

**PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORKSHOP MEETING
June 28, 2018**

The monthly workshop meeting of the Plainfield Township Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, June 28th, 2018 at the Plainfield Township Municipal Building, 6292 Sullivan Trail, Nazareth, PA 18064.

Chairman, Randy Heard, called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

ROLL CALL:

The following Supervisors answered roll call: Chairman, Randy Heard, Vice Chairman, Glenn Borger, Stephen Hurni, Joyce Lambert, and Jane Mellert.

Also present were Township Manager, Thomas Petrucci, and Administrative Assistant, Paige Gerstenberg.

I. SECRETARY–THOMAS PETRUCCI:

1. Public Health/Public Safety Discussion:

Township Manager, Tom Petrucci, reported that there has been a trend of delayed response times for the Plainfield Township Emergency Medical Services (EMS), as originally reported to members of the Board of Supervisors by residents. Mr. Petrucci evaluated the EMS in-service reports obtained directly from the Northampton County 911 Center for the years 2015 to 2018, and he confirmed that the reports from residents are accurate. It was noted that Plainfield EMS has been active approximately 40% of the time and has been out of service the remaining 60% of the time. In the month of January 2018, Plainfield Township EMS was dispatched by the 911 Center 52 times. Out of those dispatches, 21 calls were responded to and 31 calls were missed. There were 9 Advanced Life Support (ALS) calls and 12 Basic Life Support (BLS) calls made. In the event that Plainfield Township EMS misses a dispatch, the call would be picked up by Suburban EMS, which could be responding out of Bangor, Forks, or Palmer depending on the day/time. There are also times that Wind Gap EMS or Bushkill EMS take the calls. Mr. Petrucci stated that the Plainfield Township Board of Supervisors will need to alleviate this issue and provide him with direction on the appropriate next steps to take in order to rectify this issue.

Supervisor, Stephen Hurni, noted that he had a health issue where he called 911 and EMS was sent out to his home. He added that Plainfield Township EMS arrived at the scene because they were already in the area. Mr. Hurni stated that on the way to the emergency room, Suburban EMS followed Plainfield Township EMS in the event that the situation

turned from a BLS call to an ALS call. Plainfield Township EMS does not have the ability to assist with ALS calls. Mr. Hurni stated that because two EMS vehicles drove to the emergency room, there were two EMS service bills that he was responsible for paying because of Plainfield Township EMS not being able to assist with ALS calls.

Members of the Board of Supervisors questioned whether they can increase the coverage by Plainfield Township EMS to 24/7. If they are unable to do so, the Board requested an explanation as to why they would be unable to fulfill the Board's request including any financial, equipment, or personnel reasons. The Board of Supervisors would like to evaluate where the issue is occurring with the lack of service coverage provided by Plainfield Township EMS.

Township Manager, Tom Petrucci, noted that the Township could put out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for 24/7 EMS services if Plainfield EMS is not able to rectify the issue. Mr. Petrucci stated that the costs for extra coverage for EMS has not been placed within the 2018 budget. He added that currently, Suburban EMS does not have a local location and in order for their services to be readily available with appropriate response times, there will need to be a designated location in the Township. Vice Chairman, Glenn Borger, stated that the Township needs to have 24/7 EMS service.

Mr. Petrucci added that if Plainfield Township EMS cannot accommodate the Township's needs, Mr. Petrucci also has the option of reaching out to Wind Gap EMS or other surrounding municipalities. Supervisor, Jane Mellert, asked about the percentage of other EMS departments taking calls and then responding to those calls. Mr. Petrucci stated that he does not currently have that information but can provide the Board with that information if needed.

Mr. Petrucci offered the Board of Supervisors the following options for their consideration:

1. Ascertain whether Plainfield EMS can increase their coverage to 24/7.
2. Designate a secondary EMS provider for BLS services to supplement the coverage provided by Plainfield.
3. Put out an RFP for BLS and ALS services and tabulate the cost for 24/7 service.

Supervisor, Stephen Hurni, noted that the Township needs to have 24/7 ALS service for residents. Vice Chairman, Glenn Borger, questioned who would be overseeing Plainfield Township EMS in the event the coverage was increased to 24/7. He noted that the Plainfield Township Fire Company already has issues providing the Township with financial information. Mr. Borger noted that there will need to be someone who can oversee that information and be able to provide it to the Township upon request. Mr. Petrucci stated that if additional funds are provided, Plainfield Township would need an agreement with Plainfield Township EMS that mandates the organization provide the Township with audited financial statements prepared by a certified CPA and financial reports provided at regular intervals for the review of the Board.

Supervisor, Joyce Lambert, noted that being a part of EMS is difficult because they are usually volunteers. She stated that those volunteers do not normally want to leave their full-time jobs and become an EMS for free and pay for education to stay certified.

The Board requested Mr. Petrucci to do some research on whether or not Plainfield Township Fire Company and Plainfield Township EMS are separate entities. Mr. Petrucci will gather this information and provide the Board with his findings. The Board of Supervisors expressed approval of Mr. Petrucci looking into this issue further and evaluating the different options that the Township has in order to provide 24/7 ALS services to the residents of Plainfield Township. It was noted that the discussion should commence with speaking directly to the Fire Department and Chief George Biggs.

2. Slate Belt Police Department- Police Coverage for Upper Mount Bethel Township:

Mr. Petrucci reported that a recent Lehigh Valley Live news article indicated that the Slate Belt Regional Police Department will be providing Upper Mount Bethel Township officials with a presentation on providing police services to their municipality. The main content of said article was a piece on East Bangor Borough providing a similar presentation to Upper Mount Bethel Township in order to offer part-time police services at an annual cost of \$117,000.00 per year to Upper Mount Bethel Township. Supervisor, Jane Mellert, questioned whether the Slate Belt Regional Police Commission had discussed this issue at their last meeting. Mr. Hurni stated that they had not.

The Board of Supervisors expressed disapproval of the police providing Upper Mount Bethel with police coverage, especially at such a low cost. Members of the Board noted that it does not make sense to pull officers from Plainfield Township and send them all the way to Upper Mount Bethel Township when the Township needs them patrolling within the Township's (and the Regional's) zones. Chairman, Randy Heard, stated that Upper Mount Bethel seems to just want cheap coverage. It was noted that the cost of providing police services in the \$100,000.00 range does not provide for much. The Board expressed the sentiment that it does not like that the Regional Police Commission proceeds with initiatives such as this without approaching the Board of Supervisors and the two Borough Councils first when it is the three municipalities that are paying all of the bills. It was also added that the Commission will be posting the availability of three School Resource Officers, which will be awarded by seniority. Ms. Mellert added that she is unsure of the proposal for the prospective job opening.

Mr. Hurni will relay the message concerning the Board's expressed sentiments about Upper Mount Bethel Township back to the Commission.

Additional discussion took place amongst the Board members regarding GPS units in police vehicles. This will also be brought up by Mr. Hurni at the Commission level.

CITIZEN'S AGENDA/NON-AGENDA:

1. None

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REPORTS:

1. *Glenn Borger, Vice Chairman*- No Report
2. *Joyce Lambert*- No Report
3. *Jane Mellert*- No Report
4. *Stephen Hurni*- No Report
5. *Randy Heard, Chairman*- No Report

ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, motion was made by Glenn Borger and seconded by Chairman, Randy Heard, to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved. Vote 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Petrucci, Township Manager/Secretary
Plainfield Township
Board of Supervisors

These minutes were prepared with the assistance of the Administrative Assistant of the Township, Paige Gerstenberg, under the direction of the Township Manager/Secretary.