

Union Township Board of Supervisors
Workshop
January 27, 2014

The Board of Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Andrew Tullai at 6:10 p.m. The meeting was held at the Union Township Municipal Building, 3904 Finleyville-Elrama Road, Finleyville, PA. The pledge of allegiance was recited. Board Members in Attendance by roll call were Steve Parish, Larry Spahr, Andrew Tullai, Brenda Cushey, and Charles Trax, Jr. Also in attendance, Debra Nigon–Secretary,

Public Comment

Jonathan Madaras said that Elrama Fire Company will experience a loss should Jefferson Hills Ambulance move up to the new garage addition since they will be losing rental income when other sources of funding have already been lost.

The rent the Fire Department receives is \$600/month, for which they receive a garage base and a room with bunk beds and access to shower and facilities for the crew. They are also able to share the internet service of Jefferson Hills Ambulance; whereas the Fire Department supplies the phone for both.

Doug Detig of Jefferson Hills Ambulance said that some months the Ambulance Service is in the black and sometimes in the red, although not seriously in the red, but that times are tough and they did just experience a 49% increase for their UPMC Healthcare Insurance.

Mr. Detig said, in one Township, the Counsel implemented two taxes to support emergency services totalling .50 mils, with .45 of that being used to support the fire departments, and .05 of a mil (\$62,000 year) going to the ambulance service. He said that other municipalities, Mon City, Fallowfield, and Peters have also resolved the funding issue with a tax.

Mr. Parish said that LST collections have recently gone up with EIT collections and the LST tax was intended to support emergency services. It was discussed that funds from LST could be used to make a donation for the period of time following construction in 2014 when Jefferson Hills would be able to use the garage addition building, but that this was not a long-term solution.

Subscriptions were discussed. Jefferson Hills Ambulance said that less than 18% of residents subscribe. Elrama Fire Department said they got a 5% return on the subscriptions.

Both said that the legislative change affecting small games of chance hurt both emergency responders in terms of funding, and that gun bashes also may or may not be legal to do anymore depending on the passage of new legislation. They said that the changes require so much more paperwork and accounting, which someone must be paid to complete, that the requirements are too burdensome to make it worthwhile.

Board Approved: February 24, 2014

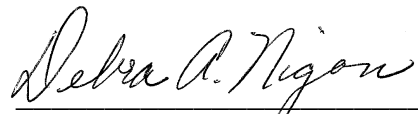
Mr. Tullai said that the Township needs to encourage subscriptions and asked that Jefferson Hills Ambulance and Elrama Fire Company provide the Board with a list of needed items, and a plan for what they would do with any funds generated from increased subscriptions.

It was decided that the Board has some time to continue thinking about a long term solution to emergency services funding issues, and in the short-term can assist the Fire Department should it be needed.

Motion to adjourn at 6:39 p.m..

Motion by Larry Spahr, Second by Brenda Cushey

Roll call vote: Parish=yes, Spahr=yes, Tullai=yes, Cushey=yes, Trax=yes, . Motion carried.


Debra A. Nigon, Secretary