cannot respect that, then we have no commission, and we have no benefit to join together to address the emergencies and the things we don't know when and how they will come. He said they believe they have been fair in the 20/80 and said that they did not take everyone's property and assess it and they have not done that kind of analogy. Mr. Lefevre said he supposes that this could be done, and commission could consider that, but for now we have a question about a piece of equipment that is needed for the commission and that is what is before us. Mr. Lefevre said that if we leave this meeting tonight without East Petersburg participation, that doesn't speak well for the commission and the people on the commission who have come here, participated in this discussion, and bring before you the recommendation to support this. Ms. Moseman asked if it has to be 80/20? Mr. Lefevre said they think 80/20 is fair and we think that is the essence of the agreement for all costs no matter what it is, he said that this is what the commission is intended to do, to address the need of the township and the borough, as it occurs.

Mr. Bucher said what about the people who pay for this and what about the amount of commercial property that is being covered by this in East Hempfield. Mr. Bucher said if you want to be fair about this than you have to divide it up by property value. Mr. Bucher also said the people on council take the responsibility to protect the money of East Petersburg residents very seriously. Mr. Bucher pointed out that Mr. Lefevre said there is no agreement to pay 20% of the new apparatus and it appears they are trying to guilt trip council into making a decision before the night is over and that you are going to end the commission without a financial agreement that is fair to businesses, and taxpayers in both municipalities. Mr. Bucher said the taxpayers are the ones who actually pay for this, and he believes every taxpayer would like to have an agreement that is reciprocal for both and goes both ways, not just when the bigger municipality says they need an answer by the end of the evening. He pointed out that this is a lot of money for this community, and what is fair is to figure it out based on assessed values of all the municipalities involved. This is the way you end up with a fair percentage of the apparatus not by 2 or 3 people who sit on a commission in another municipality trying to decide where our tax money is being spent.

Mr. Gochnauer said it would be easy to figure out that if you buy 100 air packs and East Petersburg uses 20 that we would pay 20% of the bill. He pointed out that apparatus is not in the agreement at all, and this is a vehicle that 99% of the time will be in East Hempfield. He pointed out that East Petersburg does not need this vehicle, so to come here and ask for any amount towards this vehicle is a stretch. He said to come in here tonight after budget is almost finished, is not the way this should have been done at all. Mr. Gochnauer also pointed out that this piece of apparatus is needed by East Hempfield and said there is no doubt about that. He said that 53% of the calls East Petersburg Fire company goes to are in East Hempfield. Mr. Gochnauer said they have shared apparatus with other departments as a part of mutual aid for years and now it sounds like if we don't take part in it then we won't get help in the future when we need a ladder truck. Mr. Lefevre said that is not at all what they are saying. Several councilmembers and residents shared agreement that what Mr. Lefevre said did sound like a threat.

Don Schoenberger said there was probably a time when they would have used this piece of equipment last year when they had the engine repaired on a truck and it was out for 6 weeks. He said they did get by with the ladder truck, but they were looking for a loaner to help them get through that time period. The issue can be that not all the engine drivers are ladder truck drivers, so this piece could still end up sitting. He explained some people just can't drive these kinds of vehicles. He said it seems that when their apparatus does break down it is usually on a Friday or Saturday and then you have to pay emergency rates. If they could borrow this new pumper, they would be able to let it sit till Monday so they could pay regular rates. There were a couple of times they wanted to bring the rig down to fire school in Pequea, but they couldn't take them both. Mr. Schoenberger said that he could not put a number on it, but it would be only a hand full of times they would use this. He also said they would probably use it more if it was passed around so they could be more familiar with it when the time comes that they might need to use it. Mr. Gochnauer said he realizes that East Petersburg Fire Department would use the pumper in rare cases, but you would not get \$110,000 or 20% value out of that piece of equipment. Mr. Gochnauer reiterated that it is a Hempfield piece of equipment with their logo on it, and it is for them to use. Mr. Gochnauer explained going to the residents to ask for this does not make sense and also said that if the fire department wanted to do this, they have fire tax funds they could use. John Kottmyer said you have to look at the long term and that they should consider the piece will last for 15-20 years.

Lauren Houck said when East Petersburg maintenance employees asks for equipment there is a more prepared presentation. She pointed out that East Petersburg has agreed to pay 20% of the wages for the CFO and ESC, so it appears that this number was pulled from that without considering how often we are in East Hempfield for calls and what those calls are for, and also what our calls are for, as well as your budget vs. ours, and your per capita vs. ours. It doesn't feel like there was any preparation considering how this would work for us. We are a small municipality, and this is a big amount for us. Mr. Rannels asked what the cost of financing is and what rate of interest is or is it a lump sum. Mr. Kottmyer said it would depend on how they plan to pay for the vehicle and also said they are not asking for a check tonight. Ms. Houck pointed out that the Memo said 2022 and this is something that they would need to have budgeted for. Mr. Rannels said it does not seem they were prepared to bring this to us tonight. Mr. Lefevre said there is a decision that will need to be made tomorrow after the Board of Supervisors meeting tomorrow night, as to how to pay for this. He explained this can be paid out right from the relief funding, which can be used for something like this. Mr. Rannels said you come to us with a problem tonight and not a solution and now you want a decision.

Mr. Lefevre said the engine went down several weeks ago and Mr. Kottmyer has been working to find these demonstrator vehicles that can address the immediate need rather than waiting for the next year or more. If there is another party looking at this vehicle, we need to be decisive and that is why the commission came to the recommendation to bring this to council. Mr. Lefevre said if we miss out on this vehicle then we will go for a year without the backup we need. Mr. Lefevre said when they discussed payment for the truck it was brief and without the EH board and they said it was to be without interest. Mr. Gochnauer said that he feels John Kottmyer is doing his job brilliantly, he has found vehicles and presented them, but what upsets him is that East Hempfield is going to approve this vehicle because they need it and it's a great deal, but they are trying to get East Petersburg to pay for this. Mr. Lefevre said he denies this.

Lauren Houck said if this was reversed and East Petersburg was asking for this, there would have been a spreadsheet explaining how this would have all worked out. Mr. Gochnauer said he would have started by showing how often the truck runs in your district. Mr. Gochnauer apologized to the people from EP fire dept. because he did not want them to feel that they were put in the middle of this. Mr. Gochnauer said they have to look out for the 5,000 people in the borough not the 6-7 that sit on the board. Mr. Lefevre said that when the time comes, if the commission is still functioning and you need 80% for a piece of apparatus you even said that its 50% and that this is the way it has to work. Mr. Lefevre said that even though they have not done property assessments in the past, he isn't saying that can't be done. He stated that the commission will need to reassess what all is covered and when it is covered, whether it is masks, radios, etc., since this is a sore spot. Mr. Lefevre said it was discussed that there was a difference with how the fire departments were funded with East Petersburg having a fire tax and East Hempfield not having a fire tax and that this could be a sensitive issue. East Hempfield has millage, but they don't call it fire tax and some of this is still a tax on East Hempfield residents and it's used for fire services. Mr. Bucher said that East Hempfield has 20 times the commercial property than we do, and you have to throw all of that into it to because this is how this is all fairly spread out among the taxpayers. Mr. Bucher said if we are going to regionalize let's do it fairly and base it off millage because that is the only fair thing he has heard. He said that they came in with an arbitrary number not based off anything. He said he feels they should come in with a number based off something fair, so the residents can say the percentage was based off the millage and that is

what it comes out to. He said it is only fair to share the cost with those big businesses like Kellogg's and large warehouses because if something happens all the apparatus from all three areas will be there. Mr. Bucher said to figure this out you need to go to the assessment office and take all the value of East Hempfield property taxes and the value of East Petersburg's property taxes and figure out the percentage of what we have. This is the only fair way to figure this out.

Josh Roberts said from a taxpayer's perspective, Mr. Lefevre's statement was threatening and as a taxpayer it doesn't warm his heart to want to give any more money of his when they come asking and it's a slap in the face to threaten us and hold the commission over us. He said he personally couldn't care less if the commission succeeds or not. His concern is, will the East Petersburg Fire Dept. protect our citizens? He said he has concerns with how transparent things are and it has been hard to find information. He doesn't feel we have gone into this with equal footing. We have fewer votes on the commission compared to East Hempfield. When the Chief Fire Official was hired there were a couple sunshine laws violations that occurred, and quite a few transparency issues with commission as far as East Hempfield is concerned. He really has concerns as to who is going to handle the repairs and the finances and are the taxpayers going to see what this money is going to. He just doesn't think it is to the borough's benefit and if this is going to work, they need to make this commission an authority and levy the tax rate and do this properly. Mr. Kottmyer said it is just an intergovernmental agreement. Mr. Roberts said he thinks both councils from both municipalities need to realize and say what our goals are, and do we want to have a true regional fire commission where we actually are sharing in regionalized S.O.P.'s, responses, profiles, and everybody's trained from the same standards, and where we have the authority to do something, or will we just be going back and forth every time we have a purchase to figure out what is fair. He feels we are not in on equal footing and the agreement should be revisited.

Jeff Moseman said with his experience of purchasing big equipment he normally would not purchase two expensive pieces of equipment at the same time because they will need replaced at the same time. He explained to justify his purchases to council he usually would try to find something that would stretch it out and said he is surprised that they can't get parts to fix this issue and buy some time. Mr. Kottmyer said that they haven't even gotten to the bottom of the engine, and he doesn't want to come to everyone and say we are going to buy a new engine and then it dies out, and there is no guarantee or warranty with the engine. Mr. Moseman said that when the engines are not available then he would try to hold onto the old one that is working instead of buying two new pumpers in the same year, at least this would space it out a few years. Mr. Kottmyer said it could be done, but he does not have a lot of faith in the older pumper and doesn't want to give a false sense of security that it will be ok. Mr. Gochnauer said that this is the perfect discussion for tomorrow night's meeting in East Hempfield and it is not a presentation for us because he doesn't feel we are a part of this deal and we will not get the value out of this vehicle and Hempfield does need it, so it is a home run for them, but it is not an East Petersburg budgetary item. Mr. Schick said you have to come up with a fair and equitable formula for determining this or any other future purchase and he is not a vehicle expert and believes what Mr. Kottmyer is saying. Mr. Schick said asking them to pay 80% does not seem fair from the other side if we need a ladder truck, so for both sides they need to come up with a fair and equitable formula. Mr. Gochnauer said that EP Fire Dept. has planned for these kinds of purchases and the building has been paid off because of it, along with budgeting for vehicles, and we have done well. He said there is a lot more work this commission has to do to get closer to this working and hearing that they are meeting every other month does not sound good to him. He explained that in the agreement it states that finances are separate and asked if we can make this work or not. Mr. Kottmyer said that the subgroups will meet on the 1st of the month in between meetings and then present back to the commission. Mr. Gochnauer said that we had a system that has been working for years.

Tom Enlow said he has been president of the fire company for 25 years and many of the vehicles that are housed there they could not have bought without East Hempfield Township giving money to EP fire dept. The money they gave was based off of the percentage of calls EP fire co. ran in their district and in most cases, it was between 25-50% and he feels they have been very fair to EP fire co. Mr. Enlow also pointed out that they have some major purchases coming up including a ladder truck and rescue truck, and there are some decisions that have to be made between East Hempfield and East Petersburg as to whether they stay in the ladder truck business or not. These are decisions for them to work out. He explained if they could not replace all those pieces on their own. He said in fairness to the residents of East Petersburg, they do not have the tax base to do it. He said as a fire company they support this agreement and he wanted everyone there to know this and said it is imperative that we rely on East Hempfield Fire Service for the support of this community. Mr. Gochnauer said this is what he was referring to when he said that it has been working for years and doesn't see why it wouldn't work now based off the percentage of calls they run. Mr. Enlow pointed out that 80% is a lot of money to give towards a purchase.

Mr. Gochnauer said that everyone is getting a little intimidated by what Mr. Lefevre said, but Mr. Gochnauer said he probably didn't mean it and would hope it wouldn't come to them not contributing to a ladder truck if we don't contribute to this. Mr. Lefevre said that what he was trying to say was contrary to when EP fire dept. needs help, they will be there. Mr. Enlow said that if we were going to get 80% for a truck this seems like a lot of money. Mr. Gochnauer said that if they would have said they would pay 80% for the ladder or the rescue trucks in return for us paying this 20% for the pumper than that would have been different, but that was not said.

Ms. Houck said the agreement does not specify finances and the 80/20 has been easy to set up for the CFO and ESC salary because the amount of time can be budgeted.

Debra Miller said she agrees with Mr. Schick and would like to see something more equitable.

Mr. Bucher said that it needs to be spelled out in an agreement that all this equipment is regionalized, and everybody pays a percentage of it, but it needs to be fair to everyone. If the cost of regionalizing is based off the millage this would be the fairest it could be rather than the board voting when we only have 2 borough members voting.

Don Schoenberger said the ladder truck is a 1999, the rescue is a 2000, and the engine is a 2010. Mr. Bucher said that this would be the perfect time to get that agreement together because everybody's equipment will need replaced in the next 5-6 years. Mr. Schoenberger said that the idea of this agreement was put into place originally to get the municipalities to work together and build the relationship, and now we are beyond that, so maybe the second part of this agreement should be how do we move forward. Mr. Enlow said when we talk about a regionalized fire department, he pointed out that we do not have a lot of people joining and it is imperative that we rely on the Hempfield fire services as a support for this community. He said that there are times during the day we struggle to get out and if it wasn't for Hempfield or Rohrerstown we could have an issue, so it isn't just finances it's the manpower and if we lose this support then in a few years this fire company could be in trouble due to lack of new volunteers to replace the older volunteers.

Mr. Gochnauer said nobody wants this commission to go away but the commission has a lot of work to do to move forward. We need to get some financial agreements in place and asked what will happen to EP fire co.'s vehicle which is a 1999 and the oldest out of all the fleets. He said that this blew up because East Petersburg Council take their budget very seriously and we care about our community, so the question is how do we move forward with purchases whether it is Rohrerstown piece or East Petersburg's or Hempfields.

Josh Roberts said we are quickly spiraling to having paid firefighters and what happens when we start hiring people and then potentially union gets involved. He said we need to set a good foundation financially and through these agreements that protects everybody. He feels that there should have been a lot of work done over the last year and pointed out that they don't really have bylaws or checks and balances over the finances. He said there has to be some method of operations. Mr. Rannels said he feels that the agreement is weak and needs to be revamped.

Mr. Kottmyer said his exposure to commissions was in New York and they don't have a Chief Fire Official, they have a fire administrator which acts as the manger, and they look at the financial end of it and do the presentations and then the commission gets a budget and determines where the money goes between all the stations. Mr. Schick said you need to come up with a fair way to determine costs and a funding formula to use. He said it is hard to go to the taxpayers and say we are going to give 110,000.00 to East Hempfield and don't have a basis. Mr. Schick said that we need a way of explaining how it is fair or equitable based on assessed values or millage or per capita so residents would understand it, and then it would be an easier sell. He said that he realizes there is a shortage of people and there are a lot of other elements that go into how the fire company operates, but when it comes down to spending money people want to understand how this is fair and equitable for us vs. East Hempfield when they are the bigger party. Mr. Bucher said there is any easy way to do this for the short term if they need the money that bad just have an agreement drawn up that says they have to give us the 110,000.00 back the next time we need to replace a piece of our equipment until we get this all worked out.

John Wolf said Commission is an advising board and each department is supposed to be financially independent. The Borough has a fire tax that the residents pay towards the operation of the fire department and there is no other money allocated to that other than what that generates. Mr. Wolf said there is a monthly stipend they receive and there are some other monies held in reserve that could be available upon their presentation to council. More work needs done on what recommendations the board can discuss and brought to the municipalities to look at in situations like this. This came out of left field, and nobody was expecting this. He explained that Council must be good stewards of the Borough in planning budget each year. They go through each line item and are very thorough. He feels more work needs done on this and Cindy and Karen should discuss this. He said he has experience with heavy equipment in construction and he realizes the parts are hard to come by. An agreement

needs to be looked into for this.

Mr. Gochnauer asked if this was brought up at the HAFSC board meeting. Mr. Wolf said it was not brought up at the meeting. Tammy Moseman said they had a financing meeting. John Kottmyer said the question is whether you want to participate in this or not and he said it is apparent that Council does not. Mr. Kottmyer said he is currently working with EPFC on capital improvements for hose replacement in the amount to \$18,000 and looking at portable radio replacement for EPFC in the amount of 28,000-30,000 and the list goes on. Randy Rannels said he thinks it needs to be determined how everything gets split up. Mr. Rannels explained that this \$110,000 they are asking for is a big chunk at 3% of their entire budget. Lauren Houck said splitting up radios is easier to break down than use of a piece of equipment and further discussion is needed. John Wolf said the finance part of the pumper purchase was left open ended at the HAFSC meeting. Manager St. Clair reached out to the manager of East Hempfield and was told the amount was TBD. Mr. Wolf said he stated at the HAFSC meeting that he did not know how quick council could address this because these items are usually discussed at committee meetings. Randy Rannels said that this is important, and we might need to have an additional meeting to discuss this.

Manager St. Clair said the point we are at now, we would need to come up with a financial agreement. Manager St. Clair said this is what she is hearing from the residents and members of council. She said she would like to see an agreement between the two municipalities and have a fair formula spelled out. She said she can work with Cindy on this and then it can be brought back to council to discuss, but this is something that will not happen overnight.

John Kottmyer said he does not bring every item to the fire commission, such as the hose because it is not a capital item and the fire department did not budget for this, but they need this item and have to have it. Tammy Moseman said she feels the financial agreement needs to be for all future purchases not only the pumper. Kottmyer said if you do that you might shoot yourself in the foot because the hose and radios were just being paid for in full by East Hempfield and this would then be reduced. Ms. Moseman said at the last HAFSC meeting she asked if all major purchases were 80/20 because this was her assumption. She feels this is a huge amount for East Petersburg Borough. She asked where the money comes from for the hoses and radios. Mr. Kottmyer said it is paid from East Hempfield. He explained there is a certain allotted amount for the three fire departments in East Hempfields budget for capital requests. Mr. Kottmyer explained he goes through these requests and prioritizes, and these are separate funds from the commission. Greg Bucher asked if these funds are from grants. Mr. Kottmyer said no and explained these are things that come up for the departments and he tries to split it up between them. Ms. Moseman said she is in the finance subcommittee, and they have asked the departments to submit their needs and then the subcommittee will discuss this and bring it to the commission. Mr. Kottmyer said the money is allocated by splitting it three ways between the three departments. He said the three department Chiefs got together and said they agreed with this price of equipment together. Mr. Kottmyer apologized if what he presented was not adequate and explained he is working on a short time frame because the apparatus is being shown to another company tonight and if the company looking at it tonight signs, then there is nothing to vote on tomorrow night. Ms. Moseman asked about the other two trucks they were considering. Mr. Kottmyer said he doesn't want the one that has the buzzer going off and the other truck won't be in until January. Mr. Gochnauer asked why they didn't just buy it and then come to East Petersburg to ask for the funds. Mr. Kottmyer said they wanted to be transparent and bring it to EP to ask the questions and that's what he is here for.

Old Business: Committee meeting topics: Hempfield recCenter ARPA request letter, 2021 pool season summary, pickleball discussion, playground update, accounts payable, HAFSC updates, misc. manager/foreman/council items, EP Fire Co. financials, committee meeting minutes, executive session for personnel reasons

New Business:

- 1. It was moved and seconded (Councilmember Gochnauer, Councilmember Miller) and carried unanimously to approve the meeting minutes for September 7, 2021***
- 2. It was moved and seconded (Councilmember Miller, Councilmember Schick) and carried unanimously, to Approve Ordinance 314, updating POD regulations within the Borough***

Greg Bucher asked if this covers his storage container, and if it clears up the issue.

Manager St. Clair said yes.

3. *It was moved and seconded (Councilmember Gochnauer, Councilmember Houck) and carried unanimously to Approve Fire Police Request for PTO sponsored parade at Nitrauer Elementary School Wednesday, October 27*

Announcements:

October 29 - Trick-or-treat will be held in the Borough from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

October 29 - Large Appliance/Tire Pick-up, tags are available at the Borough office; 15.00 appliance, 5.00 tire

November 2 - Election Day; polls are open 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Adjournment: 9:08 p.m.

Executive Session for legal & personnel matters: Not needed

Respectfully Submitted,
Kim Strayer, Recording Secretary