

**READING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 10, 2018**

A special meeting of the Reading Township Board of Supervisors was held at the Township Building and called to order at 6:30 pm by Kevin Holtzinger, Chairman. Marcia Weaver, Vice-Chairperson and Gary Sauble, Supervisor was present with Chairman Holtzinger presiding over the meeting.

The purpose of the special meeting is Hampton Fire Company Proposed Merger with United Hook and Ladder Co. 33.

Others in attendance included Victor Neubaum, Solicitor, Malone & Neubaum; Gary Bullock, Emergency Management Coordinator; Officer in Charge Bill Ceravola; Jason Phillips, Anthony Phillips, Angie Phillips, Emmert Hartzell, Mike Thomas, Greg Heefner, Ben Heefner, Dustin Avery, Rocco Devita, Lorraine Ensor, Shirley Heagey, Lee Miller, Zack Taylor, Beth Trimmer, PJ Trimmer, Christian Viands, Heather Viands, Randy Wolf, Amber Gladly, Brianna Fletcher, Cheryl Byers, Lee Byers, Austin Little, Luanne Megonnell, Jess Megonnell, Steve Raber, Cody Fletcher, Tina Smith, Barb Cookerly and Anthony Flickinger

Chairman Holtzinger led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Garry Bullock, President Hampton Fire Company, stated he hoped that the Supervisors would vote for the merger with United Hook and Ladder. Otherwise Mr. Bullock stated he thinks the fire company would fold within the next ten years.

Randy Wolf, Chief Hampton Fire Company, also thanked the Board of Supervisors for all the work and time they put into the merger.

Hampton Fire Company Proposed Merger with United Hook & Ladder Co. 33

Chairman Holtzinger read the following statement:

As each of you know, this Board has taken the issue of providing fire service to our community very seriously. When the merger discussion of all the fire companies servicing our township began, we attended those meetings and provided our whole-hearted support to this important effort under Company 32. We, along with many of you, were very enthusiastic and optimistic about this merger. For the first time in our known history, Reading Township had an opportunity to be united in providing this vital service to our taxpayers without the issues of territorial boundaries and without competition for funding.

However, that opportunity was removed from the table by the Hampton Fire Company and we were asked to consider supporting a merger between Hampton and United Hook & Ladder. Because we carry the responsibility of establishing the fire service to the box cards within our boundaries, many more meetings became necessary with merger talks involving both Company 32 and Company 33. We assure you that this Board did not take our responsibility or this decision lightly.

We truly thank every volunteer from every company for your dedicated services. We also hope, with this monumental decision, that anyone who doesn't agree with our decision will still put their community's best interest first regardless of whichever fire company you choose to serve with. We realize that no matter what decision we make in assigning the box cards, it is both unavoidable and inevitable that some among you will be disappointed. We ask that you be mindful of the important common mission that brings you here today.

The Board of Supervisors of Reading Township hereby unanimously agrees that our box cards 10-1 through 10-9 be given to Company 32 for the following reasons:

1. Our review of their financial condition has been very positive.
2. We witnessed a membership between the two fire companies that is strong, committed and united.
3. They also plan to keep fire apparatus at Hampton and will continue to provide service from Hampton.
4. They desire to both utilize and maintain the current Hampton social hall and buildings, and they will do this with the additional funds we normally provide to the Hampton Fire Company.
5. Without building expansions, Company 32 will support and provide parking for the ball field and any future recreational uses.
6. There have been no reasons brought forth to this Board why Company 32 could not provide fire protection to the entire township effectively.
7. Company 32 will welcome the return of the Hampton Fire Company membership after their merger is complete.
8. Most importantly, we believe, as a Township, our future will be best served **united** under one Fire Company. This is the only opportunity we have to both promote and encourage that unity to close those divisions within our community.

In closing, we ask the membership of the Hampton Fire Company to reconsider merging with Company 32. We will work with you moving forward with this decision that was made.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm on a motion by Chairman Holtzinger, Ms. Weaver second, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Beard
Secretary/Treasurer

