

LINESVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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LINESVILLE, PA 16424

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 5, 2025

On April 25, 2024, the Linesville Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. (LVFD) received written notification from the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General requesting production of information and records for inspection pursuant to the Pennsylvania Solicitation of Funds for Charitable Purposes Act (10 P.S. §§ 162.1 *et seq.*). All nonprofit organizations within the Commonwealth are subject to this Act, along with the Pennsylvania Nonprofit Corporation Law of 1998 (15 Pa. C.S.A. §§ 5101 *et seq.*) and Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law (73 P.S. §§ 201.1 *et seq.*). In turn, such entities are subject to routine inspection by the Office of Attorney General at any time to ensure compliance.

Upon receiving such notification, LVFD immediately took action to cooperate with this review, which consisted of compiling requested records from January 1, 2020 to present, making photocopies of such records while retaining the originals, organizing, securely packing, and shipping them to the designated recipient address. All of which took several hundred man hours to make nearly 11,000 copies over a two month timeframe by volunteers who received no compensation for their time or hard work.

Almost simultaneously, The Linesville Volunteer Firemen's Relief Association was undergoing its triennial routine compliance audit in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General. For those who may be unfamiliar, a relief association is a separate entity in existence primarily to provide financial protection to our volunteer firefighters against the consequences of misfortune suffered as a result of their participation in the fire service. Funds within the relief association are separate from LVFD and have restricted use pursuant to the Pennsylvania Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association Act (35 Pa.C.S. § 7418).

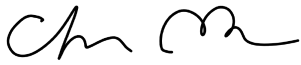
The Linesville Volunteer Fire Department is pleased to announce that both the review of our nonprofit corporation conducted by the Office of the Attorney, as well as the routine compliance audit of The Linesville Volunteer Firemen's Relief Association conducted by the Department of the Auditor General were concluded with no significant findings. Copies of the review closure letter and the audit report are included with this release. Such determination on both accounts is a reflection of the hard work, dedication, and meticulous nature of our organization's volunteer leadership, both present and past.

Even with no significant findings, we are constantly working to improve and better our organization as we take very seriously our duty to the local community and the citizens we serve and want to ensure financial longevity for years to come. In the past year alone, we have taken the following steps to support this goal:

- Held a joint sit-down meeting with the municipalities we serve to address any questions or concerns that their elected leaders may have as it pertains to our organization and the fire, rescue, and emergency medical services we provide to their respective citizens.
- Contracted a reputable third-party certified public accounting firm to perform monthly reviews of our electronic bookkeeping records to ensure they are fully up-to-date and accurate.
- Developed more detailed monthly financial reports to improve transparency and provide a full picture of our organization's current financial state for our members, municipality leaders, and the general public.
- Provide electronic copies of our monthly meeting minutes and financial reports to the three municipalities we serve to keep municipality leaders and the general public informed.
- Retained full-time legal counsel to ensure complete understanding and compliance with the aforementioned review/audit and laws and statues that apply to our organization as a non-profit entity.

We understand that the past twelve months may have been equally burdensome to our municipalities, their elected leaders, and the citizens who reside within these communities as word of such review and audit can be very disconcerting, especially when it involves the very organization that is responsible for protecting lives and property. Perhaps, this was further exacerbated by the unfortunate misinformation and rumors that were concurrently being disseminated. On behalf of the Linesville Volunteer Fire Department, we sincerely apologize for this undue worry and concern. We want each and every citizen that we serve to rest assured that we are fully committed and laser focused on our decades old mission of providing fire, rescue, and emergency medical services. We thank you for your understanding and unwavering support.

For any questions, concerns, or other inquiries related to this matter, please contact President Charles Robinson by phone at: (814) 683-5411 or by email at: president@linesvillevfd.org. The general public is also welcome to our attend our monthly meetings held the first Thursday of each month, beginning at 7:00PM at our station, located at 200 Penn Street in Linesville.



Charles Robinson

President

Linesville Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

Attachments:

- Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General Review Closing Letter
- Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General Compliance Audit Report

CC:

- Attorney Kim R. Houser, Esq. (Mears, Smith, Houser & Boyle, P.C.)
- Linesville Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. Advisory Board
- Amanda Harper (Secretary, Borough of Linesville)
- Telce Varee (Secretary, Conneaut Township)
- Sarah Dennis (Secretary, Pine Township)
- David Schaeff (Owner/Publisher/Editor, The Community News)
- Rick Green (Executive Editor, The Meadville Tribune)
- Melissa Lee (Local Editor, Erie Times-News)
- Scott MacDowell (News Director, Erie News Now WICU/WSEE)
- Bailey Brautigan (News Director, WJET/WFXP)