

Upper Milford Township
Board of Supervisors
Township Building, Old Zionsville, PA 18068
November 13th, 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, Secretary Kevin Kleinsmith, Chief Kris Bawden, Assistant Chief Joseph Sherman, ESC Members Timothy Anger and Joesph Terrible

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

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: None

BUSINESS:

1.) Discussion with Fire Companies

Joe Terrible started with the presentation of the next 5–10-year plan for the fire companies. Joe and Tim Anger had met with each Fire Company individually and then with both as a group to discuss their needs. The combined needs of the Fire Companies over the next 5-10 years are approximately 9 million dollars. The conversation next is how to help them, as volunteers it will be hard to keep up with that amount of fundraising. One point discussed was combining fire companies. It was discussed that would lead to lower ratings for homeowners' insurance as it would put people outside the five-mile radius of a Fire Department and lengthen Response times to the Station. Property tax was discussed. Jim Krippe wanted to make sure we all understood that the Township takes in more than property tax. It was noted that Property tax is the only revenue stream that can be increased, and Upper Milford Township is the lowest of Lehigh County in Property Taxes. It was noted that a Fire Tax gives the ability to guarantee the revenue is directed towards the fire Companies however, there are concerns that a fire tax would lessen the ability to draw support for fundraisers. The Fire Company may have to give up some autonomy if the Township takes over purchasing future equipment. There would need to be guarantees for the residents if they are purchasing the equipment. The Vehicles would have to be titled or owned by the Township, or an agreement that if the Fire Company defaults in calls or payments the equipment then belongs to the Township. Angela Ashbrook asked about the numbers presented and if it was thought that a general tax increase wouldn't be equated with the Fire Companies if the funds ended up with them. Joe Terrible explained that the numbers were what was needed and as presented. It was noted with the Budget already advertised that any increase would be for the 2025 Budget. Phil Casey made a few comments on taxes. Scott Drobnis also comments on the response times.

The meeting ended with the Fire Companies and Volunteers tasked with determining the amount of funding they are asking to be provided from the Township to be presented in January.

OTHER ISSUES: - Joe Sherman spoke about an article in the Moring Call about PFAS Chemicals in the Fire Protection gear not just the foam.

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 7:58 pm.

Chairperson Joyce K. Moore

11/16/2023
Date

Secretary Jessi O'Donald