

A special meeting workshop was held Tuesday, September 14, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Township Building. The workshop was advertised by the Patriot News as required by law. Jim Fuller called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Those present were Jim Fuller, Barry Schrope, Annette Mullen, Vicki Jenkins, Joyce Swain, Bob Peiffer, Kraig Nace, Mitch Robb, Mike Hoak, Justin Kretzing, Chris Deiter, Ashley Whary and Thom Casey.

The purpose of the workshop was to again discuss and take comment on the possible realignment of fire box lines in the township. More information has been received since the last workshop from the New Bloomfield and Duncannon EMS and reviewed for tonight's workshop.

Barry Schrope states some township residents have contacted him and voiced their concern with Duncannon Fire Co. and Duncannon EMS having the extra work load if the lines would be changed, being that Duncannon Fire Co. picked up Perdix Fire Co.'s area. Barry states he knows the changes would not affect him personally and that before he can make a decision he would like to hear what township residents have to say at a public hearing about the possible changes.

Jim Fuller states the report that was received by New Bloomfield EMS indicates at least 80% of their work in the township is Paradise Trailer Park and Paradise Road. Jim states he has spoken to Larry Smeigh of Emergency Management, former Fire Chief of New Bloomfield, and he could never understand why Pine Hill was Duncannon's territory when New Bloomfield could get their quicker. Jim advised he would like to see the EMS follow the fire lines and not split the boxes. Jim states he believes the township is making a great compromise by considering giving Duncannon the trailer park down to Dark Hollow Road and giving New Bloomfield Pine Hill Road to keep the area split 2/3 to 1/3. Jim stated he would like to speak to Larry Smeigh again about splitting fire boxes between fire companies and EMS.

Annette Mullen states as far as the work load; if Duncannon Fire Co. is busy then New Bloomfield Fire Co. would be second due. Annette states the other thing to take into consideration is the homeowner's insurance issue. If you are within 5 miles of a fire house you can receive a discount on your insurance. Annette states she believes the line should be at Windy Hill for Duncannon and she does not understand why Pine Hill would be given to New Bloomfield when both fire companies would be responding to a fire but EMS services would be further mileage from New Bloomfield. Annette states if the township is going through all of this, which has not been easy because of feelings and trying to make everybody happy, the township has to look at response times and what is best for the citizens. Annette states she is okay with the changes for the Fire Companies but not the EMS areas.

Joyce Swain states she has mixed emotions, but her main concern is the medic if New Bloomfield's medic would take over their territory would West Shore pull out of the area. Joyce states she obtained a copy from the township of response times from New Bloomfield EMS and she has concerns on response times when they state they are staffed 24/7. Joyce believes if a homeowner can save money on homeowner's insurance then the 5 mile radius should be taken into consideration.

Bob Peiffer states he is an insurance agent/underwriter and a township resident. Bob states substations would be considered the responding fire department and within the 5 mile radius you would receive a discount.

Kraig Nace states on the EMS behalf the only thing that makes a difference on dispatch between a class 1 response and class 3 responses would be the use of lights and sirens, the speed should not change. The PA Vehicle Code does not permit an ambulance or EMS vehicle to exceed the speed limit. Kraig also stated in response to concerns from the citizens Barry spoke to is that if Duncannon EMS is already on a call it does not delay the response of New Bloomfield because when county first dispatches and knows 1st due is already on call the 2nd due is dispatched. Kraig advised the 1st due EMS responders are set up by township fire box lines, 2nd through 30th due in this county are based on closest mileage.

Mitch Robb states he has been with the New Bloomfield Fire Co. for 33 years and he can say that there are times when they have beaten Duncannon to a fire call in there 1st due area and there are times when Duncannon has beaten them to their 1st due area. There are so many variables in response times. Mitch asked as far as the insurance issue is it based on what equipment/water is coming to that call or is it just based on mileage from a fire station?

Mike Hoak first asked Mr. Peiffer who invited him here tonight because he felt it was unusual for an insurance agent to take time out of their busy schedule to just show up. Mike gave to the supervisor's communication from Erie insurance stating there is no difference on who the main fire company is. Mike states he is within 3 miles of a

responding fire company, doesn't matter if he is in New Bloomfield or Duncannon territory. Mike states he has lived at the same property all of his life and it has always been New Bloomfield Fire and EMS and if New Bloomfield is out county should dispatch Duncannon. Mike indicated both companies do a fine job and if his house would be on fire he would not care who got their first, he just knows someone will be coming. Mike states he sees no sense in changing fire box lines that have worked forever. Mike stated less than 3% of cardiac arrest patients make it and to judge a fire box solely on cardiac arrest is not accurate.

Justin Kretzing states he is trying to follow the insurance issue. Justin asked from the Wheatfield Township perspective, is all of Wheatfield Township pretty much within 5 miles of one of the 3 fire stations (Duncannon Boro station, Duncannon substation or New Bloomfield station)? From his understanding if you are within 5 miles of any station you will get the discount.

Chris Deiter states both fire companies work really well together. Chris states what is disheartening is to be at the Duncannon station and here there is a crash on Paradise Road and know that they are closer and also if the ambulances are busy and there is a cardiac arrest at the Paradise Trailer Park and they need the AED it would be coming from New Bloomfield instead of 3 miles down the road, minutes count.

Thom Casey asked what brought this discussion up. The supervisors advised it started when New Bloomfield EMS advised they are considering adding their own ALS Medic Unit and asked the township to sign a resolution stating their ALS would be 1st due to their portion of coverage in the township and at that time the supervisors agreed the fire box lines should be looked further into for response times.

There were lots of questions asked and input from all involved at tonight's workshop. The supervisors will continue to look into this further and look at all information provided.

.Jim Fuller made a motion to adjourn the workshop, Barry Schrope second the motion, with all in favor. Workshop adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki L. Jenkins
Twp. Secretary