

THE TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND FIRE COMMISSION
MAY 7, 2021

The May 2021 Special Joint Meeting of the Tobyhanna Township Board of Supervisors and the Fire Commission was held on May 7, 2021, at the Tobyhanna Township Municipal Building Meeting Room in Pocono Pines Pa.

Present are Supervisors John Kerrick, David Carbone, Brendon Carroll, John Holahan, III, and Rachel Schickling. Also present are Commissioners Joe Colyer, Mike Erlsten and Tia Fritz. Solicitor Harry T. Coleman, Esquire, Manger Robert Bartal, and Assistant Manager Autumn Canfield are also present.

1. Call Meeting to Order: John Kerrick calls the meeting to order at 3:00PM. A quorum is present.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance is recited.
3. John Kerrick opens the floor for a motion to appoint Harry Coleman as Township Solicitor. Brendon Carroll motions to appoint, David Carbone seconds. Vote: all the Supervisors in favor; the motion carries.
4. Public Questions/Comments on Meeting Agenda Items: None.
5. Announcements: None.
6. New Business:
 - a. Consider Release of Fire Funds for TTVFC: Ed Tutrone states TTVFC is requesting release of Fire Funds to pay for a new aerial platform emergence vehicle. He shows a video of the vehicle they are purchasing. David Carbone asks if this truck will fit on the roads in the township. Ed Tutrone reviews size specs on the new truck and how it will benefit township residents and firefighters. John Kerrick asks if this truck meets their needs and has everything they want in specs. Ed Tutrone states the truck has almost everything it needs and will be working with Pierce to include the last few items. He continues stating the purchase price of the truck is approximately \$1,500,000 and they have entered in to a contract for the purchase. David Carbone asks if the township is co-owners on the truck agreement or title. Ed Tutrone states the township is not co-owner on the agreement or title. David Carbone asks if the old truck has been sold yet. Ed Tutrone states a verbal agreement has been made but the borough who is purchasing it is just waiting on financing. Tia Fritz asks how much the old truck is selling for. Ed Tutrone states the older aerial vehicle is being sold for \$500,000.

David Carbone express concerns of the township not having any say when a fire company sells or purchase new trucks with tax payers dollars. He continues stating the Fire Commission and the Supervisors should have been notified the fire company was planning to sell the old truck and purchase a new one. Ed Tutrone states the Fire Fund

was created by a non-binding referendum for the fire companies to purchase vehicles and equipment. John Kerrick states previous legal counsel recommended having the township on the title with the fire companies so as to have accountability. Harry Coleman states he also recommends having the vehicle jointly titled as municipalities get certain benefits like governmental immunity. The Board and the Commission discuss titling vehicles and possible future regionalization.

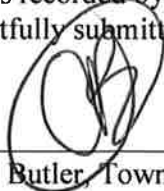
John Holahan states the township does not collect enough taxes to completely support the fire companies and eventual down the road regionalization will need to be considered. He continues stating the fire companies raise money to help offset costs and that the fire companies and the township need to work together. Ed Tutrone states the surrounding fire companies are not interested in regionalization. John Kerrick asks how these deals for the trucks came about so quickly and on such short notice. Ed Tutrone states the offer for the old truck came up very suddenly and the new stock aerial truck was immediately available.

Tia Fritz expresses concerns that if the fire company closes there is no assurance that money already spent on equipment will be kept within the township. Ed Tutrone states the fire company has no intention of closing. Harry Coleman states maybe the Supervisors and the fire company could have an agreement for this piece of equipment to help build trust in co purchasing equipment in the future. David Carbone asks Ed Tutrone if he could see what his fire company thinks about an agreement. Ed Tutrone states he will call a meeting but asks what happens if they don't agree to the agreement. Brendon Carroll asks Harry Coleman about responsibility of the township to provide for fire services and accountability of those monies. Harry Coleman states it's not unreasonable for the Supervisors to want to have assurances for the tax payer dollars when giving it to the fire companies.

John Holahan recommends having Harry Coleman meet with the fire company to discuss a possible agreement for the vehicle. The Board and Commission discuss the proposed meeting with the Solicitor and possible outcome of the agreement. David Carbone motions to have Harry Coleman meet with TTVFC to discuss an agreement, John Holahan seconds. Vote: all Supervisors in favor; motion carries.

7. Public Comment: None.
8. Adjournment: Meeting adjourning at 4:20PM.

Minutes recorded by Crystal Butler
Respectfully submitted:


Crystal Butler, Township Secretary