

**TABERNACLE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 14, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kimberly A. Brown at 8:00 p.m. followed by the Flag salute.

Sunshine Notice: This meeting is called pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act. This meeting of December 14, 2015 was included in a list of notices sent to the Central Record, Burlington County Times and Courier Post. Posted on the bulletin board in Town Hall and has remained continuously posted as the required notices under the statute. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public, and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

Roll Call Those in attendance were:

Governing Body

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

Professionals

Douglas Cramer, CPWM, Administrator
Dan Guzzi, Site Plan Engineer
Terry Henry, Chief Finance Officer
Peter C. Lange, Jr., Esq. Solicitor
La Shawn R. Barber, RMC, Municipal Clerk

Mayor Brown opened the meeting up to the public regarding agenda items.

Stuart Brooks, Moores Meadow Road, questioned the Committee on the report of Tabernacle Rescue Squad will and if the public will be able to ask questions.

Mayor Brown responded that Tabernacle Rescue Squad is providing a presentation report to the Committee about their audit. This audit was previously provided to Mr. Brooks.

Fran Brooks, Moores Meadow Road, raised several questions on the bill list regarding the payments made to EMS Consulting Services, HHT for tire repair, mileage of Natalie Lewis and payment for Liberty Technology.

Mr. Cramer responded that the payment for Consulting Service is for training requested by fire chief to update EMT certification. The mileage for N. Lewis was for delivery of County reports several times. Truck repair was for truck 11 in public works. Liberty is the second half of the contract and additional repair cost.

Recess: Board of Health

Mr. Franzen motioned, seconded by Mr. Barton members recessed from their regular meeting to open the Board of Health.

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

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 **Motion carried.**

Burlington County Health Department Health Officer Holy Cucuzzella provided an update report for Tabernacle Township from January 1, 2015 to December 10, 2015. All the inspection reports are available online for the public. Ms. Cucuzzella reminded everyone that the Animal Shelter has wonderful cat and dogs for adoption and free through the end of the month. The activities reported as follows:

- Retail Foods – 23 Annual Inspections, 3-Reinspections, 2 preopening, 1 plan review, 2 Mobile/Temp Inspection (Approx. 4 remaining Inspections)
- Bathing – 3 Annual Inspections (At Camps)
- Youth Camps – 2 Day Camp Inspections (Camp Inawendawin, Pine Tree)
- Smoking – 1 tobacco sales complaint – sales to minors (Sunoco Discount Snacks – Rt. 206)
- Kennels – 1 inspection (Pinelands Kennel)
- Public Health Nuisance – 1 new complaint investigated (Trash & Debris: Elmwood Road, 7 Follow ups)
- Pesticide Program – 1- School IPM Inspection (Integrated Pest Management)
- Potable Water – inspections performed and 46 other activities (plan reviews, inspection of wells)

- Surface Water – 4 surface water samples
- Sewage Disposal – 189 activities (plan review, inspections, investigations, test pits)
- Air Pollution – 4 Air inspections (UST and Generator)
- Solid Waste – 5 Solid waste activities investigated / inspected
- Hazardous Waste – 9 incidents investigated
- Housing – 2 complaints, 1 re-inspection.

Public Comment.

Committeeman Lee questioned the position of the Board of Health regarding chickens.

Ms. Cucuzzello advised him that it really it depends on the municipalities as they do not take a stand one way or another, while there can be a concern of bird flu disease.

Township Clerk Barber added that Tabernacle Rabies Clinic will be held on January 9, 2016 between the hours of 9am to noon.

Closed to the public. Adjournment.

Reconvene Township Committee meeting. Mayor Brown reconvened to the regular meeting.

On a motion made by Mr. Barton, seconded by Mr. Yates members returned to the regular meeting.

Roll Call: Barton, Franzen, Lee, Yates, Brown Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 **Motion carried.**

Approval of Bills

ADOPTION - Motion made by Mr. Barton, seconded by Mr. Lee.

Roll Call: Barton, Franzen, Lee, Yates, Brown Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 **Motion carried.**

Red Lion State Police: Trooper Loveland (Community Policing Report)

Trooper Loveland advised everyone to be aware of telephone scam callings during this time of the year and to be vigilant of your surroundings while shopping and also to be mindful of drunk drivers on the road and to report anything suspicious to contact their local police.

Old Business

Residential Retail Rental Properties – Mr. Lange held brief discussion that the Committee resolved to modify the ordinance to potentially repeal the ordinance, which requires a fee. This precipitated was from Bob Perri to allow some inspections of problem properties to allow registration and to have contact with a person who is in charge with providing the information available. After a year ago, we passed our ordinance and a decision came down from the appellate division regarding residential rental property legislation. Mr. Lange requests that we will wait until further legislation for direction to find what we should do with our ordinance. The Township Clerk will continue to accept registrations but not collect any licensing fees, as it would be inconsistent with the appellate division.

SECOND READING ORDINANCE 2015-12: PUBLIC HEARING: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF TABERNACLE, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER V, ANIMAL CONTROL.

Public Comment. There were no comments from the public. Closed

Solicitor Lange added that all this does is make it a payable offense when you fail to register your dog for a license, rather than make a court appearance.

ADOPTION - Motion made by Mr. Franzen, seconded by Mr. Lee, Ordinance 2015-12 on second reading was offered for adoption.

Roll Call: Barton, Franzen, Lee, Yates, Brown Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 **Motion carried.**

Resolutions

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.

ADOPTION - Motion made by Mr. Lee, seconded by Mr. Franzen, Resolution 2015-149 was offered for adoption.
Roll Call: Barton, Franzen, Lee, Yates, Brown Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 **Motion carried.**

RESOLUTION 2015-150

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF TABERNACLE CONFIRMING THE FINDINGS OF THE MUNICIPAL ENGINEER AND AUTHORIZING A DRAW UPON THE IRREVOCABLE STANDBY LETTER OF CREDIT NUMBER 135 ISSUED BY PEOPLES SAVINGS BANK DATED JANUARY 13, 2006

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Tabernacle is aware of the action of the Tabernacle Township Land Development Board granting final major subdivision approval on September 1, 2004, as memorialized by Resolution 2004-19 adopted on September 15, 2004 relating to the property designated as 503.01 and 505, Lots 4, 5 and 8 on the tax map of the Township of Tabernacle; and

WHEREAS, the Land Development Board subdivision approval required the installation of certain public improvements subject to the approval and acceptance of same by the Township of Tabernacle; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Tabernacle has received a letter issued by the Township Engineer, Frank S. Morris, indicating that certain items of public improvement have not been installed in accordance with the plan and plat specifications for the subdivision known as Friendship Acres and designated as Blocks 503.01 and 505, Lots 4,5 and 8. See Exhibit "A" attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee endorses the findings of the Township Engineer, Frank S. Morris, and confirms that the improvements have not been completed, approved or accepted; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee believes that it is in the public interest to make a claim under the Performance Bond issued by PEOPLES SAVINGS BANK under Irrevocable Standby Letter of Credit No. 135, which was posted as a condition of the filing of the subdivision plat for Blocks 503.01 and 505 Lots 4, 5 and 8 in favor of the Township of Tabernacle in the amount of One Hundred Ninety Thousand One Hundred Ninety One Dollars and Twenty Four Cents (\$191,191.24), said original Bond being reduced by Township of Tabernacle Resolution 2007-67 dated July 23, 2007 to Ninety Two Thousand Four Hundred Sixteen Dollars and Thirty Two Cent (\$92,416.32); and

WHEREAS, the Township has attempted in good faith to insure that the applicant and builder complete the obligations set forth in the Resolution of approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Committee of the Township of Tabernacle hereby authorizes, a claim under Irrevocable Standby Letter of Credit No. 135 issued by PEOPLES SAVINGS BANK, in the amount of Ninety Two Thousand Four Hundred Sixteen Dollars and Thirty Two Cents (\$92,416.32), which sums are necessary to complete the installation and maintenance of public improvements for the subdivision of Block 503.01 and 505, Lots 4, 5 and 8, commonly known as Friendship Acres.

I certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Committee of the Township of Tabernacle held on the 14th day of December 2015.

ADOPTION - Motion made by Mr. Franzen, seconded by Mr. Yates, Resolution 2015-150 was offered for adoption.
Roll Call: Barton, Franzen, Lee, Yates, Brown Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 **Motion carried.**

RESOLUTION #2015-151

A RESOLUTION OF THE TABERNACLE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE ADOPTING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF TABERNACLE AND ARAWAK PAVING COMPANY, INC. FOR THE 2015 LOCAL ROAD PROGRAM PROJECT

WHEREAS, on September 28, 2015 the Township Committee awarded the contract for the LAKEVIEW DRIVE AND SPRING DRIVE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS in the amount of \$205,700.00 to Arawak Paving Company; 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 Administrator and Alaimo Group Consulting Engineers 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: See attached Change order #1

The amount of the reduction is \$5,287.96; and

WHEREAS, the adjusted amount of this contract based upon Change Order No. 1 is \$200,412.04.

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 Arawak Paving Company, Inc. is hereby authorized by the Township; and

2. The Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute Change Order No. 1.

I certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Committee of the Township of Tabernacle held on the **14th day of December 2015**.

ADOPTION - Motion made by Mr. Lee, seconded by Mr. Franzen, Resolution 2015-151 was offered for adoption.

Roll Call: Barton, Franzen, Lee, Yates, Brown Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 **Motion carried.**

RESOLUTION 2015-152

A RESOLUTION AWARDING CONTRACT FOR SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL SERVICES PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-1

WHEREAS, sealed public bids for the collection and disposal of solid waste were received by the Tabernacle Township Municipal Clerk on December 10, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has reviewed the recommendation made by the Township Administrator and Township Solicitor on said bids; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee conducted significant discussion and consideration of the matter including a review of the most recent contract for disposal services and the bids submitted pursuant thereto; and

WHEREAS, Exclusive Service & Maintenance Co., LLC d/b/a Garden State Removal was the lowest qualified bidder and submitted a conforming bid; and

WHEREAS, specifications were drawn to promote maximum competition for the public contract; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Director has determined that sufficient funds are available in accordance with the bid and the costs of the contract for year 1 and for the subsequent years selected.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Committee of the Township of Tabernacle, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey that the contract for solid waste collection and disposal services for the selected period commencing on January 1, 2016, be and the same is hereby awarded to Exclusive Service & Maintenance Co., LLC d/b/a Garden State Removal on the following bid:

_____ *Option 1: One year contract ending December 31, 2016*
Year 1 \$164,772.12

_____ *Option 2: Three year contract ending December 31, 2018*
Year 1: \$ 161,906.40
Year 2: 163,912.32
Year 3: 164,198.88

Total: \$ 490,017.60

<u>X</u>	<u>Option 3: Five year contract ending December 31, 2020</u>	
	Year 1:	\$ 161,906.40
	Year 2:	163,912.32
	Year 3:	164,198.88
	Year 4:	164,198.88
	Year 5:	164,198.88
	Total	\$ 818,415.36

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Tabernacle Township Committee at a meeting held on December 14, 2015.

ADOPTION - Motion made by Mr. Lee, seconded by Mr. Yates, Resolution 2015-152 was offered for adoption
 Roll Call: Barton, Franzen, Lee, Yates, Brown Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 **Motion carried.**

**RESOLUTION 2015-153
 RE: BUDGET TRANSFERS**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58 provides for appropriation transfers during the last 2 months of the fiscal year, to expend for any of the purposes specified in the budget an amount in excess of the respective sums appropriated therefore and there shall be an excess in any appropriations over and above the amount deemed to be necessary to fulfill the purpose of such appropriation; and

WHEREAS, the approval of this resolution to be adopted by not less than 2/3 vote of the full membership thereof, transfer the amount of such excess to the appropriations deemed to be insufficient.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Tabernacle that the following transfers be made:

FROM (inside cap)

5-01-23-215-20A	Workers Comp O.E.	36,000.00
5-01-31-447-213	Heating Fuel	5,000.00
5-01-35-470-202	Contingent	43,000.00
5-01-26-310-291	Public Bldgs. & Grounds O.E.	8,350.00
Total		\$92,350.00

TO (inside cap)

5-01-23-220-20k	Employee Group Ins O.E.	36,000.00
5-01-31-430-212	Power	5,000.00
5-01-20-165-204	Engineering O.E.	20,000.00
5-01-22-195-101	Construction S&W	29,500.00
5-01-20-122-101	Registrar S&W	100.00
5-01-20-130-101	Finance S&W	300.00
5-01-20-145-101	Tax Collection S&W	1,200.00
5-01-21-180-101	Planning Board S&W	250.00
Total		\$92,350.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution is forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer.

ADOPTION - Motion made by Mr. Franzen, seconded by Mr. Lee, Resolution 2015-153 was offered for adoption.
 Roll Call: Barton, Franzen, Lee, Yates, Brown Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 **Motion carried.**

**RESOLUTION 2015-154
 REJECTION OF BIDS FOR THE 2015 PARK IMPROVEMENTS PHASE II PROJECT AND REVISING
 SPECIFICATION AND INVITATIONS FOR BIDS BE REISSUED**

WHEREAS, the Municipal Clerk received bids for the 2015 Park Improvements Phase II project for work to be performed for Prickett's Mill Park and Patty Bowker Park; and

WHEREAS, sealed bids were opened and publicly announced the contents thereof at the designated time on December 3, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of this contracting unit pursuant to NJSA 40A:11-13.2 to reject all bids because the lowest bid substantially exceeds the contracting unit's appropriation for the service and it is necessary to substantially revise the specifications; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Committee of the Township of Tabernacle, hereby rejects the bids for this project and authorize the specifications be revised and invitations for bids be reissued pursuant to NJSA 40:11-13.2.

ADOPTION - Motion made by Mr. Franzen, seconded by Mr. Lee, Resolution 2015-154 was offered for adoption. Discussion: Dan Guzzi, Site Plan Engineer spoke of the bids that came in high the project includes dugouts roots and rehab of existing dug outs of wooden benches at Patty Bowker, as well as the replacement of concrete. The bid included six dugouts at Pricketts Mill, twelve at Patty Bowker and the Picnic area gazebo structure as an alternate. The low bid came in higher than what we had budget amount. Our recommendation is to reject the bids. The Engineer will scale the project back and purchase dugout structure under state contract and put bid out separate installation.

Mr. Cramer spoke of the source of funds being grant money.

Roll Call: Barton, Franzen, Lee, Yates, Brown Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 **Motion carried.**

New Business

Members of the Township Committee agreed to set their 2016 Reorganization meeting date for Monday, January 4, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Brown spoke that she will not be in attendance because she will be out of town since historically reorganization was held on January first.

Members of the Township Committee agreed to have their first budget workshop meeting for Monday, January 25, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

Public Comment

Marc LeMire, Washington Way, thanked everyone involved in the Township and emergency services for the tree lighting ceremony. It was a great and exciting success event.

Stuart Brooks, Moores Meadow Road, questioned the status of Mr. Rubin's fire insurance coverage claim, if the Township anticipates plans on providing future chalkboard presentation for the TRS financial reports and if the Committee plans to discuss those items at public meetings. Mr. Brooks questioned their rationale for choosing the August 1st date in the ordinance that established contract with the fire company and their financial statements.

Fran Brooks, Moores Meadow Road, spoke about the fire company roster for JIF and if the Township would receive a roster from the TRS since we cover their insurance.

Jason Litowitz, Hoseshoe Court, thanked everyone for the tree lighting ceremony and change in lights for the schools. He questions the status on how the talks are going with the fire and rescue. Mr. Litowitz spoke about Ms. Brooks Tabernacle Journal blog as mention of her privacy policy. He advises that if or when the Township Committee reads her blog when making decision to keep in mind that she does not guarantee anything on her site to be correct or update anything.

Closed to the public.

Report of the Tabernacle Rescue Squad

The following members of the Tabernacle Rescue Squad were present: Chief George Jackson III, Vice-President Terri Zane, President Jamie Wood, Assistant Chief Keith Zane, and Captain Stephen Cramer.

Chief Jackson discussed the history and budgetary status for the Squad since year 2000 forward to year 2001.

The Squad was visited by the prior Township Committee, Eileen Carlos and Fran Brooks to view the building and conditions in which they felt the station was inadequate, so it was promised to look into helping the Squad improve housing. The Squad's insurance was transferred to JIF under the Township to help save about \$30,000 in insurance costs.

At this point, Committeeman Lee questioned his presentation if it were discussion regarding emergency services moving forward. He thought it was believed to only cover their audit.

Chief Jackson response to its purpose of being here to talk about the history, goals that were set of and how the Squad got here today with its budgetary items with the Township Committee. Chief Jackson continued with his presentation.

In 2003-2004, the Squad met with Township Committee Kim Brown, Rick Franzen and Administrator Doug Cramer. At that time, the Township requested the Squad to stop begging on the corner for (coin-toss) fund raising. The Squad answers about 75% of the calls. Still, a concern regarding the condition of the station remained. The Squad needed more funding to improve equipment and have a better facility. The Township Committee at that time, committed to increase the funding of the Squad \$10,000 the first year, and yearly increases until it reached \$70,000 (maximum allowed at that time). The squad investigated the purchase of a new rescue truck for the Squad to improve rescue services to Township and investigated to improve the facility for the Squad. In return, the Squad would stop collecting money on the corner, improve service and training for members and investigate billing for service. These things above were to be rolled out over time and the Squad and Committee agreed their facilities had to be improved prior to billing. Also in that year, the Squad met with a property owner about a piece of property in the center of town.

In 2005, the Squad monies continue to increase incrementally and a Rescue Truck Committee was formed and the design of our new truck began. The Township Committee approved purchase and accepted bids for the truck. The Squad begins to combine training with the Fire Company for vehicle extrication. Both George Jackson and Doug Cramer began investigating potential lots for a new station and have discussions on addition to the existing building.

In 2006, brought in a nationally known rescue-training officer for roadway and rescue to revamp and improve education to members of Squad and Fire Company. Over the next three years \$20,000 was spent in rescue training. Finally, the new rescue truck was delivered to Township and Squad. The old rescue truck/ambulance was given to the Township for use. Soon the Township sold the truck for \$15,000 to recoup some monies spent on the rescue truck. The Squad purchased a new ambulance with Squad monies. Later that year, Tabernacle Rescue Squad was selected by Burlington County OEM to house one of two County mass casualty trailers.

In 2007 was the squad's first attempt to purchase property that fell through; however, Chief Jackson and Administrator Cramer began a Township search of properties in Tabernacle. Also, it was investigated to add to the firehouse and the existing Squad building. This same year, the Taskforce 43 dispatch protocols that started with the fire company.

In 2008, the squad's response improved to 90% for in town, improved membership numbers and became 1 of 4 county Rehab units.

In 2009, the Township purchased our current property after all the other options were exhausted and the Squad spent \$140,000 in architectural fees to design a new building. In town, the response is now at 93%.

In 2010, the Squad building became a Township wide project and the building became the Emergency Services Building by approving construction of new (ESB) Emergency Services Building. That same year, the Township ordered a new ambulance for the Squad and the Squad turned over the old ambulance to the Township for the use of an OEM/CERT vehicle. Later, there was a petition signed to stop the construction of the building and it was put on November ballot. The Squad, Township and residents had begun an informational campaign about ESB. As a result, the Building passed through a referendum during the November election. The responses to calls in town were now at 95%.

The ESB Construction begun in year 2011. EPCR training began for all members, signed up with Virtua MORE program for EMT training and Medical Direction and began the process to become a licensed agency by the NJDOHOEMS. The Squad mandated background checks for all members. All current members were fingerprinted and all new members were fingerprinted prior to being accepted by Squad.

In 2012, the squad finally moved into the ESB. The Squad spent \$40,000 of Squad funds to outfit the new station and became a licensed agency by NJDOHOEMS. At this time, the Squad saw a spike in membership adding four members who became CPR instructors. The squad began the process to become a billing agency.

In 2013, the Squad turned over the old station to Township for (\$1.00) a dollar; although the appraised value of property was \$400,000. It is now the Community Center. In January, they met with Township Committee and outlined plans for billing. At that time, the Township decided to allow the Squad to bill for service. The

Township requested that residents were not balanced billed. The Township agreed to pay write off amounts for residents to allow the Squad not to balance bill their residents; so the Squad requests funding to remain at \$70,000 for the next three years until billing funding could be determined.

In February 2013, the Squad began billing for services Squad members to commit to 24/7/365 days of coverage of town through duty crew program. From the start of this program, the Squad missed no calls that were dispatched anywhere in 2013. Next month in June 2013, all members became trained in Epi-pen and placed Epi-pens on all rigs. To date, the Squad has saved two lives with them.

July 2013, the Squad received Medicare and Medicaid numbers. It was clear that the Squad answered 695 calls in 2013 and logged 13,536.25 hours in duty crew and stand by coverage. *Tabernacle Rescue Squad is awarded the Outstanding Volunteer EMS Agency of the Year by the NJDOHOEMS.*

In 2014, The ESB became a regional training center for Virtua MORE program bringing valuable EMS training to members of the Squad. The Roadway Rescue returned for rescue training. The Squad spent \$15,000 on rescue training over next two years. All members are trained in Narcan and all ambulances began to carry Narcan.

The squad continued to work with OEM, CERT, Fire and Trail Riders Association for equine rescue. The Squad received specialized equipment donated by the SJ Trail Riders Association. Several officers completed EMS Officers training and the duty crew program continues along with multiple responses of 2nd and 3rd rescue incidents. The Squad continues with an ambulance replacement program with 4392 sent out for remounting, the mutual aid is used in town once in November, during tragedy while members were being debriefed. Mutual aid was also used on Christmas day to handle calls due to multiple crews being committed to a 2-alarm fire in the Township.

Members logged 18,047.5 hours of duty crew and standby hours. The Squad responded to 792 calls with patients transports, 602 in Tabernacle at 76%, 90 no patient transports at 11%, 69 in Southampton at 9%; 16 in Shamong at 2% and 15 in Medford at 2% (2015).

This Squad has successfully defended its organization from an ORPA Lawsuit, whereas the Squad was identified as an Independent Nonpublic Entity. The Squad received an O.I.G. opinion for the write off reimbursement from the Township. This certified that the write off reimbursement process is done within Federal laws.

The Squad used the mutual aid once this year when the DC was responding to calls and discovered a serious MVA. Central immediately dispatched mutual aid to life a threatening call as per policy. All other calls were answered during 2015, as of this date total 925 (66 were storm related).

The Squad provided the Township with independent audits as it has done in years past. Currently, the Squad's membership is at 65 members with 51 EMTs. The members logged 20,692 hours of duty crew and standby hours.

Member Reimbursement Program – In 2014, the Squad spent \$70,828 in reimbursement to members for the costs while answering calls, serving on duty crews or covering standbys. Mileage, Gas, Equipment, etc is allowed by state statute, which must be under what the average EMT makes in the area (\$13.00). Only for time spent on the trucks answering calls or providing coverage. The program costs about \$3.92 an hour for all volunteer hours covered which is reviewed and approved by the auditor. Members do not get reimbursement for attending meetings, training, or other administrative activities, meeting w/ Township, County and other groups, teaching CPR to members or other groups. The average member provides about 600 hours of coverage per year.

Chief Jackson spoke of savings to Township advising that the Squads operating budget expenses for 2014 is \$311,000. The Township provided the Squad with \$70,000 in 2014. The administrative functions of the Squad, command, operations, administration and billing are completed by the volunteers of the Squad. They met their goals.

At this point, Chief Jackson provided a comparison of the duty crew and standby coverage if it were covered by paid staffing. It would cost the Township \$565,027 and only cover the cost of the operational cost and staffing. This amount does not account for supervision of the staff (chief) or administrative functions such as a billing

manager. Also, it does not account for overtime or vacation/sick time expenses. Those expenses would be over and above the \$560,000 of the operation.

Jamie Wood, President of EMS, explained what the Squad is looking for 2016. Three years ago, the billing aspects and moving forward was discussed. She talked about moving forward without lessening services. They are right on target. They would have been last year but had a \$40,000 expense. They are moving forward of having the accepted amount of \$40,000. If the Township does not want to balance bill the residents, the squad would accept the amount of \$40,000 in return.

Mr. Lee spoke of not receiving any numbers on tracking the balance billing.

Ms. Wood is not looking for a motion just providing information, which was planned in October, but was not always conducive with their work schedule and they recognized the Committee might feel out the loop and are changing that.

Committeeman Barton spoke about the amount the Township gives the Squad (\$70,000) and its reimbursement to its members and spoke about the comparison if it were a paid squad.

Stephen Cramer, Captain, spoke of his experiences being both a paid member and a volunteer member for Medford and Tabernacle Township. It is a difference and the means for volunteers to receive LOSAP is encouragement for membership.

Committeeman Barton spoke about the agreement and being disturb about the Squad not coming to the Township in 2013 to discuss the reimbursement program, but still wants the Township to remain our agreement for three year for \$70,000 and then increased by \$15,000 the next year. Mr. Barton spoke of his displeasure of the Committee not being part of the discussion regarding decisions, as with the Shamong agreement. Mr. Barton spoke that he is going to keep an eye on if the numbers to see if other municipalities are not supporting themselves and if we are subsidizing one municipality with Tabernacle's tax dollars.

Committeeman Lee questioned if it were a viable option for the Squad to do a shared services with Southampton and Shamong Township if we are spending a good percentage in their town assisting in rescue.

Open to the public.

Ralph Schrom, 12 Hidden Acres Drive, spoke of being a little angry as it seems to be a witch-hunt and made a comment on following, but not attending many of the meetings. One meeting held, Fire Chief Smith spoke of the Squad and advised the Township Committee that people in the EMS are jeopardizing people's lives. Mr. Schrom also added that Mr. Yates spearheaded a sub committee for the squad to combine the fire and rescue services in one organization. Communication was good and he is just not sure what has changed.

Jason Litowitz, Horshoe Court, thanked the Township Committee and Rescue Squad for their presentation and spoke of the numbers in return being fantastic.

Stuart Brooks, Moores Meadow Road, spoke about the excellent presentation and spoke that he does not believe the Committee is going as far as they should by asking for information for exchange with the Committee to have fire and rescue services operate properly.

Craig Zee, 26 Elmwood Drive, spoke of combining the two organizations and questioned what happens to the bill, can it continue or will the Township loose all that billing that supports this organization and the services in this community.

Sandy Litner, Summit Drive, just wanted the Squad to know we appreciate all that they do; they are so committed. They put in so many hours, making us safe and we need to show them we appreciate them.

John Cooper, spoke of the presentation being excellent and would like to see something similar from the fire department, as it was overdo.

Committeeman Yates responded to the comment advising that it is not a witch-hunt and wants to combine emergency services to save taxpayers money having everything under one umbrella.

Report of the Township Administrator

Mr. Cramer introduced Thomas Boyd who is the new Construction Official and Fire Inspector for the township. Mr. Cramer provided the budget comparison figures as requested by Mr. Barton for the construction office.

In response to Mr. Barton's questions regarding 4 Wimbledon Way, the bank showed up and we are hopeful that the contractor will show up to clean up the property.

2015 JIF Dividend is \$9,550.00; the Mayor signature is needed to apply this to our 2016 bill, which is \$133,226 includes the Township fire and Rescue Squad.

Public Works was thanked for their work for the Tree Lighting ceremony.

Report of the Township Solicitor

Mr. Lange reported on receiving a request from the Haas Family to release their performance guarantee associated with the Lakes Sand and Gravel Sand Pit. They have not recorded the plat. The bottom line is that there is a potential that some work may be needed before the Engineer can adequately perform an inspection. They were advised to post an inspection escrow. The Township Committee would like to advance further discussion with the Engineer regarding the additional inspections needed.

Committeeman Barton thanked the Squad for the presentation and welcomed the new Construction Official. All the volunteers were also thanked.

Committeeman Lee thanked the Squad for their presentation and thanked them for taking public questions. He wished everyone a happy holiday.

Committeeman Yates thanked the Squad for their presentation and welcomed Thomas Boyd as the new Construction Official. Happy Holidays.

Deputy Mayor Franzen thanked the Squad for their presentation, welcomed the new Construction Official and gave appreciation to Suzie for being Mrs. Clause. Mr. Franzen spoke of tonight being a spirited conversation and appreciated this healthy discussion. We are working with a committee to perfect the event for next.

Mayor Brown spoke about unfortunately unable to attend the Tree Lighting ceremony because of her son marching in the Westchester parade. The fire company did a wonderful job with the senior dinner. On behalf of the Committee, thank you.

Mr. Cramer responded to Mr. Brooks question regarding the insurance carrier which is the Burlington County JIF and it was passed on to an RMC for Mr. Stuart.

Mayor Brown spoke about the comment made by Mr. Brooks about the Township Committee receiving a chalkboard presentation. She spoke that we had a good start tonight.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Mr. Barton, seconded by Mr. Lee the meeting was adjourned at 9:46pm.

Carried.

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

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted:

La Shawn R. Barber, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Approved: 12/30/2015