



WARRINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES FOR MARCH 5, 2013 WORK SESSION

The Warrington Township Board of Supervisors held a special workshop on Tuesday, March 5, 2013, 7:00 p.m., at the Township Building located at 852 Easton Road, Warrington, PA 18976. The members present were as follows:

ATTENDANCE:

Gerald Anderson, Chairperson; John Paul, Vice Chairperson; Marianne Achenbach, Secretary/Treasurer; Matthew W. Hallowell, Sr., and Shirley A. Yannich, members. Staff present was Timothy J. Tieperman, Township Manager; and William R. Casey, Esq., Township Solicitor; Emergency Services Committee members present were Harry McCann, Joe Bonargo, Bill Reid, and Lee Greenberg

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mr. Anderson asked for a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

There was no executive session report.

NEW BUSINESS (ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS):

8. Emergency Services Committee Presentation and Discussion

Mr. Anderson thanked the members of the Warrington Fire Committee for their attendance this evening to hear a report from the Emergency Services Committee. He reiterated that this is a work session and that no formal questions would be entertained tonight. He asked that the members listen to power point presentation and formulated a list of questions that can be discussed and addressed at a future meeting.

After general introductions, Mr. Anderson turned the floor over to Mr. Harry McCann of the Emergency Services Committee who presented the attached PowerPoint presentation. (*See Attached*)

Following the presentation, the Board did field one question from Sal Azarra regarding one particular slide regarding the Auditor General's findings with respect to the Firemen's Relief Association. He stated that these financial issues have been addressed. Mr. McCann and Mr. Anderson took note of the comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paul motioned, seconded by Mrs. Achenbach, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Edited and Reviewed By:

A blue ink signature of Timothy J. Tieperman, Township Manager, written over a horizontal line.

Timothy J. Tieperman, Township Manager



WARRINGTON TOWNSHIP

The Plan for the Future Provision of
Emergency Services

Expectation

The purpose of the meeting is to update all attendees on the current status of the Emergency Services Committee's work and its report to the Board of Supervisors.

We expect there to be questions. We would like to encourage you to hold your questions, process the information that is provided and submit any questions you may still have to the committee through your internal processes.

The Emergency Services Committee will be glad to meet with the fire company at a later date to discuss any questions still remaining!

Background

In August of 2011 Chief Bean came to the township on behalf of the fire company asking for more help with daytime response. The numbers of available responders were trending down and the township staff used to supplement fire crews were short staffed and were not always able to respond.

Background

Warrington Township is not unlike other municipalities. It is experiencing a decline in ready, willing, and trained firefighters. The biggest pain is felt during the weekday. The best way to combat this challenge is to add staffing that can be depended on to support the efforts of the Fire Department.

The Start of a New Era

In January of 2012 John Paul charged by the Board of Supervisors, assembled a committee to look at day time staffing for the fire service. The members of the committee are:

John Paul
Harry McCann
Joseph Bonargo
William Reid
Lee Greenberg

The Start of a New Era

The Charge

- Look at options to support day time Fire Department Staffing
- Long Range Planning for Fire and EMS

Vision

To ensure a unified approach of public safety for the citizens of Warrington Township for the present and the future

Mission

To further the mission of Warrington Township by providing an open forum where members share, resolve challenges and engage opportunities across public safety disciplines and interests through the application of forward looking, collaborative philosophies, and techniques.

The Start of a New Era

- The Committee started at the beginning:
- “Who’s Responsible?”
 - The Township
 - **The Township of the Second Class Code Section 1553. Emergency Services-** (a) The township shall be responsible for ensuring that fire and emergency medical services are provided within the township by the means and to the extent determined by the township, including the appropriate financial and administrative assistance for these services. (b) The township shall consult with fire and emergency medical service providers to discuss the emergency services needs of the township. (c) The township shall require any emergency services organizations receiving township funds to provide to the township an annual itemized listing of all expenditures of these funds before the township may consider budgeting additional funding to the organization. (1553 added by Act 7 of 2008)

The Beginning of the Process

- The committee met with willing area fire chief's to get their thoughts on regionalization, mutual aid, and career staffing.
- The committee reviewed the Newtown Township study and drew parallels to Warrington Township and our provision of emergency services.
- Out of those meetings the committee was able to get a path to travel.

The Beginning of the Process

The committee focused on five areas of importance regarding fire service staffing.

Those five areas are:

- Financial
- Scheduling
- Equipment
- Standard Operating Procedures/Guidelines(SOP/SOG)
- Union issues/concerns

Staffing

- The committee presented options on the basis of supplementing the volunteer weekday staffing. There are multiple options which were dissected. There were several options that range in hours from 8, 10 and 12 hour periods. It will be the final decision of the Warrington Township Supervisors as to set the time direction. The stats show that minimum period for supplemental coverage should be from 0630-1630 hours Monday – Friday.

Staffing Options

- Hire 4 Full-time Employees
- Hire a host of part-time employees and have them fill 4 daily positions
- Hire 2 Full-time employees and a pool of part-time employees to fill 2 more daily positions (total of 4 working a shift)
- Don't hire anyone, and leave it as it is today

The Staffing Conclusion

After reviewing a neighboring township study, interviewing the neighboring township fire officers, and sensing that resource consolidation would not work at this time, the next option was to look into Warrington Township hiring its own firefighters to work out of the current Warrington Township Fire Stations.

The Recommendation

The Committee Recommended to the Board of Supervisors to hire 2 full-time positions and a part time pool to fill 2 additional positions. A total of 4 firefighters will be on shift at a time.

Research and What is Happening Now

The Emergency Services Committee had become aware that there have been many instances of non-compliance with the sound fiscal management of both the Warrington Community Ambulance Corps and the Warrington Township Fire Company (see Auditor General Report)

Research and What is Happening Now

In accordance with the audits performed by the Pennsylvania State Auditor General the Firemen's Relief Association of Warrington Township has a history of non-compliance. Many findings have been repeated over the last 10 years.

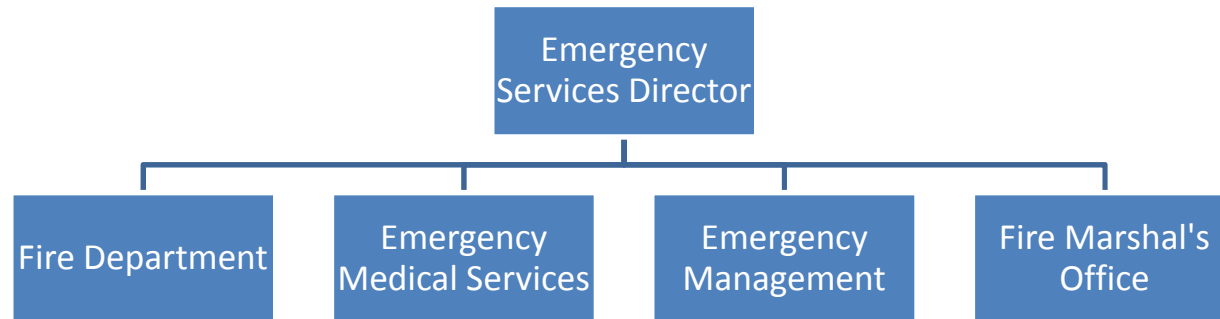
Recommendation

It is the recommendation of the committee that the township take the necessary steps to combine the services and resources of both organizations (Warrington Fire Department and Warrington Community Ambulance Corps) and create **ONE** Emergency Services Organization. The new organization would encompass the services presently being offered by the Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services, Fire Marshal's Office, and Emergency Management

Recommendation

Management Recommendation

The Emergency Services Committee will recommend to the Warrington Township Board of Supervisors that a Director of Emergency Services be employed to lead the transition and head the new Emergency Services organization.



Recommendation

The Emergency Services committees recommends a gradual approach of implementation with help from the entities involved.