



TOWNSHIP OF TABERNACLE

163 Carranza Road, Tabernacle, NJ 08088
BURLINGTON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

TO: Mayor and Township Committee
FROM: Arch Liston, Public Safety Director
DATE: August 23, 2018
SUBJECT: Quarterly Report

PUBLIC SAFETY IN TABERNACLE TOWNSHIP

The Township of Tabernacle is a rural community located in southern Burlington County, with a 2010 census population of just under 7,000 residents. The population is mostly concentrated in the western area of the township with the major transportation corridor of US Route 206 running north and south.

Bordering the township to the north is Southampton Township, Medford Township to the west and south, southwest is Shamong Township. On the east borders is Woodland Township and touching on the southeast corner is Washington Township.

Understanding the location of your neighboring communities is important in the coordination of available resources during emergency situations along with types of emergencies that may occur. Small communities **MUST** depend on mutual aid to provide emergency services, as no township can provide all levels of service that may be required.

Emergency services are provided by three different organizations:

1. Police Services-Provided by the New Jersey State Police out of the Red Lion Barracks located in Southampton Township, just north of Tabernacle Township on US Route 206. All management and controls are through the state.
2. Fire Services-All fire services are provided by the Tabernacle Fire Company #1(TFD), which was the former Medford Farms Fire Company. A volunteer staffed organization, funding is provided annually by the Township along with fund raising efforts by the fire company through its established non-profit arm. The fire department has a rescue unit focused on "technical rescue," which is focused more on structural rescue and recovery. The TFD is housed at a building on US Route 206 and Hawkins Road provided by the Township. Members are provided with the Length of Service Assistance Programs(LOSAP), which provides long-term

Phone: (609) 268-1220

Fax: (609) 268-7430

Website: www.townshipoftabernacle-nj.gov

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compensation through a investment program established and managed by the Township. LOSAP is much like a 401K program for retirement.

3. Emergency Medical Services/Rescue-Provided through the Tabernacle Rescue Squad(TRS), which is an established 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Historically funding was through the township, but private party billing began in 2013 allowing self-sustaining funding for the TRS. The Emergency Services Building, completed in 2012 houses the TRS. Members are provided a "volunteer stipend," paid annually to members working "duty crew" staffing.

In review of relationships, both the Tabernacle Fire Department(TFD) and Tabernacle Rescue Squad(TRS) both have very positive relationships with neighboring emergency services.

EQUIPMENT NEEDS

Consideration for useful life of equipment must be reviewed by the of organizational needs. A paid full-time fire agency, running high volumes of calls would have shorter usage than a volunteer organization that has limited demand.

Replacement equipment for public safety equipment is far from an exact science. Below are recommended schedules for different types and uses of vehicles.

REPLACEMENTS

In Years

Engines	Ladders	Brush	Ambulances	Officers	Tenders
15	15	15-20	7 – 10	15	20

Other factors in replacement must be taken into consideration. Scheduled maintenance of a vehicles will generally have a longer life, however not all vehicles are built the same. You may purchase a vehicle that just does not hold up to the demand. Or you may have a vehicle with an extended life that runs for decades. Individual evaluations of vehicles should be done to determine replacement schedules annually.

Another major consideration of replacement is the financial conditions of the community. Debt schedules must be reviewed and integrated into long-term financial planning.

At the present time no need exists for vehicle replacement except for the scheduled fire chief's vehicle in early 2019 which is in process.

Preparation of the 2019 budget is in process. Numerous areas for reduction of costs are being reviewed along with revenue enhancements.

Tabernacle Fire Company

The TFD building is situated in a location that meets the geographic needs of Township residents, with the vast majority of population located within short distances off of the US Route 206 corridor.

Tabernacle Township is highly residential community with 2,534 single family units, with 96% being single family homes, 2% mobile homes and 2% multi-family units.1

Types of structures determine the fire equipment that may be required to meet the needs of the community. Towns with large structures or high-rise buildings have a need for extended ladder trucks. Rural towns without fire hydrants, such as Tabernacle Township have a need for "Water Tenders," or commonly known as tanker trucks.

The need for "water tenders" must be examined in respect to regional or mutual-aid demands. In review of regional assets for surrounding rural communities, Southampton Township have two tenders, and other neighboring towns having one(1) units each. The local and regional need for tenders are satisfactory.

Calls for service by the TFD through May of 2018 compared to 2017:

Through May 2018 94 Calls for Service(25% Increase)

Through May 2017 75 Calls for Service

Tabernacle Rescue Squad

The TRS responds not only to calls within the Township, but calls with the regional area. Data provided by Burlington County Central Communications for the first quarters of 2017 and 2018 calls for service are as follows:

January through April 2018 432(27.4 % increase)

January through April 2017 339

Basic Life Support services provided by TRS are well equipped with three(3) ambulances that are in-service. They are well maintained and well equipped to meet the demands of the community. Secondly, TRS has a Ford Bronco, 4-wheel drive equipped for response into wooded areas.

The level of **rescue equipment** in Tabernacle Township are well within acceptable levels, if not exceeding need. As you see from the random sample below, the community exceeds per 1,000 residents, the need for rescue equipment. Long-term need for replacement of rescue rigs is reduced due to both TRS and TFD having fully equipped active units.

The anomaly in Tabernacle Township is vehicle rescue falling under the EMS component of public safety, whereas county wide the rescue operations falls under the control of fire departments.

Rescue Equipment

Town	Population 2010 Census	Rescue Rig(s)	Units per 1,000
Chesterfield	7699	1	7699
Lumberton	12559	1	12559
Mount Holly	9536	0	0
Evesham	45534	2	22767
Florence	12109	1	12109
Medford	23033	3	7678
Tabernacle	6949	2	3475

Numerous interviews have been completed with members of TRS, TFD, elected officials, along with outside members of fire agencies familiar with local rescue operations. It is clear that an on-going conflict is occurring operationally between TRS and TFD at scenes of vehicle extrications. Under Township Ordinance 2011-3, the Township Committee designated rescue(not clear on what type) to the TRS. At that time the Medford Farms Volunteer Fire Department was assigned in a supporting role.

Through interviews, numerous volunteers, without exception, advised originally this function operated very well under a "Task Force" design, with both groups focused on the mission. Today, the conflict between the groups has become dysfunctional.

Therefore, I am requesting the change to amend Township Ordinance 2011-3, removing the rescue designation to TRS, to conform with Township Ordinance 2017-9 that reads under Section 1, second paragraph, last sentence:

"The Public Safety Director shall be responsible for the organizational and administrative control of the Department of Public Safety and all of its Divisions."

The change would allow for organizational restructuring to minimize conflict and create efficiencies along with better coordination within the Public Safety Department.