



Minutes

Hanover Area Fire and Rescue Commission
Meeting Held Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.
Clover Lane Fire Station

Present at the meeting:

- Hanover Area Fire and Rescue Commission Chairman Michael Newman
- Hanover Borough Councilmen Tim Kress and William Reichart
- Penn Township Commissioners Mark Elksnis and Justin Heiland
- Hanover Area Volunteer Fire and Rescue Representatives Jeffrey Spielman and Ray Kinsey
- Hanover Area Fire and Rescue Commission Chief Anthony Clousher and Secretary April Wetzel
- Also present Deputy Chief Joseph Wysocki, EMA Coordinator Jeff Waltman, Solicitor Gold (via phone), Penn Township Manager Donna Sweeney

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Newman at 5:30 p.m. Secretary Wetzel completed roll call; seven (7) voting members were present, there is a quorum.

Announcement of Executive Session: None.

Public Comment: None.

Consent Agenda Approval:

- Mr. Kinsey moved for the approval of all three items on the Consent Agenda for November 2025. Seconded by Councilman Kress. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurers Report:

- See report provided by Brown Plus attached with minutes.

Committee Reports:

- Finance/Personnel:
 - Motion made by Commissioner Heiland to adopt the 2026 Fire Commission budget as previously approved and presented to the municipalities. Seconded by Councilman Kress. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Motion made by Commissioner Heiland to execute an agreement to change the Worker's Compensation broker to RWR Insurance. Seconded by Councilman Kress. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Motion made by Commissioner Heiland to execute the 2026 Engagement letter with Brown Plus. Seconded by Councilman Kress. Motion carried unanimously.
- Facilities & Apparatus:
 - Mr. Spielman noted that there is no report this month as the committee did not meet.

FIRE/EMS Chief's Report:

- With the support of our volunteers, Santa visited several Penn Township communities on Saturday; however, inclement weather unfortunately forced the cancellation of Sunday's scheduled visits.
- Deputy Chief Wysocki extended his congratulations to AEMT Ashli Unkart, who celebrated her graduation from the Paramedic program earlier this month.

- Deputy Chief Wysocki announced that the Commission is hosting a Confined Space Rescue training course this week in partnership with the IAFF, a collaboration expected to save approximately \$16,000 in training costs.

EMA Report:

- See report attached with minutes.
- Hanover Area Fire and Rescue was recently appointed as a Community Aid Foundation Mission Partner. The partnership will benefit Community Aid's outreach efforts and enhance Hanover Area Fire and Rescue's services to the community. Partnership benefits include Community Aid store shopping vouchers for distribution to disaster victims, grant opportunities, and partner credits for thrift store donations made in Hanover Area Fire and Rescue's name.

Hanover Area Volunteer Fire & Rescue Report:

- See report attached with minutes.

Unfinished Business:

- Chief Clousher honored Chairman Michael Newman with a certificate of appreciation, recognizing his dedicated years of service to the Hanover Area Fire and Rescue Commission.
- Commissioner Elksnis expressed his sincere gratitude to all the volunteers who helped Santa visit several township communities this past Saturday.

New Business:

- During the recent Hanover Borough Finance and Personnel Committee meeting, Councilman Kress delivered the following statement: Following the Borough Council's November 25th, 2025, meeting, representatives of the Borough Council met with representatives of Penn Township to discuss the future of the Hanover Area Fire and Rescue Commission. At this meeting, many of the financial and operational issues identified at the Borough's November 25, 2025, public meeting was discussed. We can report that the meeting was very productive. And we look forward to continuing discussions with Penn Township regarding the Commission so that together Hanover Borough and Penn Township can better provide regional fire and emergency services to the public.
- Commissioner Elksnis confirmed the recent discussions between Penn Township and Hanover Borough were productive. Penn Township remains fully committed to the long-term success of the Fire Commission and has not wavered in its support. We believe this partnership is essential for our community as well as our volunteers. Our hope is to continue collaborating with Hanover Borough to ensure the Commission's success, and hopefully one day make this into a regional fire department.
- Mr. Allison thanked Michael Newman for his years of dedicated leadership. Before my term begins, I am asking the board for full commitment, as this Commission cannot succeed without it. While we will not always agree, we must remain focused on what is best for the community. If you ever feel I am no longer the right person for this role, I will step aside to ensure the community's interests come first. We have a great deal to accomplish, and we must all be fully committed as we head into 2026.

Public Comment:

- Local 2045 President Tim Waltemyer thanked the board for supporting this week's Confined Space Rescue training. He expressed displeasure regarding the events of last month's Hanover Borough Council meeting. He also congratulated Mr. Newman on his retirement from the Commission.
- Firefighter Tim Tyler advocated for EMS personnel, citing a tragic incident from earlier this year.
- Mr. Newman expressed his gratitude to the board for the opportunity to serve as chairman.

At 5:54 p.m. motion to adjourn made by Councilman Kress, second by Councilman Reichart. Motion carried unanimously.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on January 15, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at Clover Lane Station.

Respectfully Submitted,

April Wetzel
April Wetzel
Recording Secretary



Hanover Area Volunteer Fire and Rescue

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Commission Meeting Presentation
18 December 2025 Clover Lane Station

George L. Zimmerman
HAVFR Spokesman

1. Volunteers Support Santa

As customary, the Volunteer Organization supports Santa while he makes his rounds in the Hanover Area. Manpower is required to help Santa safely visit the kids and residents of Penn Township. They also participate in Operation Claus. The recipients of Operation Claus are determined by recommendation from the local school districts.

We are thankful for the Fire Department and all of Santa's helpers that ensure the success of this program.

2. York County Property Tax Refund Program

Once again, we are winding down the 2025 Program. From all indications, we will exceed the individual requirements again this year. This is the third year our Volunteer Company has participated in this program.

3. Snyder's/Campbell's Event

Recently, we were invited to participate as a preferred Volunteer Organization joining sixteen other organizations to explain Volunteer opportunities within our organizations. Managers had the opportunity to review each organization's Mission Statement ask questions and learn about various opportunities in each organization. Volunteer Company 79 also held a free Home Safety Raffle and offered advice on how to use a Fire Blanket. We were honored to be a participant.

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4. Special Recognition

We are proud to announce that two local organizations have, once again, made a decision to support HAVFR.

- Yazoo Mills Inc. made a donation of \$20,000 to be split evenly between Hanover Area Volunteer Fire and Rescue and the Hanover Area Fire and Rescue Commission
- The Rice Family Foundation made a donation of \$2,000 to the Hanover Area Volunteer Fire and Rescue Organization

We are grateful for their generosity and valued support.

5. Merry Christmas!

May the gifts of Peace and Joy find their way into your homes this Christmas Season. Best Wishes for a safe, healthy, and happy new year.