

Lower Oxford Township

Special Meeting of Multiple Municipalities Minutes

November 12, 2015

A joint Special Meeting of East Nottingham Township, Elk Township, Lower Oxford Township, Oxford Borough, Upper Oxford Township, and West Nottingham Township was held at the Lower Oxford Township Building, 220 Township Road, on Thursday, November 12, 2015. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Union Fire Company No. 1 Fire and Ambulance proposed contracts and payments for 2016.

The following were in Attendance: Winifred M. Sebastian, Attorney at Law. Robert Prettyman, Sr., Bob Prettyman, Jr., Sharon Goldie-Ayers, Richard Terry, Chris Obenchain, William Meadowcroft, and Nicholas Sawyers, all from the Union Fire Company No. 1. Scott Blum, Art Rieck, and John Coldiron from East Nottingham Township. Estace Walters and Albert Jezyk, Jr. from Elk Township. Ken Hershey, Ron Kepler, Joel Brown, and Sara Laganelli from Lower Oxford Township. Randy Teel, Jr., John Thompson, and Randy Grace from the Oxford Borough. Scott Rugen from Upper Oxford Township. Eric Todd and Charles Wilmont from West Nottingham Township. There were five guests.

CALL FOR QUORUM

Mrs. Winifred M. Sebastian called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. East Nottingham Township had a quorum. Elk Township had a quorum. Lower Oxford Township had a quorum. Oxford Borough Council did not have a quorum. Upper Oxford Township did not have a quorum. West Nottingham Township had a quorum.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mrs. Sebastian led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT CONCERNING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None.

APPOINT ACTING SECRETARY

Mr. Scott Blum moved to appoint Sara Laganelli as East Nottingham Township's Acting Secretary for this special meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Estace Walters moved to appoint Sara Laganelli as Elk Township's Acting Secretary for this special meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Kepler moved to appoint Sara Laganelli as Lower Oxford Township's Acting Secretary for this special meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Eric Todd moved to appoint Sara Laganelli as West Nottingham's Acting Secretary for this special meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

EXPLANATION OF MEETING

Mrs. Sebastian explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed 2016 Fire and Ambulance Contracts proposed by the Union Fire Company. In years past, there was one contract that covered all services by the Fire Company to the municipalities. For 2016, the Fire Company has requested a separate contract and payment for the Ambulance services.

FIRE COMPANY AND AMBULANCE DIVISION PRESENTATION

Mr. Robert Prettyman, Sr., Chairman of the Board of Directors, set the tone for the meeting. He said that he was excited to be at another meeting! He introduced the members present at the meeting. Mr. Prettyman, Sr. read the Municipal Code about Emergency Services. He said that they have met their legal obligation by providing the financial information. Mr. Prettyman, Sr. was excited to tell everyone that he had come up with two solutions. The first was that the Townships don't sign the contract or give the Fire Company any money and the Fire

Company would have no obligation to help the Townships. The second solution was that the Townships sign the contract, but only give partial payment. In which case, the Fire Company would cut back on services and be closed on Saturdays and Sundays. Mr. Prettyman, Sr. said that he was not there to argue and he did not want to hear anything about fundraising or more volunteer hours.

QUESTIONS FROM MUNICIPALITIES

Mrs. Sebastian asked the following questions on behalf of the municipalities:

1. How old are the Union Fire Co. trucks vs. other fire company's in our area?
2. If the Fire Co. is going to eliminate fundraising and depend solely on municipal funding, then will they appoint an official from each municipality to be on the Fire Co. Board?
3. Who makes the decision to buy new equipment and is it put out to bid?
4. How old are the ambulances and when do they get replaced?
5. Do you have a 2016 Budget for review?
6. For the Ambulance, do you bill for all pick-ups?
7. What percentage of you billings do you not collect?
8. What does the income from your Fund Drive mean?
9. Do you have a membership program for the Ambulance?
10. What is the largest anticipated expense increase in 2016 for the Ambulance?
11. What were the pay raises for paid Ambulance employees in the last two years?
12. Do you use any of the income from your \$2.5 million of investments for your Ambulance operating budget?
13. In 2013, donations from fund raising were \$56,236; at \$25 per household, this means that 2,240 households contributed. Do you feel this was a good response?
14. Why in 2013 was the hall rental income a loss?

The Fire Company members answered each question to the best of their knowledge. Mr. Prettyman, Jr. said that moving forward, they would like to form a committee with one representative from each municipality to meet with them on a quarterly basis.

There was some discussion on the process in which the Fire Co. purchases apparatus. Mr. Obenchain explained that the fire trucks on a 20-year replacement schedule. Mr. Sawyers said that the Ambulances are replaced about every 7 years.

Mr. Scott Blum, East Nottingham Supervisor, said that the Township's would like more involvement to see how the taxpayers' money is being spent. He appreciates everything they Fire Co. volunteers do.

Mr. Randy Grace, Borough Council Member, asked about fundraising.

Mr. Charles Wilmont, West Nottingham Supervisor, asked about the process for ordering a new fire apparatus or ambulance.

Mr. Joel Brown, Lower Oxford Supervisor, asked for more details about why the banquet hall isn't generating any income.

Mr. Larry Maulo, CPA, asked why the returns from the fund drive were in decline. He inquired about their budget process and wanted to know what the increase of funding will be used for. Mr. Maulo suggested the Ambulance Division use a membership program like others around us. If a citizen is a member of the Ambulance and uses the services, then they would have their deductible waived. He also asked why the audited financials weren't done until November?

Mr. Hershey asked what we could do to help; do we need to talk to the folks in Harrisburg?

Mr. Scott Rugen said that the audited financial statements were great and what the Townships need.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

No actions were taken by any of the municipalities that had a quorum. All of the meetings were adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara B. Laganelli
Acting Secretary