

The regular meeting of the Wheatfield Township Supervisors was held Monday, April 2, 2018 in the Township Building. Barry Schrope called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Barry Schrope, Jim Fuller, Jeff Smith, Johanna Rehkamp, Vicki Jenkins, Lester Nace, Dexter Potter, Holly Potter, Rick Schaar, Marty Smith, Mary Smith, Sue Flickinger, Randy Gardner, Carlton Williams, Rick Boyer, Ed Womer, Cathy Johnson, Luke Roman (Perry County Times), Bob Fishel, Marie Fishel, Kurt Hepschmidt, Erin Jenkins, Shirley Jenkins, David Jenkins, Dave Jenkins, David Mills, James Carroll, Mutt Neumayer, David Timothy, Jane Timothy, John Hines, Loraine Vogel, John Holtzclaw, Mitch Robb, Justin Kretzing, Mike Wiseman, Deb Reed, Tony Bentley, Jane Bentley, Tom Nehilla, Val Nehilla, Byron Worner, David Lehman, Kraig Nace, Olivia Ferguson, Jeremiah Ferguson, James Collins and Thomas Jenkins.

Jeff Smith led the pledge to the American flag followed by a brief moment of silence.

The minutes of the March 5, 2018 meeting were presented to the supervisors and posted for attendees in the Township Building prior to the April 2, 2018 regular meeting for public viewing. Jeff Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting as presented by the secretary, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor.

James Carroll had a zoning question. Mr. Carroll stated the paper indicated the township changed zoning to take the property line from where it would have been originally split to the middle of the road of the township. Barry Schrope stated that was not correct, the article pertained to a right of way on a subdivision plan on Cook Road.

David Mills thanked the township for supporting Wagner Park and recreation within the township.

Jeff Smith presented the road report for last month. Jeff stated the road crew has finished trimming on Cook Road, plowed and cindered for 4 snow storms, met with Rick Levan of PennDOT for the paving and seal coat projects, replaced a stop sign on Roseglen Road and a bridge marker on Sulphur Springs Road, met with Dan Long of HRG regarding the bridge inspection reports and power washed the trucks, garage and parking lot.

Byron Worner of the Duncannon Fire Co. stated they have submitted their annual financial report and also presented the supervisors with their 1st quarter fire call report. Byron asked if there were any questions on their financial report. Barry Schrope stated he had a question as to why in the income portion of Duncannon and New Bloomfield's report does it not show the money received from the fire relief monies. Byron indicated the monies received from fire relief are deposited into a separate account, they cannot be inner mixed with other accounts. Barry stated the township has a liquid fuels account as well but we show that on our reports. Byron stated the fire relief is a separate entity and is audited by the state every 3 years, which was just done and should soon be receiving the report from that. Barry indicated there are some other questions on the report that can be addressed under agenda item #12. Jim Fuller stated he would like to see a yearly report as to where the fire relief money was spent on. Jim stated the township has different funds; State Fund and General Fund and we keep track of what is spent in each fund. Byron stated so basically just an expense ledger of the fire relief fund is what the township is looking for. Jim stated that would be fine. Jim asked if the fire relief money is tax payer money from insurance companies. Justin Kretzing of the New Bloomfield Fire Co. stated fire relief money is not tax money, it is from insurance companies outside of Pennsylvania that sell insurance in Pennsylvania and if you have insurance through them you pay your insurance carrier and those insurance carriers are the ones that are taxed; it is not coming out of local tax payer dollars. Byron advised the State collects the money all across the state and it is distributed based upon a formula on the criteria of the area.

The supervisors tabled the adoption of the revised SALDO Book until next month's meeting.

The supervisors have reviewed the advertisement for the paving and seal coat bids. Jim Fuller made a motion to advertise both bids as prepared, Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor. Vicki will forward the advertisement to the paper. Bids will be opened at May's meeting.

The supervisors announced they are looking to hire a part time laborer to help the road crew as needed and help with mowing and other needs at Wagner Park.

The township auditors have completed their annual audit of the township records, tax collector records and recreation board records. All records were found to be in order (copy on file). Barry Schrope stated the only outstanding item from last year is that the auditors would like the supervisors to look at the valuation of fixed assets and reflect the amount in the balance sheet or general ledger.

Jim Fuller made a motion for the township to renew the employee vision coverage with Highmark at no rate increase this year's premium, Barry Schrope second the motion, with all in favor.

Agenda item #12 was to discuss the letter sent by the New Bloomfield Fire Co. & Duncannon Fire Co. to Wheatfield Township residents concerning future capital funding. Due to the length of the discussion a brief summary will be given for each person who asked to be recognized or the question/concern they had.

Justin Kretzing of the New Bloomfield Fire Co. stated they are here tonight because they are looking to be able to plan for the future and offer fire protection through volunteer services long term. Justin stated what they cannot afford is volunteers, buying fire trucks and maintaining the building and property and that is something they have discussed with the supervisors since 2011. Justin stated in 2012 they discussed with the supervisors to consider implementing a fire tax (4/10 of a mill) or increase the annual donation. Justin stated the donation for 2018 is just at the 4/10 of a mill that was requested in 2012. Justin advised the majority of their budget is for insurance, fuel, utilities and administrative approximately \$90,000 – \$100,000 for their annual budget not counting capital purchases such as large equipment purchases, building, HVAC systems, blacktop, concrete work, etc. Justin stated every other township they serve they are already at 7/10 of a mill and the townships that serve Duncannon Fire Co. such as Penn Township is at 8.5/10 of a mill and Duncannon Borough is just under 6/10 of a mill. Justin stated they are here tonight looking for answers and they cannot continue to let the taxpayers in other districts pay for Wheatfield Township.

Barry Schrope stated the township has been at 4/10 of a mill (in donation amount) for a couple of years and have raised the donation this year from \$75,000 to \$80,000 so that takes us a little over 4/10 of a mill for 2018. Barry also asked what Carroll Township's millage rate is. Justin advised Carroll Township gives a donation similar to Wheatfield Township and they are the only township New Bloomfield serves that gives them extra money when they buy a fire truck or make a capital purchase. Barry advised at 7/10 of a mill on a \$128,000 house it would be \$89.60 and next year at 8/10 of a mill it would be \$102.40. Barry stated his hang up with a fire tax is that it does not go away regardless of if your life situation changes with the death of a spouse or adding the extra property taxes to the senior citizens on a fixed income.

Jim Fuller stated he wants everyone here to understand that back in 2003 the township supervisors were giving \$3,500 to the fire companies and the township supervisors are now giving \$80,000 donation and paying \$20,000 for workers compensation insurance out of the General Fund. Jim stated a fire tax preys on those who make the most and have the most and its unfair. Jim stated the letter that was sent out stated the supervisors have offered no alternatives, Jim stated he suggested maybe they could look around for used equipment instead of brand new and that was shot down. Jim stated the township gets roughly \$35,000 a year in property taxes; for approximately the last 20 years and property taxes have not been increased, the county gets approximately \$800,000 from Wheatfield Township yearly and the school gets over 3 million from Wheatfield Township yearly and there buildings are tax exempt and they give nothing to the fire companies. Jim stated he thinks another alternative the fire companies could do is to go and ask the schools and county for a one time donation. Jim asked if that has ever occurred or been talked about. Mitch Robb of the New Bloomfield Fire Co. stated letters have been sent to every tax exempt property in New Bloomfield fire district (24 million in tax exempt properties) and have gone to a county commissioners meeting and asked for a donation but were denied. Mitch stated they have started receiving donations from churches. Mitch stated they do not go to the school board because they make \$47,000 using the school property for their carnival. Byron Worner of the Duncannon Fire Co. advised they have never going to the school board to ask for a donation with no explanation as to why. Jim stated on top of the property taxes the school district gets 1.3% of the earned income tax which amounts to close to a million dollars and the township gets .5% of the earned income tax which is approximately \$300,000. Jim stated he just wants to make everyone aware of these figures.

Marty Smith stated first he would like to say that the firefighters should be praised for what they do. Marty stated in looking at the letter that was sent New Bloomfield Fire Co. does a good job on managing their money, it's all positive and on the other hand Duncannon Fire Co. is in the red; \$429,000 in 2016 and \$420,799 in 2017 and you look at the equipment list for Duncannon and it doesn't seem to matter what money they have but they want to purchase 2 new vehicles in 2018. Marty stated the Tahoe that was purchased is not on the equipment list or on any audit reports and he stated he would like to see a mileage report and audit of the miles that are put on it. Byron Worner of the Duncannon Fire Co. stated the Tahoe was purchased in 2013 when the fire company received a gaming grant and made there payment on the rescue pumper for the year and paid some additional principal off and the payment they didn't have to make pay paid off their traffic unit and they bought the Tahoe with cash, no payments on it. Marty asked if

a right to know can be filed to see what mileage is on the Tahoe. Byron advised there is 23,712 miles on the Tahoe the last time it was fueled up. Byron stated the rescue pumper that is getting replaced is 23 years old, the tower truck is 45 years old and it is getting remounted so it is not a completely new unit and will be financed through grants and money received from municipalities, they are not in the red they pay their bills. They have a 2006 tanker that was mostly paid for by a federal grant, the apparatus cost \$250,000 and the fire company only had to pay \$25,000. Byron stated they are doing their due diligence. Marty stated he knows the fire companies are here together but he sees no problem with tax payers giving money to someone who is spending the money wisely.

Randy Gardner stated the letter indicates they spend 200 hours on state certified training on new firefighters; his feeling on this is if he needs a CDL license he has to pay for it, why does the fire company have to pay for it? Randy stated if the person had to pay for it themselves they would be more committed to the fire company.

Carlton Williams stated he is against a fire tax.

Rick Boyer asked if New Buffalo Township, Watts Township and Reed Township give any donation. Byron Worner stated no donation is received from New Buffalo and Watts Township. Rick stated he thinks the fire tax issue should be put on a ballot as a referendum so the people from the township can vote on this and not just put the pressure on the supervisors.

Ed Womer stated he appreciates what they do and what they are willing to do. Ed stated he does not see the need for the township to outlay a specific amount of money for the fire companies to buy new equipment when pretty much what they already have is built to last a lifetime and that most of the equipment hardly gets used and there is no reason why the equipment can't be rebuilt. Ed stated he has no problem with the considerable amount the township already gives the fire companies and he personally sends a donation. Ed asked where is it going to stop.

Marie Fishel stated the letter that everyone has received was a lot of good information but after she read the letter she didn't realize the township was already giving money to the fire companies and believes that was misleading to the people that received the letter; it should have stated what Wheatfield Township gives each year.

Erin Jenkins stated she would like to thank all of the emergency services for what they do for us and would also like to thank the township supervisors for trying to hold the line on spending in the township while keeping it in good working order. Erin stated this is a tough issue but the township is already struggling to make ends meet when almost 1/6 of the operating budget is given to emergency services and we don't want to put too much of a stress on the residents and each one of us, private citizens, have to live within our means and save for purchases and plan. Erin stated she finds it a little bit difficult that we have to struggle and other organizations don't seem to have that same priority and plan for the future and save. Erin stated she knows these are large expenses, but bottom line is she is not for a fire tax.

David Jenkins stated he is not in favor of a fire tax. David stated they should do some fundraisers.

Dave Jenkins said thank you to all of the firemen and volunteers. Dave said it's like everything else to a degree; we need to come together on something here but we all have to live within our means. Dave asked Byron how many driveways in Wheatfield Township they think the ladder truck can get in. Byron stated the truck has been used a lot in the township. Dave stated he hopes something can be resolved but he is not in favor of a fire tax.

James Carroll stated maybe there is another way to determine the value of your property by just taxing the house and not the land.

David Timothy stated basically residents are already paying a fire tax through the donation the township gives to the fire companies. David states he and his wife own several properties one in Duncannon and one in Penn Township and those 2 properties cost \$150 a year fire tax but his insurance has not going down. David stated when is enough enough; everyone has to live on a budget. Dave stated the Penn Township tax collector stated the fire company wanted another tax increase.

Jane Timothy asked if the \$80,000 donation and \$20,000 workers comp insurance is split. Jim Fuller advised yes it is split between Duncannon Fire Co. (3/4) and New Bloomfield Fire Co. (1/4). Barry Schrope advised the split is based on mileage because of fire insurance. Jim advised the mileage was figured from the in town station because no one mans the Penn Township station. Barry stated when the fire lines were changed it was based on the Penn Township station being closer to Wheatfield Township. Jim stated he was not ever in favor of moving the fire lines. Jane stated then for all purposes Duncannon

Fire Co. is still located in Duncannon Borough. Byron stated no one mans that station either. Jane asked then why don't they close the Duncannon station down and locate everything at the Penn Township station. Jane stated she owns property in Watts Township and they have a fire tax, one piece is a 10 acre grass lot and the other is a 15 acre lot along the river which is all wooded and she stated she pays more for the 10 acre lot. Jane stated the fire tax should be based on property with a building not vacant land.

John Hines stated he appreciates what the fire companies do for us and stated he is in favor of a donation to the fire companies but not a fire tax. John stated he is in favor of whatever the township supervisors dictate can be afforded as a donation.

Lorraine Vogel stated the township should support the fire companies through a donation and not a fire tax.

Mike Wiseman asked what affect would spending more time and effort on collecting delinquent property taxes have on the township and fire companies. Mike also suggested instead of the township investing in short term CD's maybe the township could buy a Federal Treasury bill short term and take the spread and make a donation to the fire company. Mike stated treasury bills are earning about 2% for 1 year and CD's are making about 1%. Barry Schrope indicated the township is making 1.6% on a couple CD's.

Deb Reed stated she went to the meeting that was held at the Duncannon Fire Co. regarding this issue and they explained everything and answered all these questions being asked. Deb stated she would be willing to pay a fire tax and she does own a piece of land with nothing on it. Deb stated she would like to see a solution to this problem and she was really surprised and disappointed this has been an ongoing situation without a solution. Barry Schrope stated in the fall 2016 newsletter the supervisors asked for input from the residents regarding this issue and only 29 responses were received out of 1272 newsletters sent out.

Tony Bentley stated he is active in the New Bloomfield Fire Co. Tony stated it was asked as to why the firefighters don't pay for their own CDL, if you make money go get your CDL; he doesn't make a cent being a firefighter. Tony said someone said do more fundraisers, from 2014 New Bloomfield has done 7,000 man hours of fundraising; training and call hours were less than fundraising hours. Tony said is was asked why don't they buy used equipment; a dump truck is a dump truck, a fire truck is different, you can't always depend on used equipment it must start when needed. Tony stated the fire relief monies are not a tax, it is from insurance companies outside of Pennsylvania that are charged a surcharge, and it is all State money. Tony stated he sees a new salt shed, a new office and the township just purchased 5 acres beside the building and he does not see us doing a chicken bbq. Why is it okay for the township and not them?

Jane Bentley stated she was disappointed in the turnout at the fire company meeting because they did a fantastic presentation. Jane stated people are misinformed with what goes on, they are all volunteers. Jane stated she would like to know where her tax money is going, she does not drive on township roads and her property is not paved by Wheatfield Township; what she does participate in is the monthly recycling and spring cleanup and that is the benefit she gets from her tax dollars. Jane stated she would like to see more of her tax money going towards being able to protect our homes and automobile accidents. Jane stated maybe a fire tax isn't necessary but maybe instead of spending \$100,000 of the poor people's money paving the roads the township could give more money to the fire companies.

Tom Nehilla asked how the 75 – 25 is split; 75 to Duncannon and 25 to New Bloomfield? Tom asked how that was determined. Barry Schrope stated it's based off of distance from the fire houses. Tom stated he missed the meeting at the fire company but if there is another session he would like to hear the whole spiel. Tom stated there needs to be a solution and maybe a way to do that would be through education. Tom asked with all the other volunteer fire companies in the State of PA is there other programs or options they have done that we could consider other than the 2 alternatives we currently have with donations or a fire tax. Tom stated he would like to see what other townships in the area give to the fire companies.

Byron Worner of the Duncannon Fire Co. stated he took over as fire chief in 2007 and ever since that time he has been on this topic. Byron stated Duncannon Fire Co. was incorporated in 1927 and you heard the amount here tonight what was donated in 2003, \$3500; that is 76 years of almost free fire service to Wheatfield Township. Byron stated the \$80,000 the township is spending in fire protection and the 2 – 3 members that we have is the only involvement you have in fire protection in Wheatfield Township. Byron advised you have Duncannon Borough, Penn Township, New Bloomfield Borough and Center Township residents protecting Wheatfield Township. Byron stated Duncannon Fire Co. ran 418 calls last year, more than double busier than New Bloomfield is, but the split here is Dark Hollow Road and that is the half way

point between the Duncannon Borough station and New Bloomfield Fire station so that is why that line was drawn there, it did not incorporate the Penn Township station and that was done on purpose. Byron stated Wheatfield Townships current taxes are at .199 mills and if you don't own a property and do not work in this township you do not pay a tax to this township; there is tax relief offered to people in Penn Township and Duncannon Borough; farms that are in clean & green are tax exempt or a portion is tax exempt. Byron stated Duncannon Fire Co. sends out a donation letter each year and he thanks all of those who donate, 15 – 20% returns a donation, a fire tax would be 100%. Byron stated it is not correct that they asked for a tax increase in Penn Township, there is no request for a fire tax increase in Penn Township. Byron stated those who disagree with the Tahoe, the fire chief's vehicle, that unit was purchased for safety they have 4 state roads, 2 highways Route 322 and Rt. 11 & 15, the majority of their calls are auto accidents and they are on those roads, Rt. 274 & Rt. 849 are included and they go through this township and Penn Township. Byron stated his personal truck and others personal vehicles are not equipped with the proper required reflective material, emergency lighting and sirens that they are supposed to have on those roads; it eliminates the fire company of the liability and someone losing their personal vehicle. Byron stated they have been trying to work at a solution for years.

David Lehman stated it is bad enough the fire companies have to raise money on the side and do this job at the same time. David stated they are way overburdened. David stated if the fire companies leave homeowners insurance will go up and if we have to pay for professional fire services it won't be cheap.

Kraig Nace stated he does not live in the township but grew up here. Kraig stated he has had some experience with fire training many years ago and is a member of some fire companies, not those represented here tonight, and he is currently chief of operations for the ambulance service that provides 90% coverage in Wheatfield Township. Kraig stated a lot of the ideas he has heard here tonight, such as taxing only properties that have buildings on them; you can't do that the way the statute is in the Commonwealth of PA the State Legislature doesn't allow you to do that, the tax is based on the assessed value of the property. Kraig stated there are very few revenue generating sources that a Second Class Township in Pennsylvania has, one of them is property taxes; a fire tax is a property tax and the second source of revenue is a very small piece of earned income taxes; 1.8% is the maximum amount that can be charged by a Second Class Township in PA and 1.3% of that goes to the school district along with a very high portion of property taxes; taxes that are due in the summer are 100% school district, when you pay your taxes in the early part of the year that is a portion to your county and local municipality. Kraig advised the State does require Second Class Townships and Boroughs to provide fire and emergency medical services, but the code specifies that it is to the extent deemed appropriate by the township or borough. Kraig stated as part of Senate Resolution #6 is part 2 of Senate Resolution #60 from 2005 or 2006 and he was selected through Mark Kellers office to be a representative at large for the Commonwealth 1 of 10 on that commission, he is serving in the Government Support Committee and EMS Committee for the commission. Kraig stated they will be meeting in Philadelphia tomorrow and they have a weekly phone conference. Kraig advised one of the recommendations from Senate Resolution #60 was to provide the County the option to create an authority an authority to create a fire company and EMS at a County level and he thinks these are things that need to be considered Commonwealth wide.

Olivia Ferguson asked if a fire tax would be created would there still be a donation requested by the fire companies. Byron Worner stated if was discussed to stay at the current donation rate and create a fire tax to make up the difference they are requesting. Olivia stated she is not for the fire tax and she would appreciate if the supervisors would take that into consideration.

Jeremiah Ferguson stated he has heard tonight about trucks, what about equipment for the guys; is their equipment up to date or are they just worried about their trucks? Jeremiah stated save some money to buy new equipment. Jeremiah stated he is not in favor of a fire tax.

James Collins states he fully supports funding for the fire companies in the amount they have requested.

Lester Nace stated in March he has issued more zoning permits and talked to more people in the township than he has any other month. Lester stated he received many questions from the people and one of the questions was that this letter does not say anything as to what the township currently gives, he also heard people say that this letter bashes the 3 supervisors and when you bash the supervisors you are bashing everyone who voted for them. The letter talks about 2 companies but he heard tonight they act as 1 company (Lester read from the letter). Lester stated he thinks the letter was poorly written and it does nothing other than bash people in Wheatfield Township. Lester also advised that the letter indicates they

do 55 hours of weekly in house training for the average firefighter and he heard Mr. Worner state everyone works 40 hours so that is 95 hours either in training and work in a week that only has 168 hours that gives each individual 73 hours of their own; Lester stated he finds 55 hours of training excessive, he does not think that is accurate. Lester advised 94 calls were in Wheatfield Township out of the 632 in 2017, that is 1/7 of their calls; 632 calls for an average of 7,300 hours, that is 11.5 hours per call. Lester stated people are asking if that is accurate, he does not know, but 4 people signed their name to the letter. Lester then directed his comments to Mr. Worner stating he said their company were professionals and they may be at firefighting but he can sight at least 8 acts of unprofessionalism over the last several years where his people and himself were not professional in things that were said and done at other meetings, accident sights and elsewhere. Lester stated 1 – he was called an idiot by either Byron or Bryon for of the way he numbered Linton Hill Road from Dellville Road to Glutz Hole Road, 2 – one of his people made a sexual reference to his daughter at a call, 3 – 2 firefighters were shooting water across Rt. 274 in the interest of testing nozzles and if you look at the motor vehicle code it is illegal to project anything across a public highway, 4 – a Duncannon Fire official was at a Penn Township meeting and called the supervisors SOB's, that is not professional, 5 – he had a fireman tell him that he could not be trusted and now you know why.

Vicki Jenkins stated she finds the letter disheartening as well and she thinks the township supervisors have tried to work with the fire companies and to say there has been no action taken is not accurate. Vicki stated the Duncannon Fire Co. has asked to be on the agenda each month to do a monthly fire report and they only show up at budget time. Vicki stated she is not in favor of a fire tax and thinks we are taxed enough and thinks Wheatfield Township has done a very good job of trying to get to where the fire companies want to be but it can't be done all in 1 year. Vicki stated the township has to live within their means and emergency services are one of the highest items on the yearly budget. Vicki advised there has to be a resolution to this, but in the yearly audit report received from the Duncannon Fire Co. it was not signed by any officers or auditors and their figures do not add up correctly. Vicki stated we talk about respect and unprofessionalism, but they never ask when they want to buy equipment, such as the ladder truck, what the townships thoughts are on it and it has been made clear at many previous meetings the township supervisors are not in favor of it, but it didn't matter Duncannon was making that purchase anyhow. Vicki stated the fire companies spending needs to be within their means, sighting some excessive spending from their report.

Barry Schrope thanked the fire companies for the job they do and greatly appreciates everything. Barry stated the township can't give any more money at this point with what the township is bringing in now. Barry stated we need to figure out how to do it and if the township is going to do it; the emergency services budget is about \$130,000 a year which is 1/4 to 1/3 of the townships income; the township is trying to do for all emergency services. Barry advised residents came to him and voiced their concerns of a fire tax and being concerned about not being able to afford it and lose their house and asked if there is something else the township could do. Barry said he is open to any suggestions, it is very hard to get volunteers here at the township and everywhere else, he does not know the answer to the problem. Barry stated in the 13 years he has been here the donations made to emergency services have increased dramatically; the township is not sitting idle.

Jeff Smith thanked the fire companies for the hours they put in. Jeff stated he commends New Bloomfield for saving money in preparation for their upcoming purchases. Jeff asked Justin Kretzing about the new building cost, Jeff stated he heard it was going to cost around 1.5 million dollars is this correct; Justin stated he cannot answer that because he does not have that information but he stated its not unimaginable it will cost that much. Jeff asked if cuts could be made to the cost, Justin stated they are looking at every option to make the best decisions. Jeff stated Mr. Worner at a couple of meetings ago and was asked about their debt and he stated what's wrong with debt. Jeff stated he finds a big problem with debt; the Duncannon Fire Co. paid over \$20,000 in interest and that is more than what Wheatfield Township gave as a donation to their general fund, the township gave \$55,000 with \$35,000 going to the capital reserve account and \$20,000 going to their operating expenses; so no money from the \$20,000 went to trucks, fuel, safety gear, etc. it all went to interest. Jeff stated he does not see Duncannon putting the extra effort into fundraising that New Bloomfield does. Jeff advised he has many complaints about the Tahoe, and was asked by a resident on how many fires were at Mutzabaugh's last year because the Tahoe is seen their frequently. Byron Worner stated when he is at the Penn Township station and driving back in town is he not allowed to stop and support local business. Byron stated does he really need to go home and

get his personal truck and then go back to Mutzabaugh's to get his groceries and if there is a fire call he has to go back home and get the Tahoe. Jeff asked how many people would be upset if he had the township truck out for a downed tree or something and then stopped at Mutzabaugh's for his own personal business. Jeff also asked what the Tahoe was doing at Hoover Bros. on March 23rd, Byron advised maintenance, and every now and then they take the Tahoe on a ride because it idles around the borough. Jeff stated when he passed the Tahoe and there was only one person in it and then after they went to Hoovers there were 2 people. Jeff stated he talked to Hoover Bros. and they indicated you were there on personal business not fire company business. Byron stated if the supervisors don't want them to volunteer tell them right now and they'll walk out the door and never bother again, Jeff advised the supervisors are trying to work on the issues, but nothing matters to the fire company they do what they want and advised Byron theirs the door if he wants to go.

Jim Fuller stated there is trust issue here; this is a need and want issue. Jim stated the Tahoe that was purchased for \$45,000 for the chief use was a want.

Mitch Robb Fire Chief of New Bloomfield Fire Co. stated it was asked about training and if the members paid for their own training would they stick around; in New Bloomfield their policy is if a member pays up front and receives a certificate the Firemen's Relief fund will reimburse that member for that class. Mitch asked how many people here tonight have out of state insurance. Mitch advised Fire Relief monies come from out of state insurance companies, not fair to say that fire relief monies come from the township. Mitch asked everyone to call their insurance agent and find out what it will cost for your insurance if you don't have local fire protection. Mitch advised the extra 3/10 of a mill they are asking for would go into a capital fund that the township would keep and would have to release for an apparatus purchase. Mitch said they all put a tremendous amount of hours in and they have raised over \$800,000 for the new building and no one wants to not have a fire company and they are not here tonight to say they are not covering Wheatfield Township. Mitch stated if anyone would like to see the presentation they gave previously to please contact him. Barry told Mitch if they would like to use the township building to show the presentation again they are more than welcome too.

Justin Kretzing stated if the letter is inaccurate he apologizes, it was not meant to be. Justin asked if Wheatfield Township has ever contributed towards an equipment purchase or capital improvement to New Bloomfield Fire Co. Barry Schrope advised yes, when Duncannon Fire Co. asked for help to refurbish their ladder truck the township also gave New Bloomfield the same amount of money towards their new building. It was asked if New Bloomfield has ever asked for extra money. Justin stated they are not here asking for a fire tax, they are asking the supervisors to consider increasing their donation to a level that would equal the millage rate they have requested or to buy and maintain fire trucks for them. Justin stated something needs to happen and it is up to the 3 supervisors and the residents.

Barry Schrope stated the township received a thank you letter from the New Bloomfield EMS for the donation received for the year 2017.

Barry Schrope stated the supervisors have received a draft copy of the stand-alone driveway ordinance from the planning commission. Barry asked the other supervisors to review it for next month's meeting.

Barry Schrope made a motion to approve the checks from the General Fund for the month of March. They were as follows:

4066 – 4107, 02-2018, 002-2018, 030518A and 030518B

Jim Fuller second the motion to approve the checks, with all in favor.

There being no further business Barry Schrope made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki L. Jenkins
Twp. Secretary