

**BOROUGH OF SUGARCREEK  
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES**

November 15, 2017

**I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Council President Bogan Goughler opened the meeting at 6:00 pm, welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted there will be no hurtful or harmful speech allowed.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (American Flag)**

Council President Goughler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

Present at the meeting were Council members Bogan Goughler, John McClelland, Larry Baughman, Robert Resinger and Howard Barger. Mayor Jeffery MacKenzie was absent. Also present was Borough Solicitor Brian Spaid.

**IV. DISTRIBUTION OF AGENDA**

**V. REVIEW PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 287 OF 2017 (Volunteer Service Credit)**

**VI. COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS**

A. Larry Baughman requested to have the Ladies' Auxiliary added to Section 2 of the ordinance for eligibility. He also recommended to have the program start in 2019 to give the departments sufficient time to establish criteria and to track the criteria.

**VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (*limited to 3 minutes each*)**

A. Mike Garbacz, Reno V.F.D. Chief, stated he has met with Rocky Grove V.F.D.'s chief and they would like to implement a points system as a way to track eligibility, with 800 points being the minimum amount to be eligible for the tax credit, as opposed to keeping track of hours. Examples of the point levels would be 10 points for every year served and 20 points for each meeting attended, all calls responded to, training and work sessions, fundraising and office(s) held. Mr. Garbacz also said he would think using the Earned Income Tax (EIT) would be more beneficial to members, especially those who do not own property in the Borough. He believes just giving a credit on property taxes would not be an incentive to bring in more members and Council could do more to help bring in more members. Mr. Garbacz also suggested giving a wage tax rebate as well.

B. Brian Spaid said the ordinance will be adopted at the December 20, 2017 Council meeting and following its adoption, Council can then pass a resolution stating all the criteria used to make a volunteer eligible.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

A. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by Robert Resinger to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 PM. Motion carried unanimously.