

**WHITEFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JOINT WORKSHOP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES, PLANNING COMMISSION, ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, FIRE DEPARTMENT**

September 28, 2023

Call to Order: Supervisor Walter Ruhl started the workshop at 7:30 pm. The following were present: Walter Ruhl, Tim Hill, Don Sahloff, Bernice Heidelberg, Christine Bischoff, Maxwell Miles, Darrell Rush, Lawson Stone, Brad Nowakowski, Fire Chief Shane Hillard, Assistant Fire Chief Jason Sahloff and 13 guests.

Supervisor Walter Ruhl listed a few ideas for the future of the fire department:

1. Build a new station on Memorial Highway and close the Whiteford Center Station.
2. Use the station on Whiteford Center Road and close the Ottawa Lake Station.
3. Go to one station and have an ambulance and paramedics at the other station.
4. Have two full time people at the station at all times at a cost of 1.5 mills. If using both stations, four people would be needed.
5. Pay for training including mileage, meals and hotel.
6. The price of a new engine in the future could be up to one million dollars.
7. Locate five acres near Exit 3 for a new, central station.
8. Have a paid, on call department plus 24/7 medics.

Fire Chief Shane Hillard presented proposals for paid, on call firefighters including paying for training and grant writing. He felt it would be more appropriate to start paying the current volunteer firefighters and work up to having 24/7 coverage in the future.

Also discussed were the number of calls per station, the amount of training and continuing education needed, Whiteford being the last true volunteer department in the county.

The group came to a consensus to form a committee consisting of:

Two Board of Trustee Members – Don Sahloff and Christine Bischoff

Two Planning Commission Members - Maxwell Miles and Brad Nowakowski

Four Firefighters – to be determined

Five Community Members – Lee Strahan plus four to be determined.

Shane Hillard will come up with wording for a posting on the website and Facebook to ask for community volunteers.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Christine Bischoff
Whiteford Township Clerk