

**COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY APRIL 28, 2014
MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lynn Kelly at 7:00pm in the Thornhurst Fire & Rescue Company, 356 Old River Road (formerly 125 River Road) Thornhurst, PA.

Ms. Kelly led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members present:

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

Announcements:

Ms. Kelly announced the following:

- The public would be given an opportunity to speak on each agenda matter and that public input would be considered at the end of the meeting for other issues.
- The meeting is being recorded to aid in the preparation of the minutes.

1. **Question and answer session between Coolbaugh Township Supervisors and Thornhurst Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company Ambulance Squad ONLY**

Ms. Kelly began by asking Captain Sue Remak of Thornhurst Ambulance the following questions, which had been previously submitted to Thornhurst Ambulance.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Supervisors want to see detailed deposits and expenditures for the last 7 years.

A: The answers were not available at this time. They will be obtained from TVFRC.

Q: In light of the fact that you have serviced over 2,000 homes in the Coolbaugh section of Arrowhead Lakes, have you ever requested a one time or an annual contribution from Coolbaugh Township? If not, have you not done so because you fear a loss of autonomy? Would you be willing to be subject to oversight by Coolbaugh Township in exchange for an annual contribution from the Township? Would you be willing to, if feasible, merge or consolidate with PMREMS if that were proven to be in the best interests of the residents you serve?

- A: No contributions have been requested for 35 years. Requests went to several Townships for assistance in March. No responses were forthcoming.
- Q: Would you be willing to, if feasible, merge or consolidate with PMREMS if that were proven to be in the best interests of the residents you serve?
- A: At this time TVA doesn't feel there is a need, but that decision would fall back on the Thornhurst Fire Company.
- Q: Do you owe money to PMREMS?
- A: As far as they know they are up to date. Thornhurst Ambulance said that one problem was that they had not been billed from PMREMS for a period of approximately eight months.
- Q: How many stations do you operate? How many ambulances do you have? What were the total number of calls you responded to in 2013? Please breakdown by type and area (municipality).
- A: TFC owns two stations that TVA uses. TVA owns two ambulances in full – no loans outstanding. TVA responded to 365 calls in 2013 (139 in Coolbaugh Township – 59 of those calls were ALS calls). A detailed breakdown by municipality was given.
- Q: How many full time employees do you have? Part time? Per diem? How many volunteers do you have? Are any of the volunteers also paid employees?
- A: No full time employees. Six part-time employees. Approximately six per diem employees. No persons are both volunteers and paid employees. At this time there are approximately 26 paid employees. Shifts generally run 12 hours (6am – 6pm / 6pm – 6am). Most of the paid employees are working three 12 hour shifts per week.
- Q: What is your salary range for an EMT? What other positions do you have and what is the range of salary for each?
- A: Starting base salary is \$10.00 per hour. Employees must have EMT and EVOC training. Approximately seven administrative / supervisory positions.
- Q: Do you own your buildings? If not, what are your guidelines and cost for use? Include utilities you may pay. Please list last year's total revenue and expenses?
- A: Buildings are owned by TVFRC and they are gracious enough to allow TVA use of the buildings. THVFC pays the vast majority of the bills for these buildings.

Q: What arrangement did you have with PennDot during the bridge construction? Do you have volunteers and paid employees on the same shift?

A: PennDot paid the wages and the majority of taxes to staff the Arrowhead Lakes substation. TVA expended approximately \$16,000.00 - \$18,000.00 during this period to staff the substation for the safety of the residents in that area. Volunteers sometimes work with the paid crew members.

Q: Are volunteers or paid employees allowed to respond to calls from home? What procedures are in place to assure that travel time to the station does not negatively affect response time?

A: Statistics from MCCC show that for 2012 - 2014 PMREMS, on average, is on scene to emergencies in the Arrowhead Lakes / Thornhurst areas 7-8 minutes later than TVA.

Q: Do you provide any non-wage benefits to your employees? Please list them. Are financial records maintained in house or do you hire an outside firm? Please be specific to each type of bookkeeping function, that is payroll, billing, accounts payable and annual tax returns.

A: Non-wage benefits; uniforms, shots, schooling. Day to day financial operations are done by the TVA Treasurer. Financial statements / taxes are done by Jeff Cornley, CPA. Third party billing is done by Enhancement Billing.

2. Electrical Upgrade – Municipal Complex Outside Lighting

Ms. Kelly explained the proposed upgrade and the need to proceed tonight, as substantial financial incentives offer by PPL would be in early May. The next cost of the project, after PPL incentives, would be \$9,368.00

Mr. Weimer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Adams to approve moving forward with upgrading outside lighting at the Municipal Complex, at a net cost, after PPL incentives, of \$9,368.00.

- **Discussion: None.**
- **Vote: All in favor. Motion Passed.**

3. Public Input on Thornhurst Volunteer Ambulance Issue

Public comment on this issue lasted approximately 1 hour and 25 minutes. Those who spoke in support of Thornhurst Volunteer Ambulance (in order of speaking) were: Sue Remak, Steven MacDonald, Jim Howely, Judy Remak, Carol Bombeck, Dawn McFadden, name unintelligible, name unintelligible, Delores

Skidmore, Linda Sullivan, Elmer Money, Patricia Loeb, Monica Money, Peter Venditti, Sal Mancini, Jeffrey Dupre, Andrew Burkry, Bonnie Rafer, Joyce Onsted, Michael Begey, Joseph Grab, Jr., Frank Cancione, Thomas (last name unintelligible), President of Gouldsboro Ambulance (name unintelligible), Charles Stoudt, Aaron Tiven, Harry Smith and name unintelligible.

Ed Tutrone spoke about the makeup of the PMREMS.

Further comments in support of TVA continued from Jim Pryor, Richard Bonzi, Elmer Money, Steven MacDonald, Jack (last name unintelligible), Mike Leone, (first name unintelligible) Roberts and Sue Remak.

4. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Weimer, seconded by Mr. F. Pope, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING: May 6, 2014

- **Work Session – 6:00pm**
- **Business Meeting – 7:00pm**

Submitted by: _____
Robert M. Zito, Township Secretary

Witnessed by: _____
Lynn Kelly, Chairman

Date: _____