

Berlin Township 2009 Fire Committee
Meeting October 14, 2009

1 This meeting was held at the Berlin Township House, 3271 Cheshire Road, Delaware,
2 Ohio, 43015

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4 **CALL TO ORDER**

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6 The 2009 Fire Committee meeting was called to order by Mr. Paykoff at 7:00 PM.

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9 **2009 Fire Committee Members Present:** Elizabeth Kline, Joe Holehouse, Pat Paykoff,
10 Craig Hall, and Jim Hahn.

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12 **2009 Fire Committee Member Absent:** Steve Spangler, Joe Korleski

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14 **Attendees:** Phil Panzarella, Trustee, Joe Pichert, Lieutenant, Fire Department

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16 **PROOF OF PUBLICATION**

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18 Zoning Secretary Cathy Rippel provided proof of publication for the legal notice for this
19 meeting, which was published on October 12, 2009 in the Delaware Gazette, providing
20 notification of the meeting date, time, and items for discussion.

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22 **LEGAL NOTICE**

23
24 Berlin Township Fire Committee Meeting Berlin Township Fire Committee will meet at
25 the Berlin Township House, 3271 Cheshire Road, Delaware, OH on Wednesday, October
26 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Purpose of the meeting is to review fire department operations
27 and make recommendations to Berlin Township Trustees. The Public is welcome to
28 attend.

29 By order of the Berlin Township Trustees,
30 Theresa Cannon, Fiscal Officer

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32 **MOTION #FC-2, Approve Meeting Minutes from September 30, 2009**

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34 Mr. Paykoff advised that Steve Spangler was ill and he was going to run this meeting.

35 Mr. Paykoff for approval minutes from September 30, 2009.

36 Motion by Mr. Hahn. Seconded by Mr. Hall.

37 Vote: Hahn-yea, Hall-yea, Holehouse-yea, Kline-yea, Paykoff-yea,

38 Motion Passed.

39 Comments: Mr. Paykoff said minutes are available for public review.

40 Mr. Paykoff asked if there was any old business to discuss. All members in agreement
41 said no.

42 Mr. Paykoff asked if there was any new business to discuss:

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44 Mr. Paykoff said that Cathy had left a message advising the committee that the next
45 meeting was scheduled to be on Veteran's Day. Brief discussion by Committee Members
46 and all members were in agreement to continue to have the next Fire Committee Meeting

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47 on November 11, 2009 at 7:00 PM.

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49 Mr. Panzarella presented Fire Committee Members with the following information:

50 - Incidents reports from August 20, 2009 to October 10, 2009

51 - Memo to Chief Bechstein from Lt. Pichert in regards to response times

52 - Mr. Korleski's information on population estimates in Berlin Township.

53 Mr. Panzarella gave each member a copy. Mr. Panzarella asked the members if they
54 understood what a response time was. Mr. Panzarella said that NFPA has definitions
55 regarding response times. Mr. Paykoff then asked Lt. Pichert to explain what the memo
56 was about. Lt. Pichert said that Chief Bechstein had asked him to drive to the furthest
57 areas of the township and see how long it took to drive to those areas. This would allow
58 the department to use as a guide and more accurate way to judge response times. Lt.
59 Pichert stated that they had used Engine 392 which is governed at 55 MPH, and during
60 these drives maintained around 50 – 55 MPH while obeying all traffic laws.

61 Mr. Panzarella asked Lt. Pichert if the truck was operating at emergency status. Lt.

62 Pichert replied, "No, we were not on an emergency and we were staying within the traffic
63 laws. Also the truck is governed at 55MPH so that is as fast as it will go while normally
64 driving and on emergency calls". Mr. Paykoff asked Mr. Hall why the truck only went

65 55MPH, Mr. Hall replied because of the weight of the vehicle. Mr. Hahn said it looks
66 like the area that takes the longest to respond to is Rt. 23 in the area of the trailer park.

67 Mr. Panzerella said that he thought Heverlo Road took the longest to get to. Mr.

68 Panzarella said he drove it and it took around 8 ½ minutes for him to get there. Pichert
69 said all the drive times were done in the same time of day just on different days. Mr.

70 Paykoff asked Lt. Pichert what was the fire department's response time goal. Lt. Pichert
71 said around 8 minutes from the time that the dispatcher notifies the fire department until
72 the fire department arrives on scene the majority of the time. Mr. Panzarella said that
73 NFPA defines certain amounts of time for each part of that response. Lt. Pichert said that
74 the majority of the time if a crew is on at the station they can have their gear on and in the
75 truck around 1 – 1 ½ minutes. The goal is leaving the station under 2 minutes from the
76 time of the call until the truck notifies dispatch that they are responding. Lt. Pichert said

77 that Chief Hall will usually ask for an explanation as to why this time took longer than 2
78 minutes. Lt. Pichert said sometimes it could, very rarely, take longer than 2 minutes due
79 to training and equipment needs to be placed back onto the truck, member could be in the
80 shower, and members could be doing station maintenance such as spreading mulch. Mr.

81 Paykoff asked if Lt. Pichert thought the majority of the time the truck could leave under a
82 1 minute to 1 ½ minutes. Lt Pichert responded yes. Mr. Paykoff asked if there are crews

83 not on at the station how long does it take. Mr. Hall said around an additional 5–6
84 minutes to drive to the station and then another 2–3 minutes to get into the building and
85 onto the truck. Mr. Paykoff said 2–3 minutes? Mr. Hall said at the new station they have
86 to go through 2 coded doors, which sometimes the doors are slow to respond especially in
87 cold weather. So you have to wait for them to "wake up" and then put the code in. Mr.

88 Hahn and Mr. Paykoff asked if there was a way to have the dispatcher's push a button
89 when the tones went off. Mr. Hall said, "during the day the firefighters will place their
90 gear on the apparatus floor to avoid having to go through the coded doors so that they get
91 their equipment on faster." He then continued to say another factor is the time of year, if
92 we are going into is snow and ice, some people park their vehicles outside, and have to

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93 clear them off before they respond. Lt. Pichert explained that page one of the memo was
94 response times to the furthest 4 corners of the township. Page two uses the center of each
95 Delaware County 911 run card. Ms. Kline asked if the times in the memo reflected the 1-
96 1 ½ minutes, Lt. Pichert said no. The times in the memo were just driving times.
97 Mr. Paykoff then reviewed the department reports that had been presented and asked Mr.
98 Hall about different items in the report. Lt. Pichert, then explained what the Delaware
99 County 911 run cards were. Mr. Holehouse, said while he was doing research he had
100 contacted Concord Township and they did their response times by first arriving fire truck
101 whether mutual aid or township. Mr. Holehouse said that in some areas of their district
102 they have had a hard time getting to areas under 8 minutes. He said Shawnee Hills was
103 around 5 minutes, but Tartan Fields was 8 minutes. Mr. Holehouse said some areas in
104 their mutual aid companies can beat Concord Township's units. Mr. Paykoff asked about
105 the fire department's mutual aid agreement. Mr. Hall and Lt. Pichert explained that the
106 department operates under an automatic mutual aid agreement. Lt. Pichert explained that
107 an ISO rating, which is what insurance companies use to rate insurance rates for homes
108 and businesses, will give credit for this. He went on further to explain that this type of
109 agreement is like, "You scratch my back; I'll scratch your back." Lt. Pichert said there
110 are areas in Berlin Township that other mutual aid departments can beat Berlin units to.
111 For example, Worthington Arms, Engine 361 coming from Station 361 located on
112 Gooding Blvd can usually beat Berlin Units to this area because it is a straight shot for
113 them. Where as, Berlin units have to go through 3 intersections, a set of railroad tracks, a
114 school zone, and a traffic light. To the North, Tri Township's units can either beat or
115 sometimes arrive on scene at the same time as Berlin's units, depending on what area
116 they are going to. Then there are areas that Berlin can beat other departments into their
117 own areas. For example, Johnnycake Corners Elementary, several times Berlin can beat
118 BST&G. into that area. Lt. Pichert said the main goal of this program is to send the
119 closet trucks to assist in stabilizing the emergency. Mr. Paykoff asked if Berlin would be
120 responding to the area that had been annexed by Delaware City. Mr. Hall and Lt. Pichert
121 said yes. Mr. Hall said that Delaware City starting recently, have began to use the
122 automatic mutual aid program more then what they have in the past. This is due to their
123 new chief that took over several years ago. Mr. Paykoff said according to the 2004 –
124 2008 report Berlin has assisted Delaware City 11 times and Delaware City has assisted 1
125 time. Don't get me wrong I am in favor of the mutual aid program, but I don't want to
126 see my tax dollars being abused. Mr. Paykoff asked if there was a signed mutual aid
127 agreement. Mr. Hall replied yes. Mr. Panzarella asked if it was possible to pull out of
128 the signed agreement. Mr. Hall said yes, BUT be aware of the consequences that will
129 follow. Mr. Paykoff again said I am in favor of mutual aid. Lt. Pichert said that
130 Delaware City provides specialized equipment that Berlin does not have such as a Haz –
131 Mat entry team, a ladder truck, a heavy rescue unit. All of these specialized units cost a
132 lot of money up front and a lot of money to maintain. For example, the haz mat suits, the
133 training, the physicals. So when you look at us going there, yes we went 11 times but
134 keep in mind all of the equipment that they can provide us if we need it. Mr. Panzarella
135 said that Delaware City does not come into Berlin Township. Lt. Pichert said they are the
136 run cards for the area north of Cheshire Road and West of the railroad tracks, and along
137 areas of State Route 37 East. Mr. Paykoff said the township lost a lot of ground 6 years
138 ago and now is not getting any money for it. Mr. Hahn then said looking at the mutual

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139 aid responses Orange Township came into Berlin 122 times and Berlin went 37 times, Tri
140 Township came into Berlin 68 times and Berlin went 9 times. Mr. Paykoff said to Mr.
141 Holehouse, “remember last time we met in the previous (2004) committee meetings we
142 had discussed a fire district.” Mr. Holehouse said, “Yes, I do and if I remember we
143 decided not to because it was not going to be cost effective and we would be thrown into
144 a big pool.” Mr. Paykoff said it made sense to stay as a Township Fire Department, and
145 other members agreed with him.
146 Mr. Paykoff asked if Delaware City was going to be building a station in the area that had
147 been annexed. He said it was important to see what the neighbors are doing so that they
148 can both work together and avoid duplicating services and/or equipment. He also asked
149 Mr. Panzarella who would receive the death tax? How would the taxes be distributed?
150 What are the City’s plans for fire protection in that area? Mr. Panzarella said he would
151 get back to him on those subjects. Lt. Pichert said that he had heard rumors that the City
152 had land available for a station under the water tower on Cheshire Road. Mr. Panzarella
153 said he heard the same “rumor” and that the City could build the station but they could
154 not afford the staff. He went on to say that the City had contacted Liberty Township to
155 provide the manpower for this station. Mr. Panzarella said the City has not asked Berlin
156 Township if they would be interested to the best of his knowledge. Mr. Panzarella also
157 said that under the annexation if the City does not conform to the boundaries then maybe
158 still be responsible for providing those people with fire protection services. Mr. Paykoff
159 said the people would still be taxed on outside millage and would be able to vote twice;
160 vote for City issues and Township issues since they pay to both. Mr. Panzarella said that
161 the City is looking at around 724 houses and Mr. Paykoff said that Peachblow will soon
162 have a 600 unit apartment/condo complex. Mr. Hahn explained how the zoning code is
163 trying to prevent annexation. Ms. Kline asked how annexation works. Mr. Panzarella
164 explained the different types of annexation, Mr. Paykoff explained how the Township
165 lost the land and what a loss in revenue that created since the last fire committee met.
166 Then Mr. Hahn explained currently how zoning is trying to prevent annexation. Along
167 with how much of a burden this is placing on the Olentangy School District Tax. Ms.
168 Kline commented and said that the taxes are a lot cheaper here then what they were in
169 New York.
170 Mr. Paykoff then stated the next item for discussion was the 5 year “capital improvement
171 plan”. Mr. Hall made copies and gave each member a copy. Mr. Panzarella commented
172 that he has worked with the Chief on this budget. Mr. Paykoff asked how much was
173 remaining to be paid back to the Township for the fire station built in 2007. Mr.
174 Panzarella said (1) \$150,000 payback this year. (1) \$150,000 payment and (1) \$90,000
175 dollar payback to the Township in 2010. The department budget would be free of this
176 payment in 2011. Mr. Panzarella said that the next levy needed is to be a replacement not
177 a renewal because then we would be able to collect at a higher valuation. Mr. Paykoff
178 said he was going to be meeting with the auditor in regards to his valuation. Mr.
179 Panzarella told the members that his white paper outlines the department and being able
180 to operate at about the same millage until 2014, while adding weekend and holiday
181 coverage. Lt. Pichert said that we are implanting that plan January 1, 2010. Mr.
182 Panzarella said, “the fire department’s plan is for 24/7 coverage. My plan is covering the
183 busier parts of the week with staff and then looking at staff members who is participating
184 and who is not and find out why they are not.” Mr. Panzarella stated that is why this

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185 committee was formed to evaluate and recommend to the Board. Mr. Panzarella told the
186 committee that they should use certain benchmarks such as number of houses, number of
187 calls, and number of residents when judging. Mr. Paykoff said that has always been the
188 case that 5 – 6 members have always carried the weight of the department, and Mr. Hall
189 agreed. Members reviewed the 5 year plan. Ms. Kline asked why certain items were not
190 on the list such as medical supplies, insurance, employee cost. Lt. Pichert, Mr. Hall, and
191 Mr. Panzarella explained that this was a capital improvement budget, not the operating
192 budget. Lt. Pichert said the Fire Department Committee had developed a 5 year budget
193 for their plan. Mr. Panzarella said he had also developed one in his white paper.
194 Mr. Paykoff asked what vehicles were going to need to be replaced. Mr. Panzarella said
195 the Utility vehicle in the future and a fire truck in 2014. Mr. Panzarella also said the
196 thermal imaging camera had been purchased this year. Mr. Paykoff asked how old
197 Engine/Tanker 392 was. Mr. Hall responded and said 1995. Mr. Paykoff asked how
198 much did it cost. Mr. Hall said he believed in the \$260,000 - \$300,000 range. Mr.
199 Paykoff asked how many miles were on it, how many engine hours, and pump hours? Lt.
200 Pichert replied around 22,000 miles, 2,000 engine hours and he believed around 300
201 pump hours.
202 Mr. Paykoff asked Mr. Hall if this vehicle was going to need replaced in 2014. Mr. Hall
203 said, “my personal opinion is that if we need a vehicle we should place an additional levy
204 just for apparatus, when we need a vehicle.” Mr. Panzarella said that there are several
205 different ways to put on a levy, we could run an operating levy, staffing levy, or
206 equipment levy. He suggested to the board that the next levy should be a replacement not
207 a renewal. Mr. Hall said Engine 392 is still in good condition and it may need to go in
208 for a refurbishment. Mr. Panzarella said, “I have talked to the Chief about this and he
209 was suppose to give me 3 quotes to have this vehicle refurbished.” He asked Mr. Hall if
210 this had been completed. Mr. Panzarella said the Chief had estimated \$350,000 for a
211 refurbishment. Lt. Pichert said the plan was to send Engine 392 in for a refurbishment,
212 currently the truck has some rust spots, but other than that nothing that we are aware of is
213 wrong with the truck. The plan was to purchase another Engine/Tanker with at least the
214 same size tank and pump of the current Engine/Tanker 392. The reason for this was to
215 help lower the ISO rating. Once the new Engine/Tanker was purchased to send the
216 current Engine/Tanker out for refurbishment. This would allow the department to have a
217 decent reserve engine in case one of the fire engines goes out of service. Mr. Panzarella
218 commented that the only thing that really affects ISO is water. Mr. Paykoff asked if there
219 had been hydrants installed on Gregory Road in the area of the new elementary school.
220 Mr. Hall replied, “Only at the school entrance”. Mr. Paykoff replied why more were not
221 installed. Mr. Panzarella replied, Chief Bechstein had presented the Board with a quote
222 to install another fire hydrant on that water line, and the Board decided not to go ahead
223 with it because they did not want to set precedence.” Mr. Paykoff asked Mr. Hall if the
224 fire department had applied for any Federal Stimulus money. Mr. Hall replied to the best
225 of his knowledge the department did not apply for any. Mr. Panzarella said they had tried
226 to on Heverlo Road several years ago to install a dry hydrant but the property owner did
227 not want to pay for the pond to be deepened. Mr. Paykoff said if we went with Mr. Hall’s
228 idea that would save a significant amount of money from the millage. Mr. Hahn
229 commented and said instead of having to set aside \$200,000 a year for a truck why is that
230 money not split up over a period of time that the truck is deemed usual for, such as a 10

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231 year, 15 year so instead of pulling \$200,000 from the budget you are only pulling
232 \$20,000 dollars a year.
233 Mr. Paykoff asked the other members how their information collection was going and
234 some members needed some more time. All members agreed to present the information
235 at the November meeting.
236 Mr. Panzarella advised Mr. Paykoff that he found out the language for the new levy has
237 to be in by February 20. He advised Mr. Paykoff to speed up the time table to deliver to
238 the Trustees on February 1, the sooner the better. Mr. Paykoff advised that the next
239 meeting is Wednesday November 11, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.

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241 Meeting adjourn at 9:00 PM

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243 **MOTION #FC-3**

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245 Motion by Mr. Paykoff to adjourn the meeting
246 Seconded by Mr. Hall.
247 Vote: Hahn-yea, Hall yea, Holehouse-yea, Kline-yea, Paykoff-yea,
248 Motion Passed.

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252 Absent
253 Steve Spangler, Chairperson

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256 Jim Hahn, Member

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259 Joe Holehouse, Member

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261 Absent
262 Joe Korlesski, Member

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265 Elizabeth Kline, Member

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268 Pat Paykoff, Member

269 Attest: _____
270 Craig Hall, Member

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