

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
Special Meeting of February 21, 2022

The Special meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors to discuss emergency services was held Monday, February 21, 2022.

Those in attendance were Chairman John J. Krause, Vice-Chairman Wendell Gainer, Jr., Supervisor Lynn Brown and Dawn Koch, TM/Sec/Treasurer. Also, in attendance were Carl Stump, Chris Krause, Dave Sattizahn, Kevin Otto, and Nick Miller.

Chairman Krause opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance. Chairman Krause reminded the attendees of the notices, regarding meeting conduct and public comment procedures.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** No public comment

**NEW BUSINESS:** Vice-Chairman Gainer opened the meeting by explaining his reasoning for making changes to the donations in 2021.

Supervisor Brown asked if the changes that were discussed in the September 9, 2020, meeting were changed. Dave and Carl stated yes.

Carl explained that the township went from having four quads into two halves. Carl stated when the run cards were done based on halves the eastern companies were to cover everything east of and including Dad Burnhams and both companies would respond to all calls as well as HH&L and North End responding to all calls on the west. Carl stated run cards E & F were removed however 58-50 would still respond on routes 443 and 895 in the event of entrapment.

Nick stated that was done for rescue cover, but since 34 has rescue coverage 58-50 can be removed because both sides have their own rescue coverage.

John asked if during a structure fire all four companies are responding, all chief's agreed.

Wendell asked if two companies are dispatched to the grey areas, Loop Road was the example, all chief's stated yes.

Dave requested an explanation prior to changing donations.

Lynn requested that the Township be removed from issues between fire companies. He requested if a company has an issue with a decision made by the Township, come to a meeting. He also requested if a company has an issue with another company, take it up with them.

Nick asked if anyone remembered him asking if the east side companies needed help during the day. He continued by saying 443 would split in half saying North End would help on the north

side and HH&L would help on the south side calls. Nick stated he wanted to work together with the companies to provide a proper service to the community.

Wendell explained he received a call from George Halcovage and Frank, President of Chief's Assoc. He said they were informing him that one reason there was turmoil was one of the fire companies was cancelling calls. He stated that was the reason so many calls were credited to one company over another. Both Dave and Nick explained when and why one company would cancel over another.

Nick asked how the numbers were calculated.

After a brief discussion regarding the cancelled calls Wendell confirmed that each Chief approved of the way calls were being handled regarding cancelled calls. Dave stated the numbers in the calculation didn't include the cancelled calls making the percentages unfair.

Wendell asked the fire chief's what their thoughts are regarding donation. He added that the township currently has an agreement with Pine Grove Borough that indicates a minimum donation amount of \$4,500.00. He also stated no agreement currently exists with Wayne Township.

Wendell indicated he was unsure why the township had an agreement with the Borough regarding the fire company donations. He stated he understands the workers comp agreement but not the donation. Wendell indicated he would like to have an agreement with the fire companies directly with regards to donations.

Wendell stated he will inquire with the Township Solicitor with regards to donations.

Lynn asked why other townships do not have to pay a donation. Nick responded stating it's because they are not their primary fire company.

Wendell asked the fire chief's if they were all in favor of equal donations. All chief's agreed.

Dave informed the board of a committee formed at the county level as of 2/15/2022 that is discussing non-response and nuisance calls which include trees, wires, etc. John asked Dave for the timeline for implementation, Dave was unsure.

Wendell confirmed with the fire Chief's that they agree to equal amount of donations. All chief's agreed.

John stated one person should be responsible for communicating and currently named Carl Stump as that person. John also stated the township wanted to discuss the interaction with the EMC, the different types of plans needed for the township, training opportunities for employees. He stated Carl would be responsible for developing the plans keeping them in accordance with Chapter 7, Title 35.

John stated the training required for the EMC needs to be met.



John asked for suggestions from the fire chiefs to make communication better between all the fire companies and the board.

Lynn stated what he would like to see from the EMC are plans specific to the township with regards to flooding. He also stated the township has equipment available for fire company use. He also stated the road crew needs CPR training and knows the fire crews need flagger training. He would like to create relationships with the fire companies to provide training opportunities between everyone.

Dave explained the different plans he has created for the Borough which are filed with the County. He stated his plans and facilities are updated on an annual basis. Dawn clarified the reason Dave knows this is because he is currently Pine Grove Borough's EMC.

Nick stated the EMC is a resource for the fire chiefs. He stated the EMC should be a person of contact when needs arise. Nick stated the four fire chiefs should determine the run cards. Lynn stated the fire companies should present the run card changes to the township, once the township approves then Carl would take to the dispatch center. Wendell added that he thinks it is Carl's responsibility to be the liaison between the fire companies and the township. He added that he should not be the one doing the work, but to make sure the work is done correctly.

Wendell addressed Carl saying he should review Dave's plans to create plans for the township. Carl stated there is an emergency plan in place for the township at the County that is updated annually. Nick asked Carl if he was on vacation, is there something in place for someone else to step in. Dave said in that case the County would take over. Dawn added that the emergency plan is not specific to Washington Township, she said it is County based with the township's name on it. Dave stated the township would fill in their part. Dawn stated that has not been done. John asked who would fill it in on the Township's behalf, Dave stated, Carl in working with the township.

Wendell stated one way the township could get better is the way our EMC is liaising between the fire companies and the township and how the emergency plan is communicated ensuring the township knows what is happening.

Wendell gave an example of communication failure between the township and the fire companies with regards to the available ARPA funds. Dave stated he would not be submitting a request for funds due to already submitting to the Borough. Wendell added the funds are still available. John asked Dave to reply refusing the funds so a record could be kept. Wendell added that each fire company do the same. Chris asked if he could still apply and was instructed yes. Wendell instructed the email be resent.

Kevin asked about township help on private roadways. The board assured the fire chief's if an emergency arose on a private lane the township would help.

Lynn supplied his phone number for the chiefs in the event they needed the township's help. Dave added the call should go through the com center first, all agreed.

Nick asked why the chief's box was changed. He suggested all four chiefs should be dispatched to a chief's call. Dave added that is an item being addressed in the newly formed committee at the County. Wendell stated if it isn't changed, and all four chiefs agree then the change should be made.

Nick added that a working fire should automatically send RIT department and that was not changed. Carl stated he would look at that.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors of Washington Township, upon motion of Chairman Gainer, seconded by Supervisor Brown the meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m. This motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dawn A. Koch  
TM/Sec/Treas.  
Washington Township