

# Genoa Township Fire/Rescue/EMS Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting

January 3, 2023 – Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by John McHale
  - a. Attendance was recorded – All committee members were present. In person were Frank Michell, Jerrad Christian, Duane Knauer, Fred Johnson, John McHale, Mary Fehskens, Tracy Damschroder, Chris Chesson, David Heisel, Mark Noble, Tammy Sroufe, Mark Antonetz, Jodie Streeter, George Schultz and Joe Ponzi (Fire Chief). Nobody attended virtually.
  - b. Motion was made to approve the meeting minutes from November 1, 2022, by Jodie Streeter. Duane Knauer seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried with edit regarding item 4.a.i – changing “database” to “Electronic Data Management System”. The minutes were revised and issued for posting on the Genoa Township website.
  
2. Update from Chief Ponzi.
  - a. Run Stats review.
    - i. Reviewed data for 2021 and 2022.
    - ii. There was a 3.2% increase in runs during 2022 over 2021.
  - b. State American Rescue Plan (ARP) Grants.
    - i. Working with a local grant writer for ARP, AFG & SAFER submittals who has extensive experience with preparing grant requests for first responder organizations with a high approval success rate.
    - ii. Three (3) ARP grant requests were submitted and waiting for feedback on whether approved.
      1. Health wellness / fitness training.
      2. Specialized yoga/stretching/de-stress (stress reduction).
      3. Confidential mental health check-ups.

c. Federal Grants (AFG, SAFER).

- i. The Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (SAFER) are administered by FEMA. The FEMA website has the following descriptions for the programs:

AFG

*The primary goal of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) is to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments and non-affiliated emergency medical service organizations.*

*Since 2001, AFG has helped firefighters and other first responders obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training and other resources necessary for protecting the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards.*

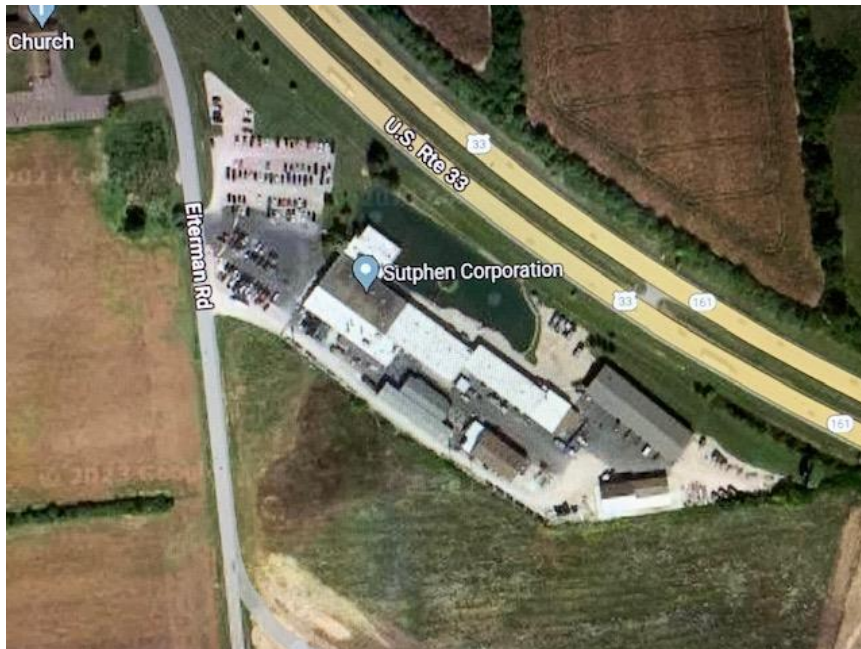
SAFER

*The Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (SAFER) was created to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations to help them increase or maintain the number of trained, "front line" firefighters available in their communities.*

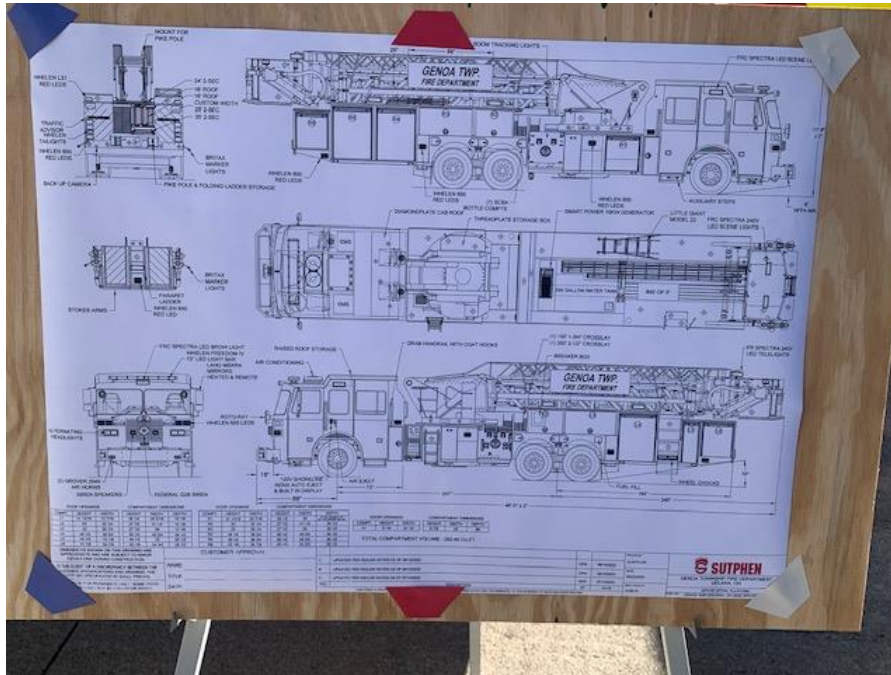
*The goal of SAFER is to enhance the local fire departments' abilities to comply with staffing, response and operational standards established by the NFPA (NFPA 1710 and/or NFPA 1720).*

1. Submitted three (3) AFG grant requests.
  - a. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) equipment (packs, bottles) to replace equipment that is reaching end of life (15 years) within the next ~2-years.
  - b. New specialty compressor for filling SCBA bottles.

- c. Vehicle exhaust extraction system - to capture exhaust fumes when starting the fire department's vehicles and direct outside of the building.
- d. Is a 2-year funding program.
- 2. Submitted a SAFER Grant request for funding costs for three (3) additional, full time Fire/EMS employees.
  - a. Currently will also accommodate situations when employees are off on vacation, etc. which is an important consideration for de-stressing.
  - b. Will decrease overtime costs with 3 additional employees.
  - c. If approved, funding would be provided for 3-years with the option to re-apply for an additional 3-years (total of 6-years).
- d. Pre-construction meeting for new ladder truck.
  - i. On December 14<sup>th</sup> Chief Ponzi and 4 of the 6-department new fire truck committee members met with Sutphen engineering and customer service employees at their facility in Dublin, Ohio where the new ladder truck is being manufactured.



- ii. Reviewed every detail for the new ladder truck during an all-day long meeting resulting with some agreed to changes that the committee requested at no additional cost for the truck.
- iii. Anticipating 20-24 months until delivery.



e. Eastside Fire Station Project.

- i. Chief Ponzi is planning on discussing his concerns over the current (too long) response times for Genoa Township residents on the east side of Hoover Reservoir with each of the Trustees. Average of 10–12-minute response time is considered not acceptable.
- ii. Funds are in the proposed 2023 Fire Department budget for a third-party study to evaluate need for an additional station on the east side of the Township. After the budget is approved will ask for approval to proceed with the study.
- iii. An example of a study that was completed in May 2022 for the BST&G Joint Fire District which serves Berkshire Township, City of Sunbury, Trenton Township, and the Village of Galena is available from the District's website ([BSTG-Fire-Station-Location-Analysis-Final-Report.pdf \(bstgfire.org\)](https://www.bstgfire.org/BSTG-Fire-Station-Location-Analysis-Final-Report.pdf)). The study included analysis of response times for the area served by BST&G.

3. Comments / Questions from Committee.

a. Terms for 4-Committee members will end on 3/31/2023:

- i. Mark Noble – has applied to serve another term.
- ii. Jerrad Christian – will be applying to serve another term.
- iii. Jodie Streeter – not planning on applying to serve another term.
- iv. David Heisel – not planning on applying to serve another term.

4. Announcements.

- a. Next Committee meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2023.
- b. Vice Chair Jodie Streeter will chair the February meeting.
- c. During the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting will be electing Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary positions for the Committee. Members interested in serving for any of these leadership positions should let John McHale know.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 8:54pm.