

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS/LPT FIRE COMPANY WORKSHOP  
MAY 22, 2017**

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**Call to Order:** Chairwoman Eckman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

- a. The following BOS members were in attendance: Chairwoman Eckman, Supervisors Duffy, MacFarland, Sorgini and Zimmerman.
- b. Also in attendance were: Don Delamater, Township Manager; Geri Golas, Assistant Township Manager; and representatives from the LPT Fire Company: Matt Sibley, Wes Griffith, James Alexander, Chris Reynolds, and Kyle Lochner.

**1) New Business**

**A) Fire Company Budget Review**

- i) Matt Sibley reviewed the FD's 15-Year Plan and how income compares to expenses. Matt stated that the Fund Drive is down \$15,000 the past few years. Recruitment is a new expense and focus. Wes Griffith reviewed the expenses for the new radios beginning in 2019. The current FD radios are not compatible with the County upgrade. Matt reviewed future miscellaneous expenses.

**B) Fire Company Relief Budget Review**

- i) Matt Sibley reviewed the income and expenses of the Relief Fund. Apparatus loans were reviewed by Matt. Jim Alexander reviewed details of the sale of a used truck. Matt stated that the Relief Fund is healthy.

**C) Apparatus Review**

- i) Kyle Lochner reviewed the FD's apparatus inventory, specifically the type of apparatus and the age of each piece. Although the budget shows a \$65,000 line item for maintenance, the actual costs have been closer to \$80,000. Kyle provided a brief review of the FD's apparatus as follows:

| <b>Apparatus</b> | <b>Year</b> | <b>Make</b> | <b>Plate</b> | <b>Current Mileage</b> | <b>Hours</b> | <b>Years IS</b> | <b>Replacement Years</b> |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Tower 53         | 2006        | Spartan     | EV63390      | 11,276                 | 1126         | 11              | 15                       |
| Quint 53         | 2000        | KME         | EV61997      | 27,611                 | 3160         | 17              | 15                       |
| Squad 53         | 2002        | KME         | EV61999      | 23,518                 | 2433         | 15              | 10                       |
| Engine 53        | 2002        | KME         | EV61998      | 35,249                 | 3679         | 15              | 10                       |
| Rescue 53        | 1988        | Duplex      | EV62001      | 31,000                 | 4734         | 29              | 15                       |
| Traffic 53       | 2008        | GMC         | EV65710      | 13,951                 | 1572         | 9               | 10                       |
| Field 53         | 2003        | Ford        | EV68135      | 99,749                 | N/A          | 14              | 10                       |
| Duty 53          | 2010        | Ford        | EV66683      | 49,170                 | N/A          | 7               | 10                       |
| Chief 53         | 2011        | Ford        | EV67554      | 37,716                 | N/A          | 6               | 10                       |

D) Fire Company Budget Review /15-Year Plan

- i) The budget information and funding requests for a 15-year period were reviewed. The funding request and corresponding budget assume an increased contribution from the Township of \$100,000 beginning with the 2018 contribution. Based upon the 15-Year Plan, the Township's contribution would increase by \$25,000 every five years thereafter. Supervisor Duffy asked if the FD has considered leasing any of its land. Matt Sibley stated that the FD has no objection to the idea of leasing land. There was a general discussion regarding the FD fundraising drive and whether or not they intend to include the business community in their efforts going forward.

E) Volunteers – Status and Outlook

- i) Matt Sibley stated that the FD neglected recruitment and retention efforts during the past 10 years. Going forward the FD plans to focus on career days at schools to encourage young adults to consider becoming a volunteer firefighter. Matt stated that 85 – 90% of the LPT FD firefighters are certified at the Firefighter I level. For comparison purposes, Matt shared that on average in 2005, 18 volunteers responded to a call, whereas in 2016, 8 volunteers responded to a call.

F) Act 172 of 2016 – Active Volunteer Tax Credits

- i) Don Delamater reviewed the general provisions of Act 172 as well as other incentives that municipalities can use to express appreciation for the volunteers. Matt Sibley stated that the FD uses data tracking software that maintains clear records of the volunteers' active participation in firefighting activities and training.

G) Possible Billboard Contract with Clear Channel

- i) Matt Sibley reviewed various options under consideration by the FD regarding changes to the existing static billboard to a digital structure. Current billboard lease revenue is \$3,000 per year. A digital billboard lease will generate \$15,000 per side, per year. The FD is seeking Township support for this revenue generator.

H) Identification Cards for Membership.

- i) Matt Sibley stated that the FD would like to issue identification cards for its members. As the Township currently issues identification cards for its employees, Matt asked if the FD could utilize Township technology/equipment to save money. Township staff will follow up on this request.

**2) Comments and Other Business**

- A) Chairwoman Eckman thanked the FD representatives for the good information that they provided for consideration. It was decided that the information and any further discussions would be part of the 2018 budget process later in 2017.

**3) Adjournment**

- A) The workshop ended at 8:52 p.m.