

Jim Davis
614 Lincoln Avenue
Jermyn, Pa 18433

April 14th, 2020

Frank Kulick, Council President
440 Jefferson Avenue
Jermyn, Pa 18433

Dear Mr. Kulick:

For those on council who don't know me allow me to introduce myself. My name is Jim Davis. I am a lifelong resident of Jermyn for the past seventy-four plus years. I served on Jermyn Borough Council for nine years. I served as Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee and President of Council. I am a paid-up life member of the Crystal Fire Company although I have not been active in years.

That being said, I was very disturbed after reading the March 3rd council meeting minutes and public comments by Mr. Goodwin. It appears that council has acted and is contemplating additional action against the Crystal and Artisan fire companies for an incident that happened at the Crystal Fire Company. It is my understanding that the incident involved a member of the Crystal Fire Company giving his key to two minors so that they could enter the fire company building and acquire alcoholic beverages. If this is in fact what happened those involved should be punished to the fullest extent that the law allows, and the adult should have been immediately admonished from Crystal Fire Company membership.

It appears that council is taking the shot gun approach. Members of the fire companies should not suffer because an irresponsible action of a rogue member.

Mr. Goodwin believes that decertification is the answer. Maybe that is the way to go. Since the borough is swash with money with our recent tax increase which is

well beyond the long observed 30 mill limit both fire companies could be decertified, and we could have a PAID fire department. Problem solved.

I worked with the fire companies when I was on council and chairperson of the Public Safety Committee. I found them to be dedicated hard working first responders with Jermyn as their foremost concern. I presently know several them, and I do not believe that has changed one bit.

Regardless of what Mr. Goodwin and several council members think a volunteer fire company is a quasi-social club for its members. All volunteer fire companies have a social club aspect, they always have and always will, everywhere, not just Jermyn.

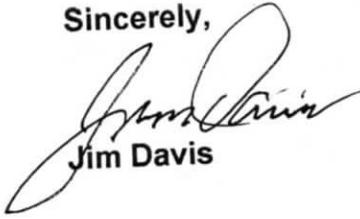
There was a statement made in the minutes (I am not sure by who as the minutes are poorly written and hard to follow) that there is "No training, no public service" and this person demands more from his local fire departments. What an asinine statement from a completely ignorant and uninformed person. I believe that there is ongoing training at both fire companies and their public service is fire protection for Jermyn at which they do an outstanding job.

To take the kind of action against the fire companies that appears to be in progress would, in my opinion, eventually destroy them. Binge drinking, going to fires and / or operating equipment while under the influence should not in any way be tolerated. I doubt very much that is happening. To deny these dedicated volunteers a place to get together and enjoy camaraderie over a couple of beers should not be an issue. If there are any problems let the fire companies address and resolve them. These companies are one hundred and twenty plus years old and have policed themselves admirably.

These men and women are volunteers. They give their time and skills to Jermyn at no cost. They are not borough employees. As far as I know the fire companies are independently chartered by the state. They are not owned by the borough. They are distinct entities. Barring major problems, the borough should have a hands-off policy concerning their operation.

I respectfully request that council look long and hard at their actions and what the possible outcome could be. I also urge the citizens of Jermyn to stand up for their fire companies and show unwavering support for our volunteers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Davis", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name "Jim Davis".

Jim Davis