



**ACME TOWNSHIP
PUBLIC SAFETY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monday, January 30, 2006, 8:00 a.m.
Acme Township Hall
6042 Acme Road, Williamsburg MI 49690**

Meeting called to Order at 8:02 a.m.

Members present: P.Collins (Chair), L. Andres, S. Corpe, J. Maitland, D. Nelson, D. Smith
Members excused: D. Hoxsie, W. Mervau
Staff present: N. Edwardson, Recording Secretary

- A. Correspondence:** None
- B. Reports:** None
- C. Limited Public Comment:** None
- D. New Business:**

Pat Parker, Metro Chief and Brad Schnaidt, Deputy Chief/Fire Marshall were present. They have found that Metro was not properly organized under PA33; they can't find an applicable statute that is their enabling organization. This was discovered as a result of the investigation of the recent traffic accident. This almost prevented insurance coverage for that accident. Articles of Incorporation and enabling act are also needed to obtain financing for large projects, grants, and to own property legally.

Joint fire departments can be formed under PA33 or PA57. PA33 is the statute under which Acme's fire Special Assessments District (SAD) was formed. Mr. Schnaidt research leads him to feel that PA33 was created to allow a township having a fire department to share its services with another township. The statute discusses how a board is formed with representation from each member township, and how each township decides how much funding to contribute. Daily administration responsibilities rest with the member townships; the joint board only decides the budget. This is different than how Metro is currently organized and functioning. The department would recommend continuing to operate as it does, which would require organization under PA57. Under this model, any potential liability attaches to Metro, separately and distinctly from the township. Metro would also be able to levy taxes on property owners in the member township subject to referendum. Funding could also continue under the current PA33 model. Mr. Schnaidt also said that under PA33 model each township can have its own fire protection ordinance; under the PA57 model Metro could adopt and enforce the ordinance rather than the townships.

Under PA33 metro would not be a tax-exempt governmental entity; under PA57 they would be.

Chief Parker purposes that if the PA57 model is followed, the Metro Board would expand from 3 to 7 members. The allocation of membership could be based on funding.

There was much discussion following Parker and Schnaidt. Maitland expressed concerns about representation on Metro Board and funding. Andres asked who needs new equipment? Nelson asked Parker and Schnaidt how would this authority change operations? Can we still operate under PA33 as a township?

Motion by Maitland, support by Nelson to recommend that the township Board authorize Kurtz to explore the possibility of reconstituting Metro Fire pursuant to PA57. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion by Nelson, support by Maitland to approve the October 25, 2005, meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.