

EASTTOWN TOWNSHIP  
EASTTOWN CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Easttown Township Building, Berwyn, PA

January 9, 2017

**Attendees:** Tom McGurk, Pete Motel, Betsy Fadem, Kevin Melich, Chris Polites, Dan Fox

**Absent:** Buck Buchanan, Stacey Ballard, Alessandra Nicolas

Meeting was called to order at 6:19 PM

Tom McGurk outlined the issues related to the Berwyn/Paoli Fire Co's as follows:

Increasing development in Easttown Township, eg Patient First, etc  
EMS billing has had a 30- 50% reduction due mostly to ACA  
Volunteerism is declining so the offset is increased professional staffing  
Berwyn is discussing the need for a new firehouse at \$6-8 million

Thus the township's issue: Is the request for increased funding reasonable and correct?

Other questions are: Are we paying our fair share?  
What quality are we getting?

Some observations: Berwyn and Paoli combined, respond to 1,200 calls per year. That has been fairly constant for several years. The mix is 75% EMS and 25% Fire. The township pays Paoli and Berwyn about \$200,000 annually or about \$170 per call. The township Fire protection has a good rating in the first quintile of a national survey as reported by ISO Public Protection Classification. However, the latter only rates initial fire response.

- EMS ALS(Advanced Life Support) represents a relative high cost impact on the budget. Berwyn Fire Co. provides ALS. Paoli does not.
- Since ALS is the major issue, this committee needs more detailed information relative to the costs of the service provided. Dan Fox reported at least one township in the area makes a profit on ALS. The question is how?

- Next step: Marc Heppie and Betsy Fadem as representatives of BOS and Tom McGurk and Pete Motel representing ECAC are to meet with Fire Chief Eamon Brazunas and an EMS representative to frame the issues discussed above. This meeting to take place before our next ECAC meeting.

Hilltop House was discussed with reference to the recent Suburban Life January 1, 2017 article on the results of the Avison Young study on a proposed capital plan for the Willows in Radnor. This plan as it relates to Hilltop seems expensive and not comparable. Our plan of action remains for Chris Polites, Fred Pioggia, Alessandra Nicolas and Tom McGurk to continue to meet with Parks and Recreation Committee to resolve issues of revenue generation thru the hiring of a single provider of management services. Next meeting is Wednesday 1/11/17.

Finance Report of Audit Follow up:

- Dan Fox reported that there is no date established as yet for the 2016 audit.
- The project plan for Karen Wertz, agreed to in November, which included regular ECAC updates, is on track. Next report from Karen to ECAC will be after the March quarter end. This report is scheduled for ECAC's April meeting.
- Finance system changes continue. Most recent, Real Estate tax collections has been outsourced and new bank relationship was established to accommodate this effort.

Township projects for 2017:

- Jim Oram is BOS coordinator on this
- Projects under consideration by the BOS
  - Communications with residents
  - Library parking issue
  - Operation policy for the Township
  - Additional space considerations for Township operations
  - Hilltop Plan
  - Fire Funding
  - Deployment of Sidewalk Fund now being established. What to do with it?

Next ECAC meeting is scheduled for Monday February 13, 2017 at 6:15PM at the Township Offices

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Melich for Recording Secretary, Alessandra Nicolas