

Township of Tabernacle

Town Hall
163 Carranza Road
Tabernacle, NJ 08088



Workshop Meeting Agenda

April 11, 2016 - 7:30 PM

Governing Body

Kimberly A. Brown, Township Committee
Joseph W. Barton, Township Committee
Richard J. Franzen, Township Committee
Joseph Yates, IV, Deputy Mayor
Stephen V. Lee, IV, Mayor

TOWN HALL ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Douglas Cramer, CPWM, Administrator	Terry W. Henry, Chief Finance Officer
Dante Guzzi, Township Engineer	Col. William C. Lowe, Emergency Management
Kimberly Smith, Tax Collector	Thomas Boyd, Construction Official
Peter C. Lange, Jr., Esq. Solicitor	La Shawn R. Barber, Township Clerk

www.townshipoftabernacle-nj.gov

DRAFT AGENDAS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

1. Call to Order Flag Salute Open Public Meetings Act Statement

2. Roll Call:

___ Mr. Barton, ___ Ms. Brown, ___ Mr. Franzen, ___ Mr. Yates and ___ Mayor Lee

3. Public comment on agenda items.

4. Mayoral Proclamations

- Parkinson's Awareness Month
- Proclamation Day: (April 25th) Heads Up, Eyes Forward!

5. Approval of Bills

NEW BUSINESS

6. Resolutions

Resolution 2016-54: Approving street opening permit for Block 809, Lot 29: 3 Alden Court.

Resolution 2016-55: Approving raffle applications for the Church of the Holy Eucharist.

Resolution 2016-56: Authorizing execution of a shared services agreement with the Township of New Hanover for Certified Recycling Coordinator Services.

Resolution 2016-57: Authorizing execution of a shared services agreement with the Township of Springfield for Certified Recycling Coordinator Services.

Resolution 2016-58: Approving Change Order 1 for 2015 Park Project- Phase 2A.

Resolution 2016-59: Release of Executive Session Minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

7. Discussion

- o Preliminary discussion of proposed ordinance to amending Chapter XXII, "Streets and Sanitation" excavation in streets.
- o Emergency Services Sub-Committee Report.

8. Reports

- Township Engineer
- Township Administrator
- Township Solicitor
- Township Committee

9. **Public Comment**

(Please state your name & address for the record, answers to questions will be addressed in reports.)

10. **Adjournment**

- Motion made by _____, seconded by _____.

Roll Call: Barton, Brown, Franzen, Yates, Lee

Ayes:

Nays:

DRAFT

**TOWNSHIP OF TABERNACLE
BURLINGTON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION 2016-54

RE: APPROVING STREET OPENING PERMIT FOR SOUTH JERSEY GAS COMPANY.

WHEREAS, South Jersey Gas Company, Rt. 54 Folsom, New Jersey 08034 has applied for a street opening permit for installing gas main at the following locations of Tabernacle Township:

- **3 Alden Court, Block 809, Lot 29;** and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer reviewed said application and schematic for approval of this installation and recommends that a permit be issued with these following stipulations and this permit will be contingent upon all fees and permits paid and bonds posted as required in Tabernacle Township General Code Ordinances.

WHEREAS, this resolution and the street opening authorized herein are specifically conditioned upon the applicant meeting the following requirements.

1. The Township Engineer shall be notified at least 48 hours in advance on any construction.
2. All asphalt paving openings must be restored with the following specification:
 - a. Two inch (2") thick, Hot Mixed Asphalt (HMA) 9.5M64, which replaces the Marshall mix design, top course. All top course paving must be completed 48 hours after installing stabilized base paving.
 - b. Six inch (6") thick, HMA 19M64, stabilized base course.
 - c. 20:1 sand/cement subbase.
 - d. Provide tack coat on all surfaces before paving.
3. All non-asphalt pavement restorations (i.e. lawns, etc.) shall be completed within 30 days. All lawns shall be restored with sod. The Township Engineer shall approve all other restorations.
4. Inspection escrow must be posted with the Township before start of construction.
5. The applicant must provide all outside agency approvals, as required.
6. SJG contractor will notify all residents along proposed pipeline path prior to construction start. Along with this notification, homeowners will be asked to notify the contractor of any items of concern that relate to their property (underground private structures such as sprinklers, property markers, septic and wells, etc.) along with landscaped areas.
7. SJG Contractor will attempt to meet with residents during the construction project to address concerns they might have.
8. SJG contractor will videotape area where pipeline is to be installed prior to construction start for documentation purposes.
9. Proposed pipeline will be installed by a combination of bore, plow and open-cut methods. Bore and plow are the preferred means of construction, but when open cutting of trenches occurs during construction of the project, the contractor will make every effort to keep disturbance to a minimum.
10. SJG contractor will restore all areas disturbed to same conditions and all non-vegetated areas must be reseeded.
11. All Township roads and paved driveways must use bore method of installation.

**TOWNSHIP OF TABERNACLE
BURLINGTON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

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Resolution 2016-54

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of Tabernacle Township, in the County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, hereby approves said application of a street opening permit for installation of gas service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution and the street opening authorized herein is specifically conditioned upon the applicant installing all pipelines under private paved driveways and public streets by boring under the private paved driveways and public streets. The applicant is not authorized to install pipeline by openly trenching through paved private driveways located in the right of way and/or public utility easement nor through public streets.

DATE: APRIL 11, 2016

STEPHEN V. LEE, IV MAYOR

**LA SHAWN R. BARBER, RMC
MUNICIPAL CLERK**

VOTE ON ADOPTION

	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Absent	Abstain
Joseph W. Barton						
Kimberly A. Brown						
Richard J. Franzen						
Stephen V. Lee, IV						
Joseph Yates, IV						

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Tabernacle at a meeting held on the 11TH day of April 2016.

**La Shawn R. Barber, RMC
Municipal Clerk**

**TOWNSHIP OF TABERNACLE
BURLINGTON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION No. 2016-55
GRANTING RAFFLE LICENSES TO THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY
EUCHARIST**

WHEREAS, the Church of the Holy Eucharist has filed applications with the Township Committee for raffle licenses to conduct raffles, and the applicant has paid the proper fees for said licenses; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Tabernacle believes that said applicant is qualified to conduct the raffles are bona fide active members of said organization and that the raffle will be conducted in accordance with the New Jersey Administrative Code 13:47; and

WHEREAS, the following raffle licenses are requested on the dates and during the hours listed:

RA: 2016-07	QUILT (OFF-PREMISE)	JULY 30, 2016 * 10:30 PM
RA: 2016-08	SUPER 50/50 (OFF-PREMISE)	JULY 30, 2016 * 11:00 P.M.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Tabernacle, in the County of Burlington and State of New Jersey, as follow:

1. That the Township Committee hereby approves the issuance of the aforementioned raffle license.
2. That the Township Clerk is hereby authorized to issue said license on behalf of the Township of Tabernacle.

DATE: APRIL 11, 2016

**LA SHAWN R. BARBER, RMC
MUNICIPAL CLERK**

STEPHEN V. LEE, MAYOR

VOTE ON ADOPTION

	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Absent	Abstain
Joseph W. Barton						
Kimberly A. Brown						
Richard J. Franzen						
Stephen V. Lee, IV						
Joseph Yates, IV						

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La Shawn R. Barber, RMC
Municipal Clerk

**TOWNSHIP OF TABERNACLE
BURLINGTON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION 2016-56

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICES
AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF NEW HANOVER FOR CERTIFIED
RECYCLING COORDINATOR SERVICES**

WHEREAS, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A: 65-1 et seq.*, any municipality of the State may enter into a contract with any other municipality or authority for the joint provision of any service that any party to the agreement is empowered to render within its own jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, representatives from the **Township of Tabernacle** and the **Township of New Hanover** desire to continue to sharing services of the Certified Recycling Coordinator which will result in cost savings for both government entities; and

WHEREAS, the Shared Service Agreement attached hereto has been reviewed and approved in content by the Township Solicitor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Committee of the Township of Tabernacle County of Burlington, State of New Jersey that the Mayor and Township Clerk be and are hereby authorized to execute the Shared Services Agreement attached hereto and made part of this resolution.

April 11, 2016

La Shawn R. Barber, RMC
Township Clerk

Stephen V. Lee, IV, Mayor

VOTE ON ADOPTION

	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Absent	Abstain
Joseph W. Barton						
Kimberly A. Brown						
Richard J. Franzen						
Stephen V. Lee, IV						
Joseph Yates, IV						

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LA SHAWN R. BARBER, RMC
MUNICIPAL CLERK

**TOWNSHIP OF TABERNACLE
BURLINGTON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION 2016-57
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICES
AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD FOR CERTIFIED
RECYCLING COORDINATOR SERVICES**

WHEREAS, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A: 65-1 et seq.*, any municipality of the State may enter into a contract with any other municipality or authority for the joint provision of any service that any party to the agreement is empowered to render within its own jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, representatives from the **Township of Tabernacle** and the **Township of Springfield** have met to explore sharing services of the Certified Recycling Coordinator which will result in cost savings for both government entities; and

WHEREAS, the Shared Service Agreement attached hereto has been reviewed and approved in content by the Township Solicitor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Committee of the Township of Tabernacle County of Burlington, State of New Jersey that the Mayor and Township Clerk be and are hereby authorized to execute the Shared Services Agreement attached hereto and made part of this resolution.

April 11, 2016

La Shawn R. Barber, RMC
Township Clerk

Stephen V. Lee, IV, Mayor

VOTE ON ADOPTION

	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Absent	Abstain
Joseph W. Barton						
Kimberly A. Brown						
Richard J. Franzen						
Stephen V. Lee, IV						
Joseph Yates, IV						

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LA SHAWN R. BARBER, RMC
MUNICIPAL CLERK

**TOWNSHIP OF TABERNACLE
BURLINGTON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION #2016-58

A RESOLUTION OF THE TABERNACLE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE ADOPTING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF TABERNACLE AND ALLSTATE LANDSCAPING & CONSTRUCTION, LLC FOR THE 2015 PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT-PHASE 2A.

WHEREAS, on February 22, 2016, the Township Committee awarded the contract for the 2015 2015 Park Improvements Phase 2A project in the amount of \$140,534.00 to Allstate Landscaping & Construction, LLC.; and

WHEREAS, Change Orders are regulated by Local Finance Board regulation N.J.A.C. 5:34-4; and

WHEREAS, approval by the Mayor and Committee is required for all Change Orders; and

WHEREAS, The Township Administrator and Dante Guzzi Engineering Associates, LLC, Township Engineer, have recommended that the Mayor and Committee approve Change Order No.1 as described below;

Change Order #1

Description of change in scope of work:

- Amount of Original Contract: \$140,534.00
- Total Change Order No. 1 Amount: (\$ 17,456.00)
- **Revised Contract Total: \$123,078.00**

WHEREAS, the adjusted amount of this contract based upon Change Order No.1 is **\$123,078.00**.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Tabernacle in the County of Burlington as follows:

1. Change Order No. 1 to the contract between the Township of Tabernacle and **Allstate Landscaping & Construction, LLC.** is hereby authorized by the Township; and
2. The Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute Change Order No. 1.

DATE: April 11, 2016

La Shawn R. Barber, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Stephen V. Lee, IV, Mayor

VOTE ON ADOPTION

	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Absent	Abstain
Joseph W. Barton						
Kimberly A. Brown						
Richard J. Franzen						
Stephen V. Lee, IV						
Joseph Yates, IV						

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Tabernacle at a meeting held on the 11th day of April 2016

LA SHAWN R. BARBER, RMC
MUNICIPAL CLERK

**TOWNSHIP OF TABERNACLE
BURLINGTON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION 2016-59
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF TABERNACLE TOWNSHIP
COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES**

WHEREAS, the Township of Tabernacle has a history of commitment to the public participation in its local government and to the corresponding need for an informed citizenry; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee finds that it is permissible to release the executive Session Meeting Minutes for the following dates:

02-25-13

03-10-14

04-14-14

07-28-14 Partial release is recommended. First and second paragraphs, concerning Brooks v. Tabernacle are redacted for release at a later date.

08-11-14

10-14-14

12-29-14

02-09-15 Partial release is recommended. Last paragraph concerning Brooks v. Tabernacle is redacted for release at a later date.

06-08-15

12-30-15

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Tabernacle, County of Burlington and State of New Jersey that the Township Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to release the following approved Executive Session Meeting Minutes for the following dates:

**TOWNSHIP OF TABERNACLE
BURLINGTON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

Resolution 2016-59
Page 2

02-25-13

03-10-14

04-14-14

07-28-14 Partial release is recommended. First and second paragraphs, concerning Brooks v. Tabernacle are redacted for release at a later date.

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06-08-15

12-30-15

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Tabernacle Township Committee at a meeting held on April 11, 2016.

Township of Tabernacle

La Shawn R. Barber, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Stephen V. Lee IV, Mayor

REPORT OF PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

March 2016

In late 2015, the Tabernacle Township Committee established a Public Safety Subcommittee to investigate and review the current structure and organization of emergency services throughout the Township of Tabernacle.

PURPOSE: The creation of the subcommittee and subsequent fact-finding mission was a result of continued conflicts between the two primary service providers over several years and revelation of a contract between the Tabernacle Rescue Squad and the Township of Shamong. Considering the public investment and service necessity that these organizations primarily provide to Tabernacle residents, the Township Committee wanted to fully understand the current design structure and potentially make adjustments where necessary. Throughout this process, the service providers have cooperated and continued to provide service at a very high-level which has highlighted the strengths of the two organizations.

Participants: The subcommittee was chaired by Committeeman Joseph Yates and included Mayor Stephen V. Lee, IV. Since the creation of the subcommittee in late 2015, we began to conduct a review of the existing Ordinances and contractual arrangements currently in place as they relate to the administration, management and delivery of emergency services specifically in Tabernacle Township. The subcommittee met individually and with many concerned individuals and organizations. We met on several occasions with various officers and members of the Tabernacle Rescue Squad and Tabernacle Fire Company No. 1. Meetings were conducted with the Tabernacle Office of Emergency Management, Tabernacle Township staff members, residents of Tabernacle and surrounding communities, various local government officials from surrounding communities, former Tabernacle Township Committee Members, the Tabernacle Township Administrator and county, state, and federal government officials. Because of the Township Committee's commitment to the issue we also reviewed emergency management structures in other states.

Current Structure: Tabernacle Township is very fortunate to be currently served by in some cases, multiple generations of volunteers and has historically enjoyed a strong sense of commitment from some very talented and committed individuals. The volunteer organizations make up the entire current structure for the delivery and management of emergency services in the Township.

1. **Emergency Medical Services-** The Tabernacle Rescue Squad and overall ambulance service has been provided to Tabernacle residents for several decades. The TRS has grown into an excellent organization under its current leadership and is doing a professional job servicing the community's emergency medical service needs with the help of a solid core of well trained and committed professionals. The organization has experienced significant growth since the planning and construction of the new Emergency Services Building. This building project was funded and continues to be supported by the taxpayers of Tabernacle, but it is worth noting that the TRS was involved with portions of the planning and continues to assist in maintaining of the current physical plant. It is clear that the new building, equipment and consistent financial support from the taxpayers of Tabernacle have helped to motivate the available core of volunteers which has existed for many decades. The TRS occupies the Emergency Services Building under a use and occupancy agreement. Although the TRS has been serving Tabernacle's residents since the early 1950's, only recently has the TRS been the authorized provider of Ambulance and Rescue Services in the Township pursuant to Ordinance. The TRS is funded by the direct support of the Township and the Township's provision of insurance, space and equipment. The TRS has also begun to bill insurance companies when possible for the services provided and those funds have become a significant source of funds exclusive to the TRS. In addition, the Township of Tabernacle economically supports the TRS for residents that do not have health insurance or limited insurance resources and therefore compensate the TRS for their services. This specific financial commitment decision is made by the Township Committee as a budgetary line item based on direction from the Township Administrator and the Tabernacle Rescue Squad.

The TRS has started a program of reimbursement for its members as a further motivation to serve and in order to reimburse members for the costs associated with their service. It is the subcommittee's understanding that the amounts reimbursed are roughly equal to the costs associated with volunteering their time and that the members are responsible for supporting documentation for the reimbursement amounts. The TRS has been able to fund the reimbursement program by using some of the money collected from insurance companies and has also been able to finance the purchase of an ambulance and other equipment including, but not limited to power stretchers for each ambulance. It is recognized by the subcommittee, that as a result of the hard-work of the TRS and their leadership in cooperation with the Township Committee, and Tabernacle's taxpayers, the TRS is one of the finest medical service organizations in New Jersey.

2. **FIRE Services** The Tabernacle Fire Company No. 1 has recently begun to serve the community's firefighting needs since the dissolution of the fire district. The newly formed Fire Company has taken over the fire service from the long and distinguished serving Medford Farms Vol. Fire Co. The TFC is funded by the direct support of the Township and the Township's provision of insurance, space and equipment. The Fire Company is an excellent organization under its current leadership and is doing a professional job servicing the community's firefighting needs with the help of a solid core of well trained and committed professionals. Firefighting service has experienced a substantial decrease in membership since the new Emergency Services Building was completed, the Tabernacle Fire District was dissolved and the Township Committee selected the TFC No.1 as their provider of services. The Fire Company occupies the Hawkin Road Firehouse under a use and occupancy agreement which was negotiated and signed in 2015. The TFC#1 is the authorized provider of firefighting services in the Township pursuant to law and contract. The Fire Company continues to provide reimbursement for its members through provision of the LOSAP program, which has been ongoing since the transition from MFVFC to TFC No. 1.

3. **Rescue Services** Rescue services in Tabernacle are provided by the Tabernacle Rescue Squad. Through the support of taxpayers with the purchase of a rescue truck (#99), the TRS has been providing this service at a high level. The rescue truck which was at the center of a lawsuit between MFVFC and the TRS/Tabernacle Township is now housed in the new Emergency Services Building, and will be discussed in detail later in this report.

4. **Emergency Management.** The Office of Emergency Management is comprised of the Emergency Management Coordinator which is a part time position serving the emergency management needs of the Township. The position is an appointed position and the Township enjoys the highly motivated and enthusiastic service of Colonel William Lowe (USA, Ret.). The EMC has an office and discharges his official duties out of the Emergency Services building which is funded directly by the Township. The office does not participate in the regular management or delivery of EMS/Rescue or firefighting services. However, the OEM and LEPC has an overall interest in the execution of EMS/Rescue and firefighting services and an acute awareness of other public safety issues in relationship to Tabernacle and its citizens. Without question, Col. Lowe and the volunteers that serve in the CERT are some of the most professional, true volunteers in town. Clearly, Col. Lowe has the respect and admiration of many, and we are very fortunate to have an individual of his stature working on behalf of the residents.

Findings: Overall, it is clear from our review that the Township is very well served by the individuals and organizations in the providing of emergency services. Each individual that has chosen to work in emergency services have made personal commitments to the community, its residents and their safety. This fact-finding mission has helped us to better understand the challenges and personal sacrifice made on behalf of the residents.

- 1. Fire Services-** Tabernacle Township is served by the same basic core of volunteers that work in the rescue squad. Some of these members originally served proudly with the Medford Farms Vol. Fire Co. Although many of the current members of the TFC#1 are also members of TRS, the Fire Company has experienced a decrease in membership since the opening of the Emergency Services Building and the dissolution of the fire district. The fire company provides an excellent level of service and preparedness for firefighting. It appears that there is some level of dissatisfaction associated with the fire company volunteers. The Fire Company Volunteers, in part, believe that their services are under-utilized and that the Township assigns a greater amount of responsibility and resources to the TRS. It is important to note that the volunteers of both the TRS and TFC#1 share an unmatched passion and commitment to serve the residents of Tabernacle. It is believed that the continued issues since the dissolution of the fire district have been a large cause in many of the issues we are experiencing today. The TFC#1 has continued to answer the call in spite of the internal issues they are experiencing. Although not thoroughly investigated, there is currently in-fighting and conflicts regarding the overall leadership of the organization.
- 2. Ambulance Services-** As referenced above, the TRS has been providing duty crews and has satisfied all regulatory requirements which allow them to bill insurers and Medicare/Medicaid for services. The relative response times are very good and the level of care as reported is excellent. It is worth noting that the level of service cannot be compared to surrounding towns. Since the beginning of the duty-crew staffing, the residents of Tabernacle now enjoy full-time coverage on a 24-hour basis with a scheduled team on duty ready to respond. The TRS has grown tremendously and is subsequently well-staffed and well-funded. The guidance of the TRS officers, the availability of the new and modern Emergency Services Building, a high level of funding and excellent equipment, as well as the member reimbursement program has motivated the volunteers and created a professional company and excellent service of both the EMS and Rescue needs of the Township. With the consistent support of the taxpayers of Tabernacle, the TRS has been recognized for their response, leadership, innovation and overall services throughout New Jersey. In 2013 they received recognition from the NJ First Aid Council for their accomplishments which clearly is well-deserved.

- 3. Rescue Services** In all communities in Burlington County, all rescues are provided by a fire company. In Tabernacle, vehicle rescues are “patient based” and provided by TRS while all other rescues with perhaps the exception of equine, are provided by the fire company. However, the TFC is a rescue provider through mutual aid in Woodland Township. There has been a debate with rescue truck #99 and overall rescue service between both the TRS and MFVFC/TFC#1, since the truck was acquired and is currently owned by the Township of Tabernacle.

In 2012, a lawsuit was filed between MFVFC and TRS over certain equipment that was used to build the truck for service. It is believed that this equipment is still in use today. This lawsuit was settled in 2013 for \$8,000 which was paid by MFVFC. Ultimately, this lawsuit was an unfortunate occurrence in the history of both service providers. Although TRS continues to provide dependable service with #99, this particular vehicle and the overall rescue service continue to be an issue between both TRS and TFC#1.

It is clear to the subcommittee that the TFC#1 would like to be more involved with the delivery of rescue services, and previously were the primary staffing agency for the rescue truck #99, as it was housed at the facility on Hawkins Rd. (Note: Tabernacle Public Works employees have also been utilized to staff the rescue truck in a support role). The Fire Company believes that the dedication of rescue services to the TRS has weakened the volunteerism associated with fire service. Unfortunately, this conflict has been increasingly difficult for dual-members and has been ongoing for quite some time.

The Fire Company members believe that the TRS has been too restrictive in allowing them to participate as part of the Joint Task Force #439 which has demonstrated a collaborative effort in the past.

Although speculative on the subcommittee’s part, this conflict is perhaps a result of the type of training required by Chief Jackson, who oversees #99. The TRS under the direction of Chief Jackson trains their members in-house under guidelines that are above and beyond what is required to be certified in other rescue companies outside of Tabernacle. Fire company members who may be certified in rescue are therefore not permitted to be part of rescue in Tabernacle because they do not meet the requirements outlined by the TRS. Chief Jackson has indicated that what works other places doesn’t work in Tabernacle. It appears that there is a sharp division among the membership of the two companies. More can be learned about this issue. There is little or no sharing of space and resources among the Fire Company and the TRS. Certain conflicts in the coordination and provision of EMS, rescue and firefighting services have occurred which have not been resolved to the satisfaction of either company. There is little or no communication between the fire and emergency services in the Township. Although some of the points are being repeated from above, the rescue aspect of service is a large issue which has led to the conflicts between the two groups.

General Observations There are a variety of operational issues that have developed between both organizations over many years that has resulted in the Township Committee making operational decisions which they are not only unqualified to make, but does not allow for the best mechanism for harmony between the two organizations. It has resulted in public political debate which has led to the Twp. Committee perceived of "taking sides" in the continued debates and raises service level questions within the community. Clearly, this is not the intended mission for the TRS, TFC#1 or the Township Committee, but the lack of resolution of various issues over several years has continued to divide two of the most vital, well-respected, and important services in Tabernacle. The conflict has negatively affected the ability of the Committee to focus on other issues and challenges affecting the community and its administration of government.

Through the billing of insurers, the income of the TRS has risen considerably in the last three years . The following is relevant income information from the financial audit reports of the TRS:

	2012	2013	2014
Net Assets (after expenses)	\$195,986.00	\$265,436.00	\$291,779.00
Income from Billing	\$0.00	\$151,108.00	\$225,269.00
Operating Revenue (before Expenses)	\$117,397.00	\$268,187.00	\$337,637.00

Since the billing began, the TRS revenue has increased more than 180%. The additional funds have been utilized to support the EMS operations, equipment purchases and the reimbursement plan for members. The income from billing and the surplus has been used exclusively for the benefit of the TRS. Thus far, this billing revenue windfall has not been used to reduce or offset the public support and monies contributed to the TRS by the taxpayers. The public support being provided to the TRS, includes direct financial support, the payment of fuel and insurance expenses and the provision of rent free space. It is believed by many individuals interviewed during this process, that the Township Committee must review the current public level of support and the current financial needs of the TRS. The Fire Company believes that the reimbursement program has weakened the volunteerism associated with fire service and that the LOSAP program is not equal in its ability to support the efforts of its volunteers. However, there were discussions during the contract negotiations that the TFC#1 may elect to modify its participation level in LOSAP. However, it is the current position of the Twp. Committee that those discussions must be initiated by the TFC.

During our investigative process, we learned that fire-fighting volunteers have the ability to be reimbursed for their services under the following statute:

N.J.S.A. 40A:14-81.4

40A:14-81.4. Employees and volunteer firemen;
reimbursement for expenses and losses

Any employees of a fire district and any volunteer firemen having membership in a volunteer fire company within the fire district may be reimbursed within the limitations of amounts appropriated therefor in the annual district budget for expenses and losses actually incurred in the performance of their duties.

The Tabernacle Township resources are providing significant support to our surrounding communities through its mutual aid obligation and the contract between the TRS and Shamong Township for the provision of EMS in Shamong Township on an as needed basis. It is difficult to quantify whether or not the mutual aid being provided in Shamong or any neighboring town is being directly subsidized by Tabernacle Township's taxpayers. However, the TRS has provided a list of the balance billed amounts for calls in Tabernacle Township which total \$34,070.28 for 2014. This represents emergency calls in Tabernacle Township that were not paid by insurance companies, but instead paid by Tabernacle Township to the Tabernacle Rescue Squad in four equal installments of \$17,500, or \$70,000 for the year. In 2014, that would leave a surplus of \$35,929.72 paid to the Tabernacle Rescue Squad to be used towards their overall budget for operational expenses. Although this number does not include the other areas of support the Township provides, it has successfully helped develop the TRS into a well-managed, well-funded, successful organization that provides an award-winning service to Tabernacle and its surrounding communities. Since the beginning of the billing era, Tabernacle Township has elected to pay more than the balance amount (2014-\$35,929.72) to avoid residents with no insurance to be billed for the service. The detailed report is an attachment at the end of this report and does not provided any billing income realized in Shamong Township. Clearly, this is a very successful process that provides Tabernacle with high-level medical service.

During the information gathering portion of the Subcommittee, the TRS and TVFC#1 was asked to provide information concerning their plans for the future and to share any long range plans or goals that they may have developed. The TRS responded by indicating that they could not develop such plans without direction from the Township Committee as it concerns the Committee's future intentions for the management of emergency services. This is understandable, as the TRS has worked with the Township of Tabernacle to help build the organization. Although the Fire Company did not provide a formal plan, they indicated a new fire truck is set to be delivered in 2016 and they are actively recruiting membership. Chief Dave Smith also indicated a potential willingness to merge both the TRS and TVFC#1 into one organization.

Recommendations

1. Establish a written contract with the TRS to define the rights, duties and responsibilities between the Township and the TRS regarding the provision of EMS and Rescue services to the residents of Tabernacle Township, and abolish the existing ordinance.
2. Abolish existing ordinance that designates TRS as the service provider as referenced above.
3. Promote the joint task force and ensure through a contract with the TRS and modifications to the Fire Company contract that all volunteers have a meaningful opportunity to participate in the delivery of rescue services in the Township.
4. Create a new department of Public Safety and position of Public Safety Coordinator through Ordinance to manage the relationship between the service organizations, coordinate the delivery of emergency services among the providers and establish the appropriate allocation of resources in the Township. The Public Safety Coordinator should be a combined position adding such responsibilities to that of the EMC and making it a combined position. The structure should include reporting requirements for the services, operational meetings between the providers and direct supervision of the Public Coordinator by the Township Committee with the Public Safety Department budget facilitated through the Township Administrator.

It is of the opinion of the Sub-Committee that the Public Safety Coordinator as a combined position will have to be a Township resident with a background and experience in the delivery of emergency services and should not be a current or former member of the TRS; Medford farms Vol. Fire Company, Tabernacle Fire Company No. 1., or be engaged in a perceived conflict of interest, (as determined by the Township committee) with any of the above listed organizations. The inability on the part of the current service providers to develop or otherwise share their long range plans and goals as is exhibited by the responses to the subcommittee's request for such information highlights the need for an expanded structure and the creation of the Public Safety Coordinator position to assist with short and long range plans for the future. In addition, the creation of the DPS allows for possible expansion of required service provisions in the future.

The ordinance should preserve the independence of the not for profit service providers. The Ordinance should provide for the adoption of rules and regulations regarding service, conduct, coordination and the allocation of resources, and the resolution of any disputes.

The Public Safety Coordinator should act as the representative of the Committee in working with the current service providers on all issues and make recommendations to the Committee for improvements in the coordination and delivery of service all the while seeking to take full advantage of all of the volunteerism existing in the Township. The Public Safety Coordinator should be charged with undertaking a comprehensive review of the current structure for the delivery of emergency service in the Township and provide a comprehensive report along with any recommendations for further change to the Committee. Reports to the Township Committee from the Public Safety Coordinator should be on a quarterly basis.

The main goals of the new department and Public Safety Coordinator must include the elimination of the reoccurring conflict between the service providers over resources and responsibilities and to ensure that the community continues to receive a high level of service as efficiently as possible. The constant conflict negatively effects service, efficiencies and morale among the service providers. There needs to be a lasting solution to this conflict. The Committee should consider the financial and overall strength of the TRS and recognize the organization for their accomplishments. Part of this recognition would be to eliminate or reduce completely the public contributions to the services they provide and allow them to truly operate independently of the Township of Tabernacle. Currently, the Township of Tabernacle provides a building, fuel, equipment, insurance and a financial contribution to the TRS. It is recommended by the subcommittee to greatly reduce and/or modify these public contributions to the organization to allow them to be truly independent of public support.

At the end of February of 2016, Mayor Lee, Keith Zane and George Jackson met directly on two separate occasions to discuss the details of a proposed contract between the TRS and Tabernacle Township. These meetings proved to be very productive although there have been no new negotiations since early March.

Future items to Consider

It is believed that combining the services of RESCUE/EMS/Fire under one company could be part of a long-range plan initiated by the respective providers in cooperation with the Public Safety Coordinator. However, it is not believed that this should be part of an immediate step or forced resolution at this time. There are severe public threats to national and local security which may create the necessity for the PSC role to expand.

In addition, it may become necessary to expand the service level by adding paid emergency service providers and/going through and RFP process depending on the situation and whether or not the taxpayer and residents would be well served through the use of a paid professional provider of EMS and Fire/Rescue services. Again, this is not a recommendation or consideration of the sub-committee at this time. It is simply a point of reference as an option that may need to be considered in the future

We have enjoyed the tremendous experience of meeting with everyone during this process. The passion, love, and concern for the future of Tabernacle which is shared by many of our residents were very evident in everyone throughout this process. This is clearly an emotional issue for many, and it was our responsibility to compile as many facts as possible to allow the Twp. Committee to make an educated decision in regards to the future of emergency services.

Respectfully, Mayor Stephen Lee IV and Deputy Mayor Joseph Yates.