

**COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**WORK SESSION**  
**OCTOBER 7, 2014**  
**NOTES**

The work session was called to order by Chairman Lynn Kelly at 6:01pm in the meeting room of the Coolbaugh Township Municipal Center, 5520 Municipal Drive, Tobyhanna, PA.

**Board Members present:**

Lynn Kelly, Robert M. Zito, Juan A. Adams, Fred Pope and Bill Weimer

**Staff present:**

Doug Hein, Business Manager / Controller, Jerry Hanna, Solicitor.

Ms. Kelly announced that this work session is being recorded to aid in the preparation of the notes.

1. **Proposed Township Resolution #05-2014 - disbursement of the funds from the one mill fire tax revenue for fiscal year 2014 to the volunteer fire companies that provide coverage to Coolbaugh Township**

Ms. Kelly gave a rundown of the process used previously by the Supervisors to disburse funds to four volunteer fire companies who service Coolbaugh Township.

Mr. Zito stressed that if any changes in distribution were to occur, some or all would need to sacrifice.

Mr. Dave McFadden of Thornhurst Fire Company commented, saying he felt his company was not receiving their fair share, suggesting that they should receive an amount equal to \$30.00 per home in Coolbaugh Township which they cover.

Mr. Hanna stated that the Supervisors might want to consider changing language in the preceding ordinance relating to allowable expenses for this tax, suggesting that it could mirror language in the Second Class Township Code.

Mr. Ed Tutrone asked if Tobyhanna Township Fire Company was included in the proposed resolution. Mr. Troy Counterman stated that he had, in his hands, a proposal from the Coolbaugh Board of Supervisors from 2010, requiring a "dual dispatch" with Thornhurst. The Supervisors present did not recall such a proposal from the entire Board, at which time Mr. Tutrone stated that this proposal was

made at a meeting with Monroe County Control Center by one former Supervisor. A heated discussion took place.

Mr. Counterman also said that in 2013 our Fire Chiefs changed coverage areas, something he as Tobyhanna Fire Chief was not authorized to do.

Mr. George Talmage of Pocono Summit claimed that at meetings last year he requested that Tobyhanna Township be included, although these requests were not brought to the Coolbaugh Board of Supervisors.

No further comments were heard, at this time, regarding the distribution of Fire Tax revenue.

## **2. Five Year Fire Company Service Agreements**

- **Coolbaugh Township Volunteer Fire Company**
- **Gouldsboro Township Volunteer Fire Company**
- **Pocono Summit Volunteer Fire Company**
- **Thornhurst Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company**

Ms. Kelly told those present that all current contracts with four fire companies are in their last year.

Mr. F. Pope said that before agreeing to any new contracts that all companies be required to provide an audited financial statement to the Township. Various comments were made relative to the cost of an annual audit and the financial burden it might place on the companies. It was suggested that our CPA, Todd Bushta be called to offer his opinion on audit requirements.

Ms. Michele Fairservice stated that we need to require financial statements from Coolbaugh Township Volunteer Fire Company before asking the other companies to supply audited statements.

Mr. Dave Pope supported the request that Tobyhanna Township Fire Company, if they are covering part of our Township, should receive a portion of the tax.

Ms. Phyllis Williams suggested that we research the necessity of dual coverage and pointed out that our Township contains great areas of uninhabited land (gamelands, etc.)

Mr. Adams praised the service of the Fire Chiefs present.

## **3. Other Business**

**None.**

4. **Public Input**

**None.**

**Ms. Kelly adjourned the Work Session at 6:47pm.**