

**District Township Supervisors
Special Meeting
February 22, 2023**

BUSINESS MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ed Overberger called to order the District Township Board of Supervisors Special Meeting, held at 202 Weil Road, Boyertown, PA at 6:34 p.m. Present were Chairman Ed Overberger, Vice-Chairman Leonard Robb, Supervisor Ron Leibowitz, Emergency Management Coordinator Tim Adam and Secretary Elaine Schwien. Four members from Eastern Berks Fire Department attended, Mike Mutter, Chris Schaeffer, Scott Reitnauer and Todd Soffa. Mike Groff from Bally Community Ambulance Association attended. There were no residents in attendance.

AGENDA

The February 22, 2023 Special Meeting agenda was posted to the District Township website and municipal building on 2/21/23.

DISCUSS FUNDING OPTIONS FOR THE FIRE COMPANY/EMERGENCY SERVICES

Mr. Overberger opened by thanking EBF and BCAA for their services and hard work in financially/and otherwise challenging times. Mr. Overberger noted he already had some discussion with Paul Janssen, Director, Center for Excellence in Local Government and Attorney John Muir, regarding the funding topic. Mr. Overberger stated some intended goals of a steady (dependable) cash flow and everyone paying their fair share for fire/emergency services. EBF and BCAA do send support letters to the community residents they serve, but receive donations from only approximately 20-25%. As per EBF, their 100% volunteer fire personnel cannot continue to respond to the increasing number of calls and required training and still be expected to hold chicken barbecues, raffles, boot drives, etc. to fund their needs. BCAA bills insurance when transportation occurs, but payment for services is sent directly to the resident and unfortunately is not recovered by BCAA the majority of the time.

Ideas were discussed on increasing District Township's donation or removing the donation entirely (resulting in a small millage decrease) but adding a separate fire and emergency services tax. The Board discussed with EBF/BCAA the requirement of financials and accountability on how the funds are allocated and spent, if such a tax were approved. The Board requested EBF/BCAA to conduct a survey of residents at the May Municipal Primary, providing information to the citizens and answering their questions, as well as giving feedback of the results to the Board.

The Board will continue to discuss this topic further. No decisions were made at this time.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, there was a motion made by Mr. Overberger, seconded by Mr. Leibowitz, to adjourn the special meeting at 8:06 p.m. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Schwien
District Township Secretary