

October 24, 2023  
6:00 PM

The Special Meeting of the Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Kehoe for the purpose of discussing the Fire Companies request for radio funding.

ATTENDANCE

Philip Kehoe, Chairman  
Philip Paetzold, Vice Chairman  
A.W. Castle, III, Vice Chairman

Karen Lowery, Secretary  
Mike Pykosh, Solicitor

Mr. Kehoe said the purpose of the special meeting is to discuss the Fire Companies request for radio funding. They have been working through funding efforts for over a year and we are now coming up on the order deadline date. The quotes and number of radios has been received and now we need to make a plan to move forward.

Mike Zeigler, Ron Bouch, Mark Cekovich and Justin Eberly were present for the Fire Company.

Mr. Zeigler said the deadline to purchase radios at a discounted price through Harris is November 1<sup>st</sup>. They did not receive the grant applied for so they have to order radios now or wait until next year, hope the grant is awarded, but they miss the discount price. They have split the numbers of radios needed into two phases. Cumberland County will reimburse the Fire Company for a certain number of radios. Phase one of the order is for 18 portable radios at \$3,000 each, 6 spare batteries, and programing software. They feel they will be able to get buy with the portables and just reprogram the mobile units at this time. The NFPA mandates that each seated riding position in a vehicle must have a radio, and they have 30 riding positions. At this time, they issue the radios to the active members. They will apply for grant funding for phase 2 and Rep. Kutz feels they should be in a good position to get funding. If they don't get the grant for phase 2, they will reprogram the mobiles and try again the next year.

Mr. Zeigler explained the initial cost of the radios is \$56,223.41 and Cumberland County will reimburse the Fire Company \$34,584.00 for a portion of the radios, leaving a balance of \$21,639.41. The Fire Company is asking the township to pay the initial cost and the reimbursement from County will be given to the township, so the expense to the township will be \$21,639.41.

Mr. Kehoe asked if the Fire Company is in a position to pay the \$56,223.41 knowing they will get approximately half of that back. Mr. Zeigler said that they can't cover that amount, as their budget has a \$30,000 deficit for this year.

Mr. Kehoe acknowledged that the Fire Company has worked through the radio brands and number of radios needed to maximize the County funding. He asked if the Harris radios would be

delayed like Motorola. Mr. Bouch said the Harris radios would be received 4-8 weeks after ordering and have a 5-year warranty. He added they would start using the portables for mutual aid calls with York and Adams Counties until the new Cumberland County radio system is operating. Mr. Zeigler said they don't expect the Cumberland County system to go active until the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2025 at the earliest.

Mr. Kehoe said the question is will this be a low interest loan or a transfer to the Fire Company. Mr. Pykosh said there aren't any provisions for the township to loan fund. They can guarantee funds or give money. Mr. Bouch added that Silver Spring Township and Wormleysburg are working with the townships to buy the radios and then paying them back over several years, but this could be because they have a different classification. Mr. Kehoe said he feels that this is a no brainer to help the Fire Company and allocate \$21,639.41 from the ARPA funds. The Fire Company has shared their budget concerns and were very fortunate to receive grant funds for the air packs, so adding another \$21,000 on them would make the situation worse. Mr. Castle added that we need to help the Fire Company and are lucky to have such dedicated people. He did mention that they have 13 active members, so he wondered if they could lower the number of radios from 18. Mr. Zeigler explained that the County requires them to purchase a minimum of 18 radios to qualify for the reimbursement funds.

Mr. Castle said the Supervisors have a responsibility to the people of the township to help and we are fortunate to have the volunteers we have at the Fire Company and appreciate their services. Mr. Paetzold agreed that this needs to be done and \$21,000 is not a lot of money considering what we are using it for. Mr. Kehoe said a copy of the invoice from Harris would be required to issue payment. Mr. Pykosh drafted an agreement that everyone can review. Mr. Zeigler said the agreement looks good and they can present it at their meeting tomorrow to have signed and will return to the township office.

**On the motion of Mr. Kehoe, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors, it was duly RESOLVED to provide the money required to purchase the Harris radios of \$56,223.41, reimbursement from Cumberland County of \$34,584.00 will be give back to Monroe Township, and Monroe Township will cover the remaining amount of \$21,639.41 with ARPA funds.**

ADJOURN

**Mr. Kehoe adjourned the special meeting at 6:40 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Lowery  
Recording Secretary