DERRY TOWNSHIP FIRE COMPANY WORKSHOP
October 20, 2025

The Derry Township Board of Supervisors met with representatives of the Yeagertown Fire Company and Chief Logan Volunteer Fire Dept. at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, October 20, 2025, Derry Township Municipal Building, 73 Reserve Lane, Lewistown.

Present:	Chairman	Ronald E. Napikoski, Jr.
	Vice-Chairman	Donald R. Warntz, II
	Supervisor	John T. Sipe
	Manager	Kelly J. Shutes
	Yeagertown Fire Co.	Fire Chief Chris Treaster
	Chief Logan Fire Dept.	Fire Chief Eric Moist

R. Napikoski called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. An informal workshop was held to discuss the status of the two Derry Township Volunteer Fire Departments.

VISITORS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments.

DISCUSSION: Both Fire Departments submitted incident reports for their individual company. The reports included number of calls, manpower hours, response times and miscellaneous other information.

Discussion was held regarding the incentive program. Both Fire Cos. reported that the incentives have improved response numbers. To date, $28,000 in incentives has been earned by the volunteers of the two fire companies. It is popular and a recommendation was made to increase the budgeted allocation to $30,000 for 2026. The daytime hours continue to be the most difficult to get volunteers because of work schedules.

Yeagertown Fire Co. has ordered a new tanker and hopes it will be here between June and December 2025.

Chief Moist said they need new turn out gear. One set costs approximately $5,000. Their gear is over five years old. Some much older. A new Cancer rider was added to the Fire Company Liability Insurance. They use the majority of the Fireman's Relief Funds from the state to pay their premiums. Both companies are looking into the best way to get reimbursed for the state fuel tax on their fuel purchases.

Chief Treaster informed the Board that the Fire Fighting Training costs will see a tremendous increase over former years. The one school, Bucks Community College, which has provided training for a minimal fee for years has decided to increase the rates. The new estimates from them are coming in at approximately $2,295 per student. Formerly this training was under $180 per student. The Board of Supervisors agreed to add $15,000 to the stipend it is giving the Fire companies out of the General Fund in 2026 to help offset the training costs, asking that each Fire Company establish certain criteria to be met before the firefighter is reimbursed for the costs.

The Supervisors are planning to maintain the 60% Chief Logan/40% Yeagertown split of fire tax collection in 2026. Both Chiefs asked that the Board considers an increase in the Fire Tax by ¼ or ½ mill. This will be discussed by the Board during their budget review.

Discussion was held on the future of the volunteer fire companies. Chief Treaster suggested that the Township starts to plan for a Township Fire Chief, director, Emergency Management Director that would help offset the duties of the current fire chiefs of each company to keep training records, scheduling of responders and their qualifications. There is also need for someone that can run background checks and clearances for volunteers and other administrative jobs. Currently the Borough of Lewistown has a Borough-wide Chief that does this for a small stipend. Chief Treaster also suggested that with this position in place there would be a path forward to forming a consolidated Fire Department in the Township. He said it would be beneficial to meet with Burnham Borough members to begin dialogue.

The Township reported that it is looking into a Property Maintenance Code that can address hoarding issues, unsafe structures and EV charging stations.

The Fire Chiefs commented on the issue with the County's 911 radio communications center. They said it has been addressed by the County EMA. They now have a portable radio station that can be moved to an offsite location if needed.

DERRY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Kelly J. Shutes
Kelly J. Shutes,
Township Manager