

MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY AD HOC COMMITTEE

LOWER ALLEN TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING

SEPTEMBER 16, 2019

The following Committee Members were in ATTENDANCE:

Dave Holl	Director of Department of Public Safety
Leon Crone	Police Captain
Tony Deaven	EMS Captain
Frank Wirth	Fire Captain
Frank Williamson (arrived at 6:30)	Fire Chief – Lisburn Community Fire Company
Tom Vernau	Township Manager
John Ortenzio	Select Capital Commercial Properties
Chris Pushart	Township Resident – Allendale Area
Dick Bonneville	Township Resident – Beacon Hill Area
Terry Lenker	Township Resident – Sheepford Area
Dick Hammon	Township Resident – Rossmoyne Area
Thomas Kutz	Township Resident – Sheepford Area

WELCOME

Director Holl called the September 16, 2019 meeting of the Public Safety Ad Hoc Committee to order at 6:05 pm in the Emergency Operations Center of the Lower Allen Township Municipal Building, 2233 Gettysburg Road, Camp Hill.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kutz moved to approve the minutes from the September 3, 2019 Public Safety Ad Hoc Committee meeting with one change made. Mr. Hammon seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

QUESTIONS AND FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were none. Mr. Holl stated that this meeting would be a continuation of the previous meeting’s discussion focusing on goals, objectives, and tasks. He would like to continue creating the draft version of Ad Hoc Committee recommendations pertaining to EMS Services.

HAND-OUTS AND DISCUSSION: AD HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2020-2024

EMS Services Recommendations

E-1 GOAL: *To achieve and maintain a minimum C Level of Service as defined in the Ad Hoc Committee report.* Mr. Holl provided two attachments to the Committee: Vehicles, Staff, and Service

Levels, and Level of Service Narratives. He spoke about EMS not planning to add any staff in the 2020 budget. However, in both 2021 and 2022, the addition of two Advanced EMT's would be proposed per year. In 2023, two additional EMT's are anticipated to be added. This process would supply Basic EMT's, Advanced EMT's, and Paramedics to support 24/7 ALS service for one 24/7 squad, a 24/7 IALS (AEMT) MICU, and a 24/7 BLS ambulance. This would decrease missed calls and decrease response times. If two more EMT's are added in 2024, there would be 24/7 ALS service for one 24/7 squad, 24/7 IALS (AEMT) MICU, and 24/7 BLS ambulance. This should result in a response time of 8 minutes based on station location and a missed call rate of 7% or less.

Mr. Deaven covered this in more detail with a chart he created showing the projected EMS service needs for the future, based on population. He stated that the current EMS level of service comes in at an E+. They plan to bring this up to a C level gradually over time by 2024. He stated that EMS will continue to operate with a staff of 11 full time employees to save money. Part time staff will make up the difference and keep overtime down. Mr. Deaven spoke about moving away from a MICU model where a paramedic and EMT go to each call together. Even if advanced life support is not necessary, the Paramedic remains on the call. Mr. Deaven stated that the residents of Lower Allen Township would be better served by a system where a Paramedic responding would not have to remain on the scene if that level of care was not needed. This would make the Paramedic available to respond to another call sooner. He stated that the need for staffing will be evaluated in the upcoming years. With available staff in 2024, three units could be capable of responding both during the dayshift and the nightshift. Currently, the best case scenario is two units during the dayshift and one at night.

Mr. Kutz asked if additional staffing was accounted for when the Township decided to start its own ALS program. Mr. Holl said that a study had been completed that compared the cost of continuing to outsource with LifeTeam versus having our own ALS program in-house. It showed that providing our own ALS system saved money. LifeTeam had a clause in their contract allowing them to pass along increased costs in ALS services to the Township.

Mr. Deaven spoke about mutual aid and how it is not optional to respond to calls outside of the Township – if dispatched, they must go. Mr. Holl said that Lower Allen's EMS does not recover costs spent on mutual aid and does not receive mutual aid in return comparable to what they provide. This will be the focus of upcoming studies. Mr. Vernau suggested that since EMS cannot cut costs on mutual aid, other avenues of revenue should be explored such as whether to honor outside municipality subscriptions or charging other municipalities for mutual aid calls.

Mr. Deaven spoke about another hand-out that demonstrates how important response times are based on the type of health emergency. The average LATEMS response time in August of 2019 was calculated to be 9 minutes, 3 seconds. Only 42% of responses were less than 8 minutes. The C level of service is a 7 minute response, 80% of the time. If mutual aid is responding, 4 minutes, 30 seconds is added onto the Lower Allen response time. LATEMS response time is affected by unit availability and unit location. The National standard is EMS arrival in 4 minutes or less 90% of the time; ALS arrival in 8 minutes, 90% of the time.

Mr. Vernau stated that if we are going to continue with the ALS program we have started, this is a reasonable goal. The rest of the Ad Hoc Committee agreed.

E-2 GOAL: *To seek available grant assistance for the purchase of vehicles and equipment necessary to implement community paramedicine program.* Mr. Holl provided the Committee with an example of a Grant Proposal. He spoke about the need to locate and hire a professional grant writer with proven success in obtaining grants from the Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. In the past, the fire department has purchased air packs through this grant. This grant is also available to be used toward EMS products in addition to fire. If successful, a grant could provide for purchase of one ALS squad, which would be reserved for community paramedicine, and a compliment of ALS equipment.

E-3 GOAL: *To initiate a community paramedicine and outreach patient support services program within fiscal and staffing constraints.* This goal would involve having stand-alone paramedic services to implement a community paramedicine program for following up with Township residents requesting EMS. The results would be less ambulance trips to the hospital, improved quality of life, reduce health system costs, and a possible alternative revenue stream. In addition, partnering with health systems to provide in-home paramedicine could decrease the readmission rate, and partnering with the Department of Health could improve education of the public. Mr. Deaven would like to see community paramedicine happen, regardless of whether or not the Township is able to get a grant. He said this is not a position that someone will be hired to perform; it is done in EMS downtime. Mr. Vernau is not comfortable focusing on community paramedicine until the Township ALS system is well established and running smoothly.

E-4 GOAL: *To support the implementation of the National EMS Vision 2050 where applicable to Lower Allen Township EMS and the community.* Mr. Holl stated that this goal shows support for the national goals and at the state level. Mr. Deaven stated that this is where the federal money for EMS is going to go. It is a good thing to include in any grant applications. The goal of Vision 2050 is to provide financial stability in the EMS organization and it enhances our current vision.

E-5 GOAL: *To deliver Emergency Medical Services in accordance with recognized professional standards.* Mr. Deaven explained that achieving this goal of accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) will lead to better policies, procedures, and training records. Lower Allen EMS would be nationally accredited and Township residents would receive care with the highest professional standards. There is a cost for the yearly inspections by CAAS. Mr. Deaven stated that Lower Allen EMS would not be ready for this until 2022 or 2023. He feels that the work to achieve accreditation could be done in-house.

E-6 GOAL: *Review staffing Plan annually to determine additional needs based upon calls for service demands and ability to maintain service level C or greater.* Mr. Holl spoke about this goal as summarizing what has been discussed above and making it an official requirement. Efficient delivery of services and use of resources is best accomplished by Public Safety and EMS working together to maintain situational awareness, getting information out to staff and elected officials when necessary.

COMMITTEE QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

The need for a future meeting was discussed by the Committee. It was decided that one more Ad Hoc Committee meeting for a final review and approval of the Final Written Report is needed. Mr. Holl will send out the Final Report for review by Committee members prior to the meeting. It will be held on October 1st at 6:00 pm in the EOC. Mr. Holl stated that presentation of the Final Report to the Board will take place at a special meeting of the Board of Commissioners on October 7th at 6:00 pm in Gorgas Hall, Lower Allen Township Municipal building. He encouraged Committee members to attend.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was none.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Bonneville commended Mr. Holl for the organization and flow of the Ad Hoc Committee. Mr. Holl thanked the Committee members for their participation.

ADJOURNMENT

The final meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee is on Tuesday October 1st at 6:00 pm at the Municipal EOC, 2233 Gettysburg Road. Tonight's meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm with a motion by Mr. Kutz and a second by Mr. Bonneville.