



**SPECIAL MEETING
UPPER PROVIDENCE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TOWNSHIP MEETING HALL
MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2016 MEETING**

ATTENDANCE

Board of Supervisors: Philip Barker, Chairman; Lisa Mossie, Vice Chairman; Albert Vagnozzi, Supervisor;

Staff Present: Timothy J. Tieperman, Township Manager; Joseph Bresnan Township Solicitor; Joshua Overholt, Township Fire Marshal; Richard Ressel, Emergency Management Coordinator and Mark Toomey, Chief of Police.

Consultants Present: Joseph Bresnan, Township Solicitor

NEW BUSINESS (ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS):

1. Upper Providence Township EMS Response Discussion

Mr. Barker called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and introduced Mr. David Brown of Montgomery Township Department of Public Safety.

Mr. Brown reviewed current ambulance response districts in Upper Providence Township and acceptable standards for EMS and first responder response times. Mr. Brown reviewed statistics related to EMS responses in Upper Providence Township in comparison to unidentified municipalities in Montgomery County that are served by EMS providers who are located both inside and outside the respective municipalities. The Board of Supervisors and Mr. Brown engaged in a general discussion about computer aided dispatching procedures and EMS responses in Upper Providence Township.

Mr. Brown reviewed a heat map showing EMS coverage in Upper Providence Township based on existing ambulance station locations and discussed the effect of placing one or more EMS units at the Township building on response distances to the center of the Township. Mr. Brown and the Board discussed other municipalities who have worked with EMS providers to locate an ambulance in the respective municipality to serve as a primary provider.

Mr. Brown highlighted several requirements of Pennsylvania Act 7 of 2008 and encouraged open communication between Upper Providence Township and the EMS service providers who serve the Township. He spoke to the costs of running an EMS agency and the general lack of funding provided to them by municipalities in Montgomery County noting that Upper Providence Township could implement an EMS tax to provide financial resources to EMS providers. Mr. Brown suggested that a QRS service operated by the Township could benefit EMS response times in the Township.

Clint of Trappe Ambulance spoke to the growth in EMS calls in the center of the Township due to the presence of Brandywine Senior Living and the opening of The Landing at Colledgeville and Patient First. Supervisor Vagnozzi indicated that EMS calls have increased 17% in Upper Providence Township in the past three years and that the Board is looking to take

affirmative action to provide acceptable EMS service to the community.

In response to a question from Supervisor Mossie about the impact of adding a centrally located EMS unit in the Township on surrounding EMS providers, Mr. Brown noted that surrounding EMS providers could be negatively impacted and discussed the history of EMS provider mergers in Montgomery County. Mr. Brown noted that it would likely improve EMS service in the Township and cautioned the Supervisors that they would have to continue to monitor any changes made to the EMS delivery system in Upper Providence Township.

To improve emergency medical services, Mr. Brown made a few recommendations, including but not limited to, designating one Township official as the lead contact to EMS Agencies, consider relocating EMS resources to be based inside the Township and to; set expectations and response time standards.

During Mr. Brown's presentation, all members of the Board participated in the discussion by asking follow-up questions. Also, members of the audience, comprising of residents and representatives from the different EMS agencies took to the podium to express their concerns, and contributed to the discussions.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Mrs. Mossie motioned, seconded by Mr. Vagnozzi, to adjourn the meeting at 9:05pm. The motion passed unanimously 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted

By:



Timothy J. Tieperman, Township
Manager/Secretary