

Upper Milford Township
Board of Supervisors
Township Building, Old Zionsville, PA 18068
October 16th, 2023, 7pm
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Supervisors, Joyce K. Moore, John D. Zgura, Daniel J. Mohr; Manager Edward Carter, Secretary/Treasurer Jessi O'Donald, Chief Michael Kline, Assistant Chief Wayne Shade, Chief Kris Bawden, Deputy Chief Lucas Andrews, ESC Members Timothy Anger and Joesph Terrible

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

This meeting is being recorded principally to aid in the preparation of Minutes and for such other purposes as the Board sees fit. For that reason, will each person wanting to give any comments during this meeting, please state your name for the record and address the Board of Supervisors.

PUBLIC INPUT: No Input

BUSINESS:

1.) Discussion with Fire Companies

Kevin Kleinsmith presented information from Western District Fire Company outlining their revenue estimates including cell tower revenue, grants, fundraisers as well as their equipment costs and expenses. Kevin outlined some of the items that have driven costs up dramatically in a few years' time. In this presentation they gave information on a company that does grant writing for Fire Companies. The Tanker Pumper that is ordered for Western District Fire Company is at a cost of 1.4 million and that is just the truck, it still needs equipment on the truck.

There was a discussion on needs and possible solutions:

Phil Casey expressed his concern over the purchase of new equipment versus repair of old equipment. He also asked about a referendum for the Taxpayers to say what they are willing to spend. He suggested putting this information in the newsletter again.

Chief Kris Bawden was asked about the needs of Vera Cruz Fire Company. He stated that in the next two years they will be forming a truck committee to spec out a new truck for their department. They will need a new one to replace the two-seater tanker that is leaking. The trucks they have looked at may fit into their building or the building may have to be expanded just in the bay that will house the truck for length. The quote they had received before was approximately \$15,000 to expand the bay. Their doors and ceiling are tall enough for the new trucks. The parking lot needs to be paved at the Fire House.

Joe Terrible discussed the previous five-year plan. He talked about the expense of the new equipment and how the only way to fund the fire companies may be an increase in taxes because the cost of the new trucks is just not something that anyone can raise with smaller fundraisers. The Fire Companies can raise funds for their day-to-day operations but need help with the major capital

purchases and those costs now outweigh anything that was thought of five years ago. He asked if the Board wanted to see just a capital expense budget for 5 and 10 years. It was discussed that the Board should know both the capital expense budget and the day-to-day operations budget.

There was more discussion on a referendum, audits of the Fire Companies and newsletters. Jessi offered that the newsletter committee was accepting article for the next newsletter in March and that the volunteers might be better at educating the public than she might be. Russ Siminski offered to contribute an article for the Newsletter. Shelly Zgura offered that it might be good to give percentage of households at donate to the Fire Companies.

It was decided to have another meeting next month after the Fire Companies can get a 5 and 10 year plan together.

OTHER ISSUES: - None

REPORTS:

Township Manager:

Bud Carter – No Report

Supervisors:

John D. Zgura – No Report

Daniel J. Mohr – No Report

Joyce K. Moore – No Report

EXECUTIVE SESSION: - Not needed

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm
