

Fire Advisory Committee Meeting minutes December 4, 2018

In attendance:

Deb Lindblom
Steve Rike
Brandy Lomo
Jodie Streeter
Raymond Welty
Renee Vaughan
George Schultz
Mike Wallace
John McHale
Gary Honeycutt
Joe Ponzi
Frank Dantonio
Cliff Ridgeway

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm and concluded 8:45pm.

1. Meeting minutes of October 2, 2018 approved.
2. Determined CY2019 meeting dates, all at 7pm:
 - a. Monday, February 4
 - b. Tuesday, April 2
 - c. Tuesday, June 4
 - d. Tuesday, July 30 (due to National night out)
 - e. Tuesday, October 1
 - f. Tuesday, December 3
3. Discussion of Liberty Township meeting discussing Delaware County EMS proposal.
 - a. Liberty Township residents were against abandoning EMS services
 - b. Liberty Township trustees were in favor of investigating Delaware County EMS Proposal to save money
 - c. It appears the issue is whether the Delaware County EMS proposal will provide adequate services in exchange for cost saving; and if the residents are willing to accept a lower service rate in exchange for lower cost.
4. Discussion on Insurance Service Office (ISO) fire rating
 - a. Provides aggregated number to provide property risk
 - b. For average home size of Genoa Township, ISO recommended number of firefighters is 15 per shift
 - c. Genoa Township has 9, utilizing mutual aid agreements with surrounding fire services
5. Key point of Delaware County EMS Proposal is that this will only impact EMS, and not firefighters.
 - a. Chief provided some background information on the standards:

NFPA specifies the minimum number of fire personnel to respond to a 2000 sq ft two-story dwelling without a basement is 15. Genoa Township staffs 9 and relies on mutual aid from other agencies to achieve the 15 required.

Note that the average home size in Genoa Twp is closer to 3500 sq ft and most include basements. A reduction in staff by turning over EMS to Delaware County would not be possible without negatively impacting fire response service levels.

- b. Even if Genoa Township were to transfer EMS service to Delaware, Genoa Township will need to provide the same number of firefighters (9)
 - c. Unclear what "savings" Genoa Township would incur if transfer EMS task to Delaware County;
 - d. Concern that the level of service to residence would decrease to an unacceptable level.
6. Committee recognized that the topic is complex and that the township residents need to be educated as to what the key issues are in preparation for the 2020 levy; Careful of the phrase "duplication of services" because what Delaware County proposes and what Genoa Township does is not "duplication"
7. Committee need to determine what we are proposing to the Trustees
 - a. The 1971 sales tax: while the township may view their entitlement to a portion of the tax, the county sees that they are providing us this service.
 - b. Tax does not indicate what level of service the county must provide, so any provision for EMS (station 7) fulfills the legal requirement
 - c. Does the committee want to recommend trustees:
 - i. Continue to request Delaware County "outsource" the EMS service to Genoa Township and provide funding to do
 - ii. Keep the status quo, having Delaware county provide station 7 and Genoa Township supplement
 - iii. Eliminate EMS service and transfer responsibility to Delaware county (committee in agreement this is not an option)
 - iv. Determine what other recommendation the committee wants to present to trustees.
 - v. Committee in agreement that the Delaware County draft Proposal has several gaps and concerns, making the current proposal not acceptable to Genoa Township
8. East side of Hoover needs better service. How/who pays for needs to be determined.
9. Outcome of the meeting:
 - a. Subcommittee was formed to meet more often to determine how best to educate the residents
 - b. Subcommittee members: Ray, Renee, Mike, John, and Jodie (note, Paul Wise said the subcommittee may not exceed 5 members)
 - c. Subcommittee to determine message and method of communicating to public and will report to larger committee for concurrence.

Meeting minutes submitted by Deb Lindblom