

Commercial Township
Special Meeting
October 15, 2024, at 6:00PM
Laurel Lake EMS
Commercial Township

In Attendance:

Ron Sutton
Joseph Klaudi
Mike Vizzard
Heather Miller
Tom Seeley
Pam Humphries

Mayor
Deputy Mayor
Committeeman
Township Clerk
Township Solicitor
Township CFO

Mayor Sutton calls the meeting to order.

This meeting is called in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. Notice of this Special Meeting on October 15, 2024, at 6:00PM was advertised in the October 11, 2024, edition of the Daily Journal and the South Jersey Times and was posted on the bulletin board at the Township Municipal Building and has remained continually posted required notices under statue. This meeting is being electronically recorded.

Mayor Sutton asks everyone to join him in the Flag Salute.

Kacy Catalano, Head of the EMS Committee, Laurel Lake Rescue Squad-

I have posted updates on a group message for everybody and have met twice. We went over what we would need to determine what the cost would be for each district, and still working on those. The biggest part of it that I am concerned with currently is that it is very difficult to see what the deficit is to see what needs to be made up. Unfortunately, our building is not giving us very clear information as to how the division of insurance payments are made. Up until very recently Laurel Lake Rescue was doing transport as an investment to increase the amount of money to put into primary EMS. Unfortunately, there was a merger very recently, not entirely sure, but TRICARE and INSPRIA have a partnership transports are no longer available making that source of revenue to fund the EMS and Commercial is no longer available. As of our last EMS meeting we were guaranteed coverage until today with reduced hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays where the guarantee covered with start from 10AM to 10PM for our paid shift and duty crews.

Ken Wilson, Captain Administrator of Laurel Lake EMS-

Basically, we are in a situation where our income from billing is not enough to sustain a crew available 24/7. We are doing everything we can to extend that level of service. Right now, Tuesday and Thursdays from 6AM to 10AM we are on a volunteer status. Those are the 2 lowest volume days. So far it has worked out pretty good, and we have only missed 2 or 3 calls. We are doing what we can to extend it. We are meeting this week, and our pay period ends Friday. We are going to see if we can do another two weeks, and we will plan it by year. It will be the third time we have this meeting. We basically go through the pay period, pay out the employees, and make sure there is a small buffer for incidentals and what not. If come this week we determine we have to go volunteer 100% of the time of cut more hours, we will.

Mayor Sutton- Where are you getting your money from?

Ken Wilson- We get between the three districts every year, there is a rescue services agreement that comes out around 34,000 and the rest of our payroll funds come from building. We are fortunate that our fire district provides fuel, most of the insurance, but the big overhead that is costing us payroll. That is pretty much all for billing.

Deputy Mayor Klaudi- Who handles the billing?

Ken Wilson- It was Cape Medical Billing, and they got bought out by Revesent and possibly going through another merger right now.

Deputy Mayor Klaudi- Who and how submits for billing?

Ken Wilson- So the way works is that when a crew goes on a call or a transport, they do a report. Once that report is submitted on our end, the billing company will automatically pull that and go through that whole process of insurance and mailing the bills. If necessary, they will send to collections.

Deputy Mayor Klaudi- So everything is currently inhouse? There is nothing outstanding?

Ken Wilson- Yeah, at least through September.

Mayor Sutton- How long do you anticipate doing this schedule?

Ken Wilson- It's a temporary measure, and it maned up the time we are down. Until we receive enough income or get help somewhere.

Mayor Sutton- I know this has been a problem for a year and a half. We keep hearing you have 2 months, 6 weeks, and the last one kind of upset me because I heard on Friday night you were done on Tuesday. We can't do this to our residents. We have to make sure we have coverage. We cannot play this day by day.

Ken Wilson- Yeah there was a rumor mill going around, and none of that came from myself or anybody in the administration. I have been trying to address that as it comes, but the weekend before that we were supposed to close down, I was in the hospital and one of the nurses pulled me aside to ask. I said that's not true. I have some meetings and what not to go to determine what exactly is going to happen. We are not closing at 6am on Monday or Tuesday as off two weeks ago. We are doing everything we possibly can to extend it. I am very fortunate to have employees and numbers that are very dedicated that are making themselves available as much as possible. It's hard to count on that, but we are doing everything we can.

Mayor Sutton- How much money do you have on hand to work with?

Ken Wilson- Currently we have enough to cover this pay period that ends Friday. We expect to have about enough to cover the next two eeks. We could receive some medical billing now and at

the end of the week, but we really need to see that within a week and a half of today. We are right there at that threshold.

David Carangi, Fire Commissioner, Laurel Lake Rescue-

We do all we can to help the rescue squad. I'm not going to sugar coat at this point, its either we get help for them or we close down. Today we get help, or we close. I mean we can't keep dragging it out. As a taxpayer of Laurel Lake, I have no problem paying an extra few dollars in taxes if that's what boils down to. They provide excellent services, no complaints there. Time wise, they are quick. If we go back to volunteer status, we don't have a good time response. I'm afraid of losing that.

Mayor Sutton calls on the Fire Commissioners.

Kacy Catalano-

Now I'm going to speak as a fire commissioner. We are going through a lot of changes in District 3, and we have called on a lot of assistance to understand better what our role is in this situation. We have contacted our lawyer, and as the statute stands for fire districts, we are very limited in the aid for EMS services. The statute allows us to fund for vehicles, equipment, materials, and supplies. There is no funding given directly to salaries. There is one district that does that, and that is Cherry Hill. I don't know how they get away with that because it's very clear. They have shot down any kind of bills that allow more liberal use of the funds provided by fire districts for EMS. My research through the other districts that do have firefighters that provide EMS, is that they hire firefighters that help with EMS, and they have their own ambulances. They do not directly pay out contracts for EMTs because it is not allowed by the statutes. So, on top of that we had the conversations with Braswell, he did not say that he would condone it outright, but he did give the impression that if we feel comfortable doing it, we can do it. As a commissioner who is liable, going about something that is not legally sanctioned is very difficult. I have no issue contracting out for EMS services, care, and relief to fire fighters who are in active duty because that we care allowed to do. We are chartered to extinguish and prevent fires, and it is important to have care to our fighters while they are working. We cannot supply the township with EMS services legally. We just cannot. As it stands, I did a lot of research last night into how the other municipalities in Cumberland County handle their EMS services. With the exception of Commercial Township, every other municipality has a line item in their budget supporting EMS services, and first out to the township. My question to the Township Committee, and I understand this is when you're working on your budget and the chances of anything accruing before the FY is slim to none because those emergency appropriations are not available in the budget, what can the Township offer?

Mayor Sutton- We can do an emergency appropriation; we just have to hear the criteria for it. Are you telling us point blank that the fire fighters don't want the rescue squad under their wing?

Kacy Catalano- I am saying we have no problem keeping the equipment and vehicles available, but when it comes to funding directing to EMS services for payment of the staff, as much as I want too and as a person, I have no problem doing that, if I don't have the legal means to do it, that's my name. That's me putting myself in the line of fire. If somebody wants to make a problem out of it, they can and I'm the one liable. I want to, I really do, and putting tax money

into it, I'm just not allowed. Statues do not allow it. I can fund EMTs at the fire house to make sure the fire fighters are getting relief, but I can't do it for the Township. I'll wait to make further comments.

Fred Hundt, Mauricetown- 60 years of services tomorrow for this Township, I have been dedicating my whole life to this community and I see something that needs to be straightened out. In reference to being told a couple of times and I have been on a group text with the ones we are meeting with, and my last text was "We can guarantee the EMS services until October 15th with reduce hours and pay." When I get that text, we are only guaranteeing service until the 15th. Now I want to say something to both of you guys, I don't have anything bad to say about their service, and the people. Nothing but good, really. When I say things tonight, it's not about their abilities to serve as EMTs, I'm talking about the operation as whole and it's not going well. I was also told a week ago on a Friday that they were going to be out of business on a Sunday night. Two other fire commissioners here are other than myself were appointed by the committee to meet with the squad to talk about their issues. There is some communication, whether it's rumor or not, I'm part of that group to meet with you guys and I'm getting texts saying we are going to be shut down on the 15th. They are financial strings, but then my commissioner had to say hey, someone needs to send us a voucher someone can send us our share. They aren't even asking us to send our money, which we offer to give them a donation. I might be speaking out of term Dean but did you double check? inaudible: We got to get the vouchers made to pay the money and we are willing to pay for it. Our fire commissioners pay \$5000.00. Sometimes over the course of a few years we ask if they want more money, but they say we are fine and operating. So, it isn't that we haven't turned our back on them, but we can't afford 150-250,000.00 to subsidize a rescue squad. Another question I wanted to talk about was the billing. You just hop all around on who is doing their billing. I spoke to the city of Millville, and I had an extensive conversation with a lot of people to find out how all these people run their rescue squads. We are the only municipality that's not funded, being subsidized by the Township because of the Fire Districts. I might be speaking out of term here I understand that they are only working with 3 Commissioner instead of 5. People just don't want to get involved anymore. It's difficult to get volunteers, I mean our fire companies are struggling just as bad as the rescue squads. Millville operates about 2 million dollars a year in their operation. Out of that total cost, they do their own billings and are considered the best company out there. They charge 6% off the top of their billings. At the end of the shift those reports are sent to the state, so they are processed in a timely matter. I was at some meetings with our group where they admitted they were as far back in June and the billing wasn't quite being done. Now Millville out of the 2 million billings they get back roughly 1.6 million dollars after everything flushes through it cost the city of Millville about 350 thousand a year roughly. For Deerfield, they run their own rescue squad too and do their own billings, and they cost them 175000 a year. Now Dorothy, they have lost a lot of the transport business, but the point I'm trying to make is you can't run the ambulance squad for profit no matter how hard you try. You want to try to break even. It's a cost and subsidize this rescue squad or form a new one. I think personally you need to reorganize. I think that you need to reorganize and somehow get this thing upright and bring in some people to get it set up. Talking with all these guys, first things first, we have to decide which way you want to go. I'm not trying to belittle people, they are struggling. We got to get this solved. People are concerned about the rescue squads. I want that ambulance there. Without tearing apart what they have done, the Township needs to get ahold of this somehow and upright this ship whether it be in Laurel

Lake or here. Another thing I said is a long shot, next year Maurice Rivers will run out. If we can combine it with another Township, we can do this for a minimal cost. They are not going to run you out of town if you have to raise taxes to support an ambulance squad. You are going to get the support of everyone who is going to need it. It has to be done, and the way of the world.

Fred Hundt talks about how important the ambulance is important to the community and how the Township needs to do something about it. He stated that he volunteers his services to mediate and bring people in for the Committee to talk too. He also said that people who would complain about their taxes being raised a nickel to help support a rescue squad is crazy.

Bill Rhubart, Port Norris Fire Company Chief- I just wanted to say that we spoke about how long they have and told it was a rumor, but this is a packet we got on the night of our meeting on October 3rd. First page "How long do we have, October 7th." It's right here in writing, it's not a rumor and it was handed to us. Monday the 7th came and haven't heard any updates. I texted Kacy privately, not in a group, and asked for an EMS update. Kacy answered right away that the date was going to be extended, and more information would be followed up. Kenny later texted me late that night. Not knocking any of them, they do an amazing job, but they are in really bad shape. They give us this date, and then extended. I think they are doing everything they can. We are here pleading with you guys for help. I know our Fire Commissioner doesn't know what to do and I'm sure Mauricetown is in the same boat. It's bigger than us, and I think I'm just going to be honest with you guys, I don't want to knock Kenny, but we should have answers from you guys when we ask how much do you have. We should get a hard solid number. I don't think "About this" is satisfactory numbers to give you guys. We need solid information, and those numbers should be available at any point. Following the last meeting with you guys, we had the first meeting that I wasn't available to be there. Then the next meeting got cancelled. I did see someone soon after that meeting got canceled and was told, "I think we were in a lot better shape that we thought we were." That was comforting me and didn't think we really need to push it for a status meeting. I just think they are in bad shape. If it was a different business other than EMS and they had these answers I would be looking for something somewhere else. Unfortunately, our residents can't go somewhere else to look for an ambulance. I look for you guys for any help you give.

Larry Coffman, Laurel Lake Commissioner- Just to let everybody know about our Laurel Lake, we: inaudible: We handle all the fuel already, and the medical equipment we pay for it. The equipment repairs come out of our budget. So, all of that part of the budget we are already there, we don't need any assistance with that, just payroll. Just a year's calculation for payroll is around \$550,000.00. The majority of that is billing. We have to do better at billing. It has to be done on a timely matter. If you don't do the charts right, then you're not getting paid. You cannot do that kind of service. They need to be monitored and sent to the billing company with proper paperwork and documentation with it. Without that you are not going to go nowhere.

Fred Hundt- Does your Fire Commissioners do the building or through the squad?

Larry Coffman- It is done through the squad.
::in audible noise::

Larry Coffman- So I think our very first meeting her on this subject we had John Beltis here and during that meeting he offered his help and support. I think we need to give him a call. We need someone on the outside to come in and take a look at what we have going on. What we have going on isn't working and not going to work. I have nothing against anybody but it's not working. We need to swallow our pride and ask for help, and we need to get it.

Unknown- The transport was covering the payroll. It worked, but they merged with TRICARE. I'm an INSPRIA employee so I oversee the dispatch center. So, INSPIRA bought 75% of TRICARE. They also bought the owner of TRICARE because it's all about the might dollar. He's cutting everything out. That's what he did to Dorothy. He gave Dorothy the chance to work every weekend. I know he gave Laurel Lake that chance too. It's not feasible. You can't put a crew on just to work weekends and you might not even get a call. It really didn't pay to get a weekend crew on you. You're going to spend more money on equipment and fuel than something happens.

Fred Hundt- What responsibly does the squad have to you? In other words, do you have anything to do with running the operations?

Kenny Wilson- We just handle the finances.

Fred Hundt- Just the finance. You don't have anything to do with the operations of the rescue squad? You have no say?

The audience talks about how the operations are run in the rescue squad.

Mayor Sutton asks for any other fire commissioners.

Bill Rhubart- I did have one point that I forgot. Commercial Township Board of Fire Commissioners 1 does not have a contract with Laurel Lake, it's through the fire company. I did just the other night have to ask Kenny for our bill. We cannot pay it without an invoice. If money is so tight, why do I have to ask to pay it? I do have that check tonight for them.

Fred Hundt- How much is that, Bill? I believe we pay five.

Bill Rhubart- I'd say 8. We had to ask for the bill.

Deputy Maor Klaudi- It's a business for intensive purposes and you have to run it like a business.

Kacey Catalano- Rebekah is the CFO and she handles the invoices. Those invoices were sent 3 weeks ago. It was sent to Port Norris per Rebecca. Who did you send it to? Do you know specifically off the top of your head?

Rebekah Parish, Laurel Lake CFO- I sent it to the address we have on file.

Unknown- She just got put into that job also. There was other people running that job until about 6 months ago, and everything got dumped on Kennys lap. We are in chaos.

Kacey Catalano- I did send out a group messages to all the EMS Committee and all the information from that either came from Tyler or Ken. Those dates were the dates given directly to me by them, and needed the information to let everyone else know.

Mayor Sutton- Now you have got to come forward because we are getting out of hand.

Unknown- If they did give another date then that means they were still fighting to keep it going.

Mark Sheppard, Mauricetown Commissioner- I was at some meetings, not all of them, but I was told that the billings were 3 months behind. To be behind 3 months and you have 48 hours to get it in, you are never going to collect that money back. To say they are up to date, they aren't behind 3 months. I was told that directly by Kenny. Kenny is an excellent EMT, all the guys are, but as an administrator he's not. He's trying the best he can but he's not an administrator. I'd had to say this Kenny, but someone needs to be an administrator to run it. You are trying like the devil. Three times I've had to tell you I need a voucher so we can pay for the services you were already rendered. It was still a month and a half before we got those vouchers. You're trying, and you're a good EMT but Administrator you're not.

Fred Hundt- All these years, truthfully, the taxpayers of Laurel Lake have been subsidized to this ambulance squad. All the incidentals and the extra money goes back, and the fire company has been subsidized. If they get \$13000 from Mauricetown and Port Norris, it is coming out of their budget. So ultimately for the people of Laurel Lake, it's going to be easy on the people of Laurel Lake because their commissioners in good faith take money out of that budget. They may even break even because they are paying so much now.

Larry Coffman- He's right. If we go that route and we have to change the budget, we definitely need to take the cost we have already in our budget and put it towards that. I'm just going to throw a number, we cut our budget in half. That money would go towards the EMS service.

Mayor Sutton calls on the Commercial Township CFO, Pam Humphries.

Pam Humphries, Commercial Township, CFO- I have a couple of questions, somebody from the Laurel Lake EMS service gave Mike Vizzard a summary of their experience. They said that their EMS expenses were \$184,000.00 out of that \$500,000.00 budget. In here there's a \$25,000.00 building lease that was a part of that. Mike and I were wondering what that was.

Unknown- That lease goes towards the Fire Company for the loan they took out.

Kacey Catalano- Excellent question Pam. Those numbers Rebekah got were from the previous CFO. At the time of the last meeting, she just started in that position, and she went through all the documents she could find to put together those numbers as accurately as possible. When we originally gave that information, I thought about it myself, and there were about 30 questions I had and that was one of them. None of which we have really been able to find any answers to, and when we reached out to the old CFO has been uncooperative.

Pam Humphries- The rest of this makes sense, besides from this \$25000.00 from that \$184,000.00 that's everything from payroll, correct?

Kacey Catalano- Correct.

Larry Coffman- The \$25,000.00 has nothing to do with EMS. That's the money we pay the fire company for the loan on the building. The actual operating budget is probably higher than that. We have never been able to break down the fuel cost completely. We tried doing that the last couple of months by separating how the transport company got their fuel or paying their fuel through a separate account through Woodruff, that also doesn't have the full cost of insurance because everything is just roped in together. All of that is included, and not broken down.

Pam Humphries- So you're saying, these EMS costs can be taken out of your fire company budget instead of the payroll.

Larry Coffman- Yes, correct.

Pam Humphries- How much do you pay for the billing services?

Rebeka Parish- 5% of the total collected.

Pam Humphries- So it comes to about \$40,000.00 a year.

Rebeka Parish- Yes.

Pam Humphries- in 2022 this is strange on these figures, Medicaid paid \$123,000.00 in 2023 they paid \$2300.00. What is that all about?

Kacey Catalano- That's a great question and that's what I asked last time, and nobody answered.

Unknown- If you know anything about insurance, I deal with it at my job in INSPIRA. Insurance ever sense COVID they gave a waiver, and a lot of things were high and mighty, and they paid for everything. After COVID they slammed the doors. They quit paying for everything, even things they paid for before. The percentage that you're getting paid for now, they probably pay have of that. Medicare isn't the insurance to have even though we were forced to have it.

Pam Humphries- So it's not just getting the billing done on a timeless basis, you're also just not getting the funds.

Unknown- A few things, you're not getting the paperwork in and the proper charting in to collecting charts, so without that you're going to get less of a percentage. Even with perfect charts and paperwork and situations, you're not going to get it.

Rebekah Parish- Those numbers came directly from our QuickBooks, so that reflection did rely on whoever was handling the finance at that time to accurately put in where they were coming from. They could have listed them as Medicaid accidentally or however.

Pam Humphries- I didn't expect any hard figures, but you have to have some idea what you need for the end of the year. I mean you get money in your account every day.

Kenny- No.

Rebekah Parish- Deposits are made every Mondays and Fridays. I do handle the ones in the mail twice a week. The mass majority of the electronic payments come from Mondays and Fridays.

Pam Humphries- How much has your payroll been used after all this has happened.

Rebekah Parish- About 3 thousand dollars per payroll. It has been reduced that much from \$14,000.00 per payroll.

Kacey Catalano- So the total for the current services we have been providing is \$485,895.00 that is what payroll in total will cost not the amount in revenues. With the current services. We are looking under \$45,000.00 per month. I actually dropped down to volunteer status after we lost transports. I work about 40 hours a week, and just about every single night as an EMT on duty. It's a little high but it doesn't include the people that are just volunteering. Rebekah has also dropped down to volunteer status because we know finances are tight and we are trying to do everything we can to guarantee the longevity of the services.

Pam Humphries- So in 2023 your payroll was \$610,000.00 and now you're down to \$480,000.00

Rebekah Parish- These are numbers calculated without transport services.

Unknown- They pay \$25 an employee for how many days.

Kacey Catalano- 16 hours a day, \$125 per night for 2 EMTs. These very specific assumptions that are made for this we need 2 for NJ ambulance service. Each of those EMTs were being paid \$25 for a livable wage. \$125 per night per person. This also includes pay roll taxes as well as duty night payroll from 10PM to 6AM shifts. It includes medical insurance. I do think that is something every employer should offer in some way shape or form.

The audience talks about how much they need until the end of the and the math that got them that figure.

Pam Humphries- How do you know that your EMTs turned into their paperwork?

Kenny Wilson- It's all electronic. I do want to address a few things with billing. Our policy with 911 calls, and when we did transports, if it's on a 6am-10pm or 12-10, which we no longer have. The EMTs are required to have their reports done by the end of the day and those charts are reviewed and sent to the state, then the hospital and billing company. That has not been behind.

Unknown- We were just 3 months behind on one aspect of our billing and that was one bill for a certain type of transport we were doing. Inspira pays us directly for them, and those we fell behind on our pervious guy who was doing charts. There was an issue in there somewhere where

we went aware that it wasn't being fully submitted to Inspira. It was 3 months until it was brought to our attention.

Kenny Wilson- It was as small part of the billing and only for the transports we were doing for Inspira and the subsets we were doing. The individual that was handling it abruptly left at the end of June/beginning of July and didn't mention that part needed to be done. Basically, Inspira sends a report and then those runs are verified. We were not made aware of that, and that's been sense I have taken over. That is a small subset of the runs we were doing. However, all of our 911 and the vast majority of our transports have not been behind. As far as our end goes, I take you to the hospital, they have to have that chart done by the end of their shift and overnight is 24 hours. As soon as we put our check mark on there, it's out of our hands. That would be only thing we have been behind on, just the only part that the report that goes back in forth to Inspira, I do have a meeting with our billing company on Thursday at noon. I also do have a supervisor that I put in charge of building because my job encompasses the rescue squad as a whole. Billing is a busy part of it. His name is Chris, and he is very helpful. He is going to be making sure that billing in general operates smoothly and looking for ways to improve. Moving forward, I think that with somebody who is mainly in charge of reviewing charts and letting EMTs know how to document better that would be good for us overall. Insurance companies can deny on a poorly written chart, so to have somebody that is their 85% of their focus will help up. I'm not sure if it's going to be a game changer but it something that will help. If at some point for the public portion I do want to address a few things.

Bill Rhubart- What Kenny was speaking about putting someone in charge of that, is that going to raise our salary costs? Putting more responsibility on that person, is that going to make them get paid more money? And two, do we have any sort of quality control on billing and the person reviewing. Can we go back and say "EMT Bill Rhubart did very bad on his reports over an extended period of time and lost this amount of money." Is there going to be any accountability?

Kenny Wilson- As far as the reviewer, he works as an EMT 30-40 hours a week, he works on those charts doing that. It's not costing us. It's not like we are having someone else come in. As far as the going back and identity issues, I haven't asked EMS to do that, and he has already started to go back and pull Metrix and look at areas we can improve. One example there were 2 previous employees who were getting a high rate of refusals and ended resigning about the time someone addressed it. That was something he made use of. Refuses we can't bill for those. I have been catching that within a couple of weeks. I will ask him if he has some down time to pull some random charts from the past and make sure...

Bill Rhubart- If we just worry about the future, and two if someone does have bad charts, I wouldn't necessarily fire them but give them additional training for improvement.

Rebekah Parish- The most recent numbers I have are from August, so in 2024 from January to August we had a number of charges in the 1.55 million dollars, and we also had 635,000 in adjustments. They were requested by the insurance company. Leaves us \$425,000.00 in charges for the year and of that I have received \$371,000 in payments.

Mayor Sutton asks for any Public Input.

Fred Hundt- We are not talking with two of the rescue squad. I spoke with Chad Ott from Deerfield, he's the Chief of the Rescue Squad and Township Employee. They run 2000 calls a year in Deerfield. They don't have an administrator. With all those calls, just him and his assistant of the squad do all the paperwork and the billing. Besides that, they fill in when it comes to the vacations and all that. They don't have all these extra levels of management. Its just them. You can call Chad in and speak with him. Same thing with Dorothy. We are running 1,200 calls. The EMTs for cost do that. If they get a call, they drop what they are doing and take the call, when they come back and do the administration work. Just like the paid firemen in Millville, they might not get a call all day long. What else are they doing all day just watching TV and walking around the garage. We are in a world today where you can't have these luxuries. This guy in Dorothy, they are taking care of their buildings, personnel, and transport and it's not being done through the town. The head of the employees are the head of the operation, not a big structure of administrators. The two people running the squad are running the business,

Kenny Wilson- So, we do not have paid management that is not running on the truck. That is just not a thing. As far as the administrator goes, every EOS has somebody that is designated as an administrator. That is someone who has a state license that has a rescue that bills for service. Generally speaking, that person is also the Chief/Captain. That part of my title is quite literally clicking a box every year and renewing our license, as far as the captain portion of my title that is the I guess service as the "top runners." I work 40 hours a week answering calls for service. I work on administrative stuff during that except for very rare circumstances. There's no paid staff, that is all they are doing. We did have a paid CFO, but she has now stepped down to volunteer status. Other than that, there was no paid administrator.

Fred Hundt- The only reason why said that is because in the beginning going through the salaries there was someone listed as the administrator.

The audience talked about what was said in the beginning of the meeting, about the salaries and their titles.

Mayor Sutton moves to the Questions from the Committee

Mike Vizzard- I know you said you needed \$80,000.00 for the rest of the year, that doesn't include income that you have coming in from now to the rest of year. Give us a more accurate number of what you think you will need.

Tyler- We do not track what we are owed when it comes to billing. It hasn't been done before but not saying we can't do it in the future. We are looking into ways to do it; we just haven't reached that point yet. I'll address some more of the rumors. The days that were thrown out there for the end of our operations were based on the amount of money at that time. As we got more money during the week we had a group chat with everyone on our board along with Ken and our CFO. As we get money in depending on how much is when we decide to extend the operation as long as we feel comfortable with. I will apologize with other districts here for not being as communicative as we should have been. We definitely need to work out on our communication and we will address that. That is just where we have been out. Most of our direct deposits come

in Mondays and Fridays and we get checks throughout the week. We are not talking about every day, just when money comes in and out. We have been meeting once a week for the last 3 weeks. Tonight was meeting night, but we cancelled this. We are taking it week by week basis to see if how much if any money we received will allow us to keep going. Right now, our payroll ends on Friday, and we know we have enough money for that. I'm going to say 98% sure because I don't have the exact number in our payroll account, but we should have more than enough to go for another 2 weeks. It just we don't track what we are owed.

Mayor Sutton- We can't go off the fact that you enough money for two weeks. We cannot operate like that for EMS. We need to know we are going to have it. When Pam asks for a few questions, she couldn't even get a copy of the last audit. I know I have been going to meetings for a year, and we have a hard time getting information. If the Township puts money into it, and we ask a question, we want to know for a dollar.

Unknown- Who are you asking because I haven't been asked by anyone for anything, and I am the President of the Company.

Mayor Sutton- Our CFO called today, and I don't know who she spoke with, but she got 3 or 4 of her questions answered, but she couldn't get a copy of the audit. Every time it comes to something financial, that's the one thing we can't get. Somehow, it's got to get to us. If you want us to help bail you out, we need to know to the dollar what you have and what you spend. It can't be a guessing game of I don't know, but we need to now.

Mike Vizzard- Can you help answer that question.

Rebekah Parish- We have \$49,000.00 available to EMS. I didn't have the exact dollar amount with me at the time, but it is \$49,000.00.

Mayor Sutton- How many fire commissioners here do we have from Laurel Lake.? I have a question for you, if we are forced to put Township money in to take it over, are you willing to turn the rigs over to us?

Unknown- So you don't want to pay us for your services? You want to provide your own service?

Mayor Sutton- No like what he was saying, we need some outsiders' help. If we need to redo this, and we look at the long portion of it if Downe and Maurice River want to do a shared service and get involved. If we are going to start now, we need to include that. So yes, it would have to be some of what you have and some new ones.

Tyler- Are you saying you want to provide your own EMS under our license? Because that is what it sounds like.

Mayor Sutton- No, we are not saying that. We want to correct this. We can't keep going on. We are done, we are closing down we have no money.

Tyler- I'm sorry but I'm not concerned with other townships and their EMS service. I just care about our Township and our EMS.

Larry Coffman- I just want to ask you a question, you are asking if the Township is actually going to get involved in this EMS service which sounds like where you want to go, are we willing to render our ambulances over for those services?

The audience discusses the question.

Rebekah Parish- I can tell you from the end of August which was the last report that I got from our billing company, we have a net AR \$462,279.95, and on average we bring in \$46,125.00 per month, however those number vary greatly. In June we brought in 73000.00 and August we brought in 25000.00. It is very difficult for me to tell you how much we can anticipate.

Mike Vizzard- So concern ably if we say that you are willing to bring in 10 grand for the next two months so 20 grand total, you are looking for 60 thousand from the township to carry you through.

The audience says yes.

Deputy Mayor Klaudi- I think we need to look at restructuring not taking over the rescue squad. I think we are asking EMTs to be businessman. This is a business, and it has to be run like one. I think there is mismanagement. You guys know what you're doing as far as EMTs, no one is questioning that. As businessmen, you have no idea what you are doing. You guys were thrown into this, and you are looking for help. I think we need to find a way to get you the help to run this thing as a business as it should be.

Kacey Catalano- As I mentioned before, every township has a line item for services, ambulances and first aid. Every other township in Cumberland County, I looked up every municipality in Cumberland County and every single has a line written. I will give you that Maurice River Townships line item is zero, but that is because they have a private industry they are relying on. As Larry brought up, they are being taken over by someone whose point is the bottom line. It may be alright in the past the Township hasn't put in anything, but that is because Laurel Lake has been footing the bill. We have been putting our heart and souls into this. You can say we are not good businessman, but we are getting the same that everyone else is getting. If every other business is getting some sort of supplementation from their township and we're not? That just shows we did a great job! We did a great job so much that you didn't even bring in.

Kenny Wilson- We have been making it our own, and the board of fire commissioners. I'm going to tell you, there are two or three people that do not have access. In general, people don't have access to our charting or billing. It is very tightly controlled because it is a federal crime. The people that are making those comments do not and have not, have any access to that where they can speak from actual knowledge. It is nonsense. An ex-employee and a member on his way out. I will tell you the only issue to my knowledge that we have ever had with billing in behind was the subset from what we are doing with Inspira, and that has only been sense the previous person of EMS Chief stepped down very quickly. He did not tell anyone on the way out that you need to

send this form in, and maybe looking at a maximum of \$15,000.00 from that we should of be getting.

Bill Rhubart- What we need to do, whether we point fingers or not, the truth of the matter is we are failing. We are going to be sitting here all-night pointing fingers at each other.

Mike Vizzard- We are not going to be able to solve this tonight, but I will say we are going to figure out what we are going to do. The Township has not funded the EMS at all and never has. It has always been through the fire departments, and we didn't even know any difference. To accuse us of not funding you, not because we never wanted to, we just never had too. It's required, and now we have to figure out how we are going to do that.

Mayor Sutton- I talked to :: in audible:: I guess he gave you a lot of money, or else he did. That stopped. He goes unless the game changes and different people in there then no more.

Mike Vizzard- That is not going to change the fact that the Township needs to help out.

Inaudible chatter.

Kacey Catalano- Can you not give the name of an anonymous doner because that is very disrespectful.

The audience and committee talked about how much is in the bank now and how much they need to keep going the rest of the year. The EMS squad that if they run out of money, they will not close their doors but tend to run on a volunteer status. Mike Vizzard reassured the audience that they will try to figure this out. The audience discusses what if the squad becomes a nonprofit.

Mayor Sutton- I will say, \$485,000.00 is a 17-cent tax increase. That is over our cap limit, so we have to go to the state for emergency appropriation. That's what it would cost, 17 cents.

The audience talks about how much they need to keep running for the rest of the year, and how they are hoping they have enough from billing to cover it. The audience also discusses EMTs pay rate each hour.

Mayor Sutton- I guess we need to decide if we help out by the end of the year.

Mike Vizzard- I'm not deciding anything until I talk to Pam.

Kacey Catalano thanked the committee for their time and hearing them out.

Mayor Sutton asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Deputy Mayor Klaudi made a motion and Committeeman Vizzard seconded.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Gabrielle Horseman, Deputy Clerk