

ECAC Meeting Monday May 8, 2017

Attended: B. Fadem, C. Polites, T. McGurk, K. Melich, S. Ballard, B. Buchanon, P. Motel

Absent: R. Mintz, A. Nicholas

Meeting called at 6:15. Opening Comments by Tom and reviewed agenda items.

Minutes for April 18, 2017 reviewed and approved.

New Process for Minutes: Minutes will be prepared shortly after each meeting, circulated for everyone's review prior to the next meeting; at the meeting, minutes will be reviewed and discussed, any corrections made to best reflect the prior meeting, then approved. Finalized minutes will be emailed to Tom who will send to Kate Jones at Easttown Township with any attachments to be posted on the township web site.

Discussion of Prior Presentation of Financial Updates from Dan Fox and Karen Wentz.

Prior to the April 18 meeting, Tom and Kevin sent an email to Dan and Karen and made the expectations clear of the presentation details requested. A summary was presented as formatted from last September that may have been updated. Committee was expecting more structure, concrete time lines and clarification of what specific goals were met.

Discussion of requiring the 2017 audits to be "clean" – meaning all prior remarks addressed from prior audits. Mention was made from Dan/Karen of an Action Plan for all needed corrections.

ECAC Items which need to be included are: 1. Evaluations of Completeness; 2. Address all Audit issues; 3. Timelines meeting Supervisor's expectations; 4. Process for Project Management (reporting times, to whom, outcomes, etc)

ACTION PLAN: Request to see the Action Plan and share with ECAC and Supervisors.

ACTION PLAN: Following up to the April 18 meeting discuss, Supervisors will meet with Township staff to determine exactly what resources are necessary to provide 2017 Financials for Audit.

Hilltop Rd. Project:

Alexandria working with the committee to get all the information and feedback needed regarding the RFP for potential vendors. She needs all members to provide detailed information such as specific black out dates and evaluate the content of the RFP (suggested additions, definitions or suggestions).

Meeting being held tomorrow (May 9)

Fire Company Project:

Draft #2 prepared with preliminary research, facts and benchmarks which provide comparisons with costs for Fire and Ambulance Service in Easttown to other municipalities. Betsy Fadem has provided significant research on this topic found in this report.

Betsy attended a PSATS conference in April for Township Supervisors in Hershey which included a presentation on EMS services by Donald DeReamus, Legislative Committee Chair of the Ambulance Association of PA. They provided some relevant data on reimbursement funding for EMS and how it specifically works with different insurance agencies and private pay and what that means for our EMS providers in our community.

In summary:

ECAC is providing resources for the TE Fire Task Force (need exact name) of which M. Heppe and B. Fadem are the Easttown Township Supervisor representatives. Other members are from both fire companies and Tredyffrin Township.

Findings include but are not limited to: Determining the township's service demand on Berwyn And Paoli Fire Companies including future trends; determining costs for these services; comparing other townships' demands and costs for similar services; making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for bridging the gap and moving forward to provide these services to our community.

Everyone agrees that as this document and relevant data will evolve as more information is collected and then we will have better direction and basis for recommendations. It's a very complex situation and the Board of Supervisors and Fire Companies are cooperating fully in partnership to find a good, long lasting solution.

Committee discussed and provided clarification and understanding for several sections of the developing report.

Some points of note included:

Service Call Volume: Paoli FC seems to have lower volume than Berwyn FC but that is only reflective of the calls that specifically service Easttown Twp.

Calls appear to have flat lined or decreased over several years.

Easttown Contributions: Easttown Townships funding to both FC has increased 65% since 2012. Current 2017 funding is \$248,000 to Berwyn and \$50,000 to Paoli.

Discussion was held on how worker's compensation is determined for the fire company and that it is based upon the population count that the FC serves.

Easttown Cost per Call: In 2016 Cost per call for Berwyn was \$204.62 and for Paoli \$240.01. Total cost per all calls for both fire companies is \$302.01.

Baseline Metrics: Calculations and comparisons based upon information from 2016. There are several ways that comparisons can be made. These include: Fire/EMS expenses compared to Total Tax Revenue; Fire/EMS expenses compared to the General Fund Operating Expenses; Fire/EMS Expenses

compared per capita or per household; or based upon the Fireman's Relief Number (this is the amount that the state gives back to each fire company based upon population and median home values. This figure is found in the township's budget as a pass through and goes directly to each FC.)

Betsy has been gathering comparative data from other municipalities including East Whiteland, Upper Uwchlan, West Goshen, Willistown, East Goshen Tredyffrin and Upper Merion. Township comparisons based upon Fire/EMS Expenses as % of General Fund Operating Expenses ranged from 3.3% to 15.6% in 2016 with Easttown at 6.0% for 2016 and 7.5% for the budgeted 2017.

Other ways that municipalities raise funds for these services are through hydrant revenue taxes, ambulance taxes which can be up to ½ mil and fire company taxes which can be up to 1 mil.

Discussion regarding any taxes could and probably would end up capping revenue when expenses would continue to rise and not be an effective method of raising revenue for the FC from the township.

Action Steps:

Work with Tredyffrin Township to discuss benchmarks and cooperating on the gap that needs to be met to provide services to the community. Continue to work on long term solutions with Tredyffrin, within Easttown and with the Fire companies.

The Fire Company would be reached to see if there is another metric for purposes of comparison that could be used as well.

Other concerns for expenses:

Investment in a new Berwyn Fire Co building.

Managing increased costs while volume is remaining relatively stable; and, increased volume anticipated based upon Recovery Center opening, Urgent Care needs, Nursing Home needs, added population and growth from residential development.

Paid staff needed to balance with volunteers to meet their requirements for licensing and demand.

Statistics on how many fire calls are actual fires.

Betsy commented that the State is working on the difference in what the ambulance services are allowed to bill and what the actual cost is.

Next Meeting June 12, 6:15

Respectfully Submitted by,

Stacey Ballard