

DARBY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 13,2022

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE DARBY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WAS HELD ON APRIL 13, 2022, AT 7:00PM AT 21 BARTRAM AVENUE (DARBY TOWNSHIP), GLENOLDEN, PENNSYLVANIA, 19036.

COMMISSIONER LACEY, PRESIDENT CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AND ASKED FOR A MOMENT OF SILENCE AND THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG.

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONERS

OFFICIALS

MR. LACEY, COMMISSIONER

MS. WHITAKER, MANAGER

MR. SMITH, COMMISSIONER

MR. SOUSA, CHIEF OF POLICE

MS. TALIAFERRO, COMMISSIONER

MS. POE, SECRETARY

MR. FITZ, COMMISSIONER

MR. PIERCE, SOLICITOR

MR. GOUGLER, COMMISSIONER-**EXCUSED** MS. CATANIA, ENGINEER

MR. PIERCE, SOLICITOR-PARAPHRASED AN UPDATE ON CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE RELATING TO CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION FOR THE COMMENTS THAT WERE ALLEGEDLY MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE BRIARCLIFFE FIRE COMPANY AT A MEETING HELD TO DISCUSS FIRE SERVICES WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP. OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE WAS RECEIVED FROM THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE INDICATING THEY HAVE REVIEWED THE MATTER AND TO PARAPHRASE, THE PUBLIC OUTRAGE IS APPROPRIATE, COMMENTS ARE HATEFUL AND OFFENSIVE. MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY DESERVE BETTER FROM THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS AND NEIGHBORS, LET ALONE FROM THOSE WHO HOLD THEMSELVES AS SERVING TO THE CRITICAL PUBLIC FUNCTION. HE STATED THAT UNFORTUNATELY, BASED ON THIS CONCLUSION, NO CRIMES HAVE BEEN COMMITTED. THAT DOES NOT PRECLUDE FURTHER REVIEW BY THE BOARD OR THE COMMUNITY WHERE DECENCY AND GOOD SENSE MAY DICTATE OTHERWISE. DOCTOR MARTIN LUTHER KING JUNIOR TOLD US THAT NOTHING IN THE WORLD IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN SINCERE IGNORANCE AND CONSCIENTIOUS STUPIDITY. MR. PIERCE WENT ON TO STATE THAT AFTER HE RECEIVED THIS COMMUNICATION, HE DID FOLLOW UP WITH BRIARCLIFFE ON FIRE COMPANY THROUGH THEIR COUNSEL. AT THAT TIME, AT THE DIRECTION OF THE BOARD, WE HAD ASKED FOR FIVE SEPARATE THINGS. AGAIN, HE PARAPHRASED. HE STATED, LET ME BE CLEAR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WILL NOT EVEN CONSIDER ANY CHANGE IN THE CURRENT SUSPENSION OPERATIONS OF BRIARCLIFF FIRE COMPANY UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE FOLLOWING:

1. THE INDIVIDUALS PRESENT AT THE MEETING ARE IDENTIFIED AND SAID INFORMATION IS PROVIDED TO THE TOWNSHIP.

2. A FORMAL APOLOGY IS PROVIDED TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR THE ACTIONS OF THESE INDIVIDUALS AND DENOUNCING THEIR WORDS AND CONDUCT FROM BRIARCLIFFE FIRE COMPANY AND DETAILING THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE FIRE COMPANY RELATED TO THOSE INVOLVED UPON LEARNING OF THE ISSUES RAISED.
3. THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED ARE PERMANENTLY REMOVED FROM MEMBERSHIP, OPERATIONS, LEADERSHIP POSITIONS OF BRIARCLIFFE FIRE COMPANY.
4. A FORMAL VOTE IS TAKEN TO ESTABLISH NEW LEADERSHIP WITH THE FIRE COMPANY AND SAID INFORMATION IS PROVIDED TO THE TOWNSHIP.
5. THE MEETING IS SCHEDULED WITH THE NEW LEADERSHIP IN THE TOWNSHIP TO DISCUSS PLAN GOING FORWARD FOR FIRE SERVICES IN DARBY TOWNSHIP.

UNTIL ALL OF THAT IS COMPLISHED, BRIARCLIFF IS NOT A RECOGNIZED ENTITY PROVIDING FIRE SERVICES TO THE RESIDENTS OF DARBY TOWNSHIP. MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HAVE RECEIVED COMMUNICATION FROM MEMBERS OF THE FIRE COMPANY INDICATING THAT THEY ARE IN ESSENCE BEING SHUT OUT OF ANY AND ALL ISSUES RELATED TO THE OPERATION THE COMPANY IN STATUS. WHILE THAT IS AN INTERNAL MATTER AT THE FIRE COMPANY THE PERCEPTION IS THAT THE CULPABLE INDIVIDUALS ARE UNILATERALLY MAKING DECISIONS AND SENDING OUT SELF SERVING PRESS RELEASES ON BEHALF OF THE FIRE COMPANY THUS INDICATING THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE LETTERS AND PRESS RELEASES ARE THE POSITION OF THE ENTIRE PART COMPANY. I AM SURE YOU WOULD NOT PERMIT SUCH ACTIONS TO TAKE PLACE, I AM JUST BRINGING THAT TO YOUR ATTENTION.

MR. PIERCE RECEIVED A RESPONSE FROM THAT INDICATING, THANK YOU FOR YOUR EMAIL. THE BRIARCLIFFE FIRE COMPANY DOES TAKE THIS MATTER VERY SERIOUSLY. THIS IS NOT AS SIMPLE AS JUST ISSUING APOLOGIES AND TERMINATING CERTAIN MEMBERS. THE FIRE COMPANY'S ABILITY TO CONTINUE TO FUNCTION IS AT STAKE, THEREFORE THE COMPANY IS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO SURVIVE BOTH FINANCIALLY AND WITH SUFFICIENT ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP. THIS TAKES TIME FOR THE PROCESS WILL INVOLVE DISCUSSIONS AND REQUEST FOR CONCESSIONS FOR VENDORS AND THIRD PARTIES. OF COURSE, THE FIRE COMPANY UNDERSTANDS IF THIS CONTINUES, THE ULTIMATE RESOLUTION WILL HAVE TO INCLUDE THE TOWNSHIP'S DEMANDS BECAUSE THE TOWNSHIP HAS ULTIMATE CONTROL OF THE FIRE COMPANY'S ABILITY TO RESPOND. IN LIGHT OF THESE ISSUES, THE FIRE COMPANY CANNOT FULLY RESPOND AT THIS TIME. IN THE MEANTIME, THE FIRE COMPANY WILL CONTINUE TO ABIDE BY THE TOWNSHIP SUSPENSION.

MR. PIERCE RESPONDED TO THAT STATING, UNFORTUNATELY YOUR REPLY IS INSUFFICIENT AND REALLY DOES NOTHING TO BRING THIS MATTER TO A RESOLUTION. THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED HAVE YET TO BE IDENTIFIED BY THE FIRE COMPANY AND THE DISCIPLINE ADMINISTERED BY THE BOARD HAS NOT EVEN BEEN SHARED WITH THE TOWNSHIP. BRIARCLIFF IS PLACING THE TOWNSHIP IN A VERY DIFFICULT POSITION. OVER TWO MONTHS HAVE PASSED

SINCE THE ORIGINAL INCIDENT. WE HAVE BEEN PROVIDED LITTLE, IF ANY INFORMATION FROM THE FIRE COMPANY. WHILE I UNDERSTAND THERE MAY BE OTHER ISSUES RELATED TO THE FIRE COMPANY AND ITS CONTINUED FINANCIAL VIABILITY THE LACK OF CANDOR AND INFORMATION IS NOT ONLY TROUBLING BUT DOWN RIGHT INSULTING. THAT SAME SHIP WILL ASSUME THAT BRIARCLIFFE IS NOT GOING TO COOPERATE AND WILL TAKE WHATEVER ACTION THEY DEEM NECESSARY TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES ON THEIR END WHICH MAY INCLUDE DECERTIFICATION OF (INAUDIBLE). THE LACK OF COMMUNICATION IS NOT GOING TO BE TOLERATED BY THE TOWNSHIP OR THE PUBLIC. THE BOARD IS FACING A GREAT DEAL OF QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO ABOUT THE UNACCEPTABLE SITUATION AND THE MEMBERSHIP AND THEIR CONTINUED ROLE AS A RECOGNIZED FIRE COMPANY FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF DARBY. WHILE THAT REALLY SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE FIRE COMPANY, THE BOARD IS PREPARED TO TAKE FURTHER ACTION AS IT APPEARS THE FIRE COMPANY IS UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO ADDRESS THE SITUATION ITSELF. THE UTILIZATION OF SOCIAL MEDIA BY LEADERS OF THE COMPANY IS NOT HELPING THE SITUATION AND REALLY SEEMS TO JUSTIFY THEIR WORDS AND ACTIONS. THAT IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE. THE BOARD IS TAKING THE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO MAKE SURE THE TOWNSHIP HAS ADEQUATE FIRE COVERAGE DURING THE PERIOD OF CLOSURE BUT THIS IS NOT GOING TO CONTINUE ON FOREVER UNTIL BRIARCLIFFE DECIDES WHAT THEY ARE DOING. THE BOARD WILL MOVE FORWARD WITH WHAT MAKES SENSE FOR THE ENTIRE TOWNSHIP IN TERMS OF FIRE AND EMS COVERAGE. AS I HAVE INDICATED THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETS TWICE THIS WEEK AND I EXPECT A MORE SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE FROM BRIARCLIFFE. THE BALL IS IN YOUR COURT. TO THAT END, THIS MORNING I DID ACTUALLY RECEIVE A RESPONSE FROM THE ATTORNEY FOR BRIARCLIFFE.

BRIARCLIFFE FIRE COMPANY STRONGLY DENIES ANYONE IN THE TOWNSHIP WAS EVER TREATED DIFFERENTLY OR DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BASED UPON THEIR RACE. THE TOWNSHIP REFERRED THIS MATTER TO THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY WHO CLEARED THE FIRE COMPANY BY FINDING NO CRIMES WERE COMMITTED. UNFORTUNATELY, IN LIGHT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION, BRIARCLIFFE FIRE COMPANY CAN NO LONGER FUNCTION. THE MEMBERS ARE VOLUNTEERS WHO DO NOT WANT TO CONTINUE RISKING THEIR LIVES IF THEY ARE NOT APPRECIATED. THEY ALSO DON'T SEE WHERE THEY CAN SURVIVE FINANCIALLY WITHOUT DRASTICALLY INCREASED TOWNSHIP FINANCIAL SUPPORT WHICH I UNDERSTAND WILL NOT BE PROVIDED. THEREFORE, THE MEMBERS VOTED TO DISBAND. I WILL BE ASSISTING THEM IN WINDING UP THEIR OPERATIONS. PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHERE TO DELIVER THE FIRE TRUCKS WHICH ARE TOWNSHIP PROPERTY. THERE WERE SUBSEQUENT COMMUNICATION RELATED TO THE RETURN OF THE FIRE APPARATUS. THE TOWNSHIP IS CURRENTLY MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO PICK UP THAT APPARATUS AND TO DEAL WITH IT AS THE TOWNSHIP IS IN THE PROCESS OF MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO HAVE ADEQUATE SAFE AND SECURE STORAGE OF THE FIRE APPARATUS ONCE THE EQUIPMENT THAT BELONGS TO BRIARCLIFFE FIRE COMPANY IS REMOVED. WE ARE SETTING UP A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME. THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER HAS BEEN DEALING WITH THIS SITUATION.

AGAIN, LET ME MAKE IT CLEAR THAT UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE CURRENT SITUATION IS IN EXISTENCE BRIARCLIFFE IS NON-OPERATIONAL WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF DARBY AS A RECOGNIZED FIRE COMPANY. THAT APPARATUS WILL BE DEALT WITH WHEN WE LOOK AT THE OVERALL PICTURE OF FIRE SERVICES LOCATED WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF DARBY FOR THE ENTIRE TOWNSHIP.

AS YOU KNOW THIS INCIDENT BROUGHT TO LIGHT OR WAS PART OF A SITUATION WHERE THE ENTIRE FIRE SERVICE DELIVERY FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF DARBY WAS UNDER REVIEW BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE AND APPROPRIATE COVERAGE FOR THE ENTIRE TOWNSHIP. THIS UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT OCCURRED AT THE END OF A MEETING THAT WAS COMMISSIONED BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS RELATED TO THE FIRE SERVICES WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA WHO PROVIDED THE TOWNSHIP WITH A LENGTHY SIGNIFICANT REPORT WITH CERTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS. THE BOARD WAS IN THE PROCESS OF REVIEWING THAT FOR FUTURE SERVICES. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS HAS TAKEN OVER THE CENTER STAGE. THE TOWNSHIP HAS ENGAGED AND ASKED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF UPPER DARBY TOWNSHIP, AND WE THANK THE MAYOR AND CHIEF SAWYER, WHO IS PRESENT TONIGHT TO ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE COVERAGE IS PROVIDED TO THE ENTIRE TOWNSHIP RELATED TO ANY FIRE SERVICES EMERGENCY. THE BOARD IS GRATEFUL FOR THAT OPPORTUNITY AND THAT REACHING OUT OF A NEIGHBORING TOWNSHIP TO PROVIDE THAT SERVICE TO THE TOWNSHIP. THAT IS FREE OF COST AT THIS POINT IN TIME. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE THAT IT'S GOING TO GO ON INTO THE INDEFINITE FUTURE BUT WANTED TO ENSURE THAT THERE WAS ADEQUATE FIRE EMS SERVICES AVAILABLE TO ALL RESIDENTS OF THE TOWNSHIP.

COMMISSIONER LACEY OPENED THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND ASKED ALL TO KEEP THEIR COMMENTS TO TWO MINUTES SO THAT EVERYONE WILL GET A CHANCE TO SPEAK.

CRYSTAL BELL, 1501 CLIFTON AVENUE-MS. BELL FEELS THAT THE MEMBERS FROM BRIARCLIFFE FIRE COMPANY WHO MADE THOSE STATEMENTS SHOULD NOT BE A PART OF ANY OTHER FIRE COMPANY OR MEDICAL COMPANY.

STATE SENATOR ANTHONY WILLIAMS SPOKE THAT, PERSONALLY, AS A LEGISLATOR HE DID NOT EXPECT ANY LEGAL CONSEQUENCE BUT HE EXPECTS THERE ARE FORMAL CONSEQUENCE. HE SPOKE TO THE COMMUNITY ABOUT THE WORLD IS WATCHING BECAUSE OF THE INTERNET. HE SPOKE TO THOSE WHO CHOSE NOT TO APOLOGIZE, HE SAID HE PRAY FOR THEM. HE STATED THE ATTENDANCE TONIGHT IS OUTSTANDING AND HE ASKED THE PUBLIC TO LET THE BOARD GOVERN.

REPRESENTATIVE DELLUSO SPOKE AND STATED, WITH WHAT TRANSPIRED AT BRIARCLIFFE DOES NOT REFLECT THIS NEIGHBORHOOD IN HIS EXPERIENCE. HE SAID THAT ALLOWING THEM TO DISBAND IS SOMEWHAT GRACEFUL. IT IS SOMEWHAT A GRACE THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BE AFFORDED. HE THINKS THE

TOWNSHIP SHOULD TAKE A STEP TO MAKE SURE THAT THEY'RE DISBANDMENT IS PERMANENT AND THEY COULD NEVER RETURN.

COUNCILMAN RICHARD WOMACK APLAUDED THE COMMISSIONERS AND THE STEPS THEY ARE TAKING. HE IS ASKING THEM TO CONTINUE TO PURSUE THIS AND MAKE SURE THAT WE PUT A LID ON IT AND IT DOES NOT REOCUR. HE STATED HE CARES ABOUT THE RESIDENTS OF DARBY TOWNSHIP. HE STATED HE IS FROM DARBY TOWNSHIP. HE CARES ABOUT THE SAFETY OF ALL PEOPLE. HE IS THANKFUL THAT THERE ARE NEIGHBORING TOWNSHIPS AND BOROUGHES THAT ARE WILLING TO HELP US AND CHIP IN.

TERRYL QUARLES, 1517 ROOSEVELT DRIVE-MS. QUARLES SAID THANK YOU.

GINA R. SCIRROTTO, 641 BEECH AVENUE HAD CONCERNS BECAUSE THE FIRE HOUSE IS RIGHT UP THE STREET FROM HER HOUSE AND WITH THE FIRE COMPANY CLOSING, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HER IN CASE OF EMERGENCY.

CHIEF GRAFF, GOODWILL FIRE COMPANY STATED THIS IS NOT A FIRE COMPANY PROBLEM. IT IS AN EMS PROBLEM.

DISCUSSION ENSUED.

CHIEF BOBO, DARBY TOWNSHIP STATED THAT FOR OVER 30 YEARS, THE SAME ARGUMENT THAT SHE HAS IS THE SSAME ARGUMENT THAT HE HAS BEEN ARGUING ON THE SOUTHERN END OF THE TOWNSHIP. NOW THAT THIS SITUATION HAS THE ATTENTION THAT IT HAS, THIS BOARD, ALONG WITH THESE FIRE CHIEFS HAVE COMMITTED TO RECTIFY THOSE ISSUES MOVING FORWARD. THE ISSUES WILL BE ADDRESSED ON THE NORTHERN SIDE AS WELL AS THE SOUTHERN SIDE.

DISCUSSION ENSUED.

THERESA SHARKEY, 426 WESTBRIDGE ROAD. MS. SHARKEY STATED HER CONCERN IS SOMETHING MAY HAPPEN WITHOUT A FIRE COMPANY BEING CLOSE BY. SHE DOESN'T CARE WHO HOUSES IT.

COMMISSIONER SMITH-STATED THAT ON FEBRUARY 1, 2000. HIS MOTHER DIED WAITING FOR AMBULANCES AND HE LIVES ON THE SOUTHERN SECTION OF DARBY TOWNSHIP.

THE CHIEF SPOKE AND THE SOLICITOR SAID, THERE ARE UNITS IN PLACE. THIS IS NOT ABOUT THE FIRE COMPANY. HE SAID SHE IS TALKING ABOUT THE AMBULANCE COMPANY. THE STAFF IS SHORT THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY.

DISCUSSION ENSUED.

COMMISSIONER LACEY STATED HE WANTED TO REMIND EVERYONE THAT EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS AN AMBULANCE SITTING IN THE BRIARCLIFFE FIRE

STATION, THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT WAS GOING TO BE STAFFED AT ANY TIME.

DISCUSSION ENSUED.

CHIEF BOBO ASKED IF EVERYONE KNEW WHERE UPPER DARBY'S FIRE STATION IS RIGHT BEHIND PRICE RIGHT. GEOGRAPHICALLY THE MATH HAS BEEN DONE AND THAT STATION IS CLOSER THAN GLENOLDEN TO BRIARCLIFFE, IT'S CLOSER THAN COLLINGDALE, IT'S CLOSER THAN HOLMES AND IS STAFFED 24/7.

(INAUDIBLE) 103 STATFORD ROAD-ENCOURAGED EVERYONE TO READ THE REPORT ON THE TOWNSHIP'S WEBSITE.

ASHLEY DOLCEMORE, 1151 OAKWOOD DRIVE-MS. DOLCEMORE STATED SHE WISH THERE WAS THIS AMOUNT OF OUTRAGE WHEN THIS AUDIO FIRST CAME OUT. TO KNOW THAT PUBLIC SERVANTS FELT THIS WAY ABOUT NOT ONLY THEIR RESIDENTS, BUT ONE OF THE CHIEFS OF DARBY TOWNSHIP. SHE ALSO STATED THAT SHE DOES NOT THINK THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN AFFORDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISBAND THEMSELVES AND SHE WISHES THE COMMISSIONERS WOULD HAVE MADE A MOVE SOONER. SHE SAID, IF ANYBODY HERE WOULD LIKE TO GO TO EMS SCHOOL OR FIRE SCHOOL, THEY CAN BE CONNECTED WITH THE PROPER RESOURCES AFTER THIS MEETING.

NICHOLAS GAVIN-702 SURREY LANE-HE REMARKED THAT HE FOUND IT APPALLING THAT BRIARCLIFFE FIRE COMPANY NEVER SENT AN IMMEDIATE APOLOGY OR RESIGNATION FOR THE DESPICABLE COMMENTS. HE FINDS IT EVEN MORE APPALLING THAT THEY STILL HAVEN'T DONE SO AND REFUSES TO DO SO. COMMISSIONER SMITH AND GOODWILL HAD THOSE TAPES FOR TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO TURNING THEM OVER. THERE IS ALSO STATE ASSESSMENT, LIKE 66 PAGES THAT GOODWILL SHOULD NOT GET ANY FINANCES AND APARATUS SHOULD BE REMOVED. HE STATED, THE OTHER THING HE HAS A PROBLEM WITH IS THERE IS A COMMISSIONER DUE IN COURT NEXT WEEK ON CHARGES OF LURING, RAPE, SEXUAL ASSAULT AND OTHER CHARGES. HE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHY HE WON'T REMOVE HIMSELF, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY. IT IS JUST MORE OF A DISTRACTION THAN ANYTHING ELSE ON GETTING THINGS ACCOMPLISHED ON THE BOARD.

COMMISSIONER SMITH STATED THE INFORMATION SHARED AT THE TIME WAS DIRECTED BY THE SOLICITOR NOT TO LISTEN TO IT (THE AUDIO). IT WAS DIRECTED TO THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.

DISCUSSION ENSUED.

RICHARD BROWN, 734 BEECH AVENUE-MR. BROWN IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE RAMIFICATIONS OF DISBANDING AN ENTIRE FIRE HOUSE. THERE IS A LACKING ON BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE OF FINDING A RESOLVE INSTEAD OF CANCELING EVERYBODY OUT.

COMMISSIONER SMITH SPOKE ON THE FIRE ASSESSMENT DONE AND HOW

EVERYTHING WAS BENEFICIAL AND IT LOOKED LIKE GOODWILL WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN IN THE PICTURE ACCORDING TO THE ASSESSMENT. UNFORTUNATELY, ALL THESE DIFFERENT THINGS HAVE HAPPENED.

DISCUSSION ENSUED.

LOIS BOWMAN, 734 BEECH AVE STATED SHE IS RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE FIREHOUSE. SHE STATED IGNITING IS NOT UNITING. WE HAVE ALL DEALT WITH SOME KIND OF CRAP BUT YOU HAVE TO GET THROUGH IT. SHE SEES THEM GET OUT OF THEIR BEDS TO GO AND HELP SOMEBODY.

DISCUSSION ENSUED.

PAT HOPKINS, BEECH AVENUE-MR. HOPKINS STATED, WHAT WAS SAID WAS TOTALLY WRONG BUT YOU TAKE THAT GROUP OF PEOPLE AND THEY GO.

DISCUSSION ENSUED.

THOMAS GUINAN, 606 MAGNOLIA-THE PEOPLE THAT WANT THE FIRE COMPANY OPEN DO NOT AGREE WITH WHAT HAPPENED. HE WANTS TO KNOW WHAT IS THE PERMANENT SOLLUTION?

MR. PIERCE, SOLICITOR STATED THAT WE ALL HAVE A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT THERE IS COVERAGE THROUGHOUT THE TOWNSHIP. EVERYTHING HAS COVERED.

DISCUSSION ENSUED.

CHIEF SOUSA EXPLAINED THE AMBULANCE SERVICE IS STAFFED BY FITZ. THERE'S A PROBLEM ACROSS THIS COMMONWEALTH. SO, STAFFING IS A HUGE ISSUE. THIS IS ALL HEARSAY AND HE DOES NOT HAVE CONCRETE EVIDENCE, BUT THERE IS LAYOFFS AT FITZ AND CROZIER, THEY ARE LAYING OFF MEDICS. THAT IS WHO STAFFS THESE AMBULANCES. THEY STAFF FOR THESE HOSPITALS. WE ARE ON THE FITZ SIDE. THIS IS NOT JUST DARBY TOWNSHIP; THIS IS EVERY MUNICIPALITY IN DELAWARE COUNTY RIGHT NOW. SO, WHEN YOU SAY TO THE BOARD WHAT IS THE CONTINGENCY PLAN? THERE IS NONE BECAUSE WE ARE WAITING TO SEE WHAT THE COUNTY CAN DO; THEY ARE IN CONVERSATIONS. THEY ARE CONSTANTLY IN MEETINGS TO SEE WHAT THEY CAN DO AS A COUNTY TO PROVIDE THAT SERVICE FOR EVERYBODY ELSE.

DISCUSSION ENSUED.

MS WHITAKER, MANAGER STATED THE CONTRACT WITH THE AMBULANCES IS WITH BRIARCLIFFE, NOT THE TOWNSHIP OF DARBY. THEY ARE CURRENTLY REVIEWING CONTRACTS ACROSS THE COUNTY AND THEY ARE AWARE THAT THIS MUNICIPALITY WANTS THEIR OWN AMBULANCE SO THEY KNOW THAT WE NEED ONE. THERE IS A PROCESS THAT HAS TO HAPPEN. THAT CONTRACT WAS NOT WITH TOWNSHIP, THE TOWNSHIP DID NOT DISCONTINUE EMS SERVICES. THAT WAS A CALL THAT MERCY FITZ MADE, NOT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

DISCUSSION ENSUED.

SHEILA A. CARTER, LOCAL CHAPTER PRESIDENT OF THE NAACP-MS CARTER, LONG TIME RESIDENT OF DARBY TOWNSHIP, STATED SHE THOUGHT TODAY'S MEETING WAS TO DISCUSS THE OUTCOME OF BRIARCLFFE. ALTHOUGH BRIACLIFFE HAS PULLED THEMSELVES OUT OF ANY FIRE SERVICES WITHIN DARBY TOWNSHIP, THAT IS NOT ENOUGH. SHE STATED THAT SOME PEOPLE SAY THAT IT WAS NOT RACE RELATED BUT IT IS RACE RELATED. "SHE UNDERSTANDS THAT THE PEOPLE WHO PROVIDES THESE SERVICES CARE ABOUT US BUT WHEN YOU GO ON RECORD SAYING YOU DO NOT CARE ABOUT US, WHEN YOU GO ON RECORD TO TALK ABOUT US IN A WAY THAT MAKES US UNDERSTAND THAT YOU DO NOT CARE FOR US, THERE IS NO ROOM FOR YOU. THERE'S NO ROOM FOR HATE. THAT MOTHER SITTING THERE IN THE BACK, SHE HAD TO SIT HERE AND LISTEN AND HEAR THEM MOCKING HER DAUGHTER. A YOUNG CHILD. THEY WERE MOCKING HER. THE BOARD HAS TO MAKE THE DECISION FOR THE COMMUNITY". THIS BOARD HERE IS ONE OF THE BEST BOARDS THAT SHE HAS SEEN IN HER LIFE. SHE HAS SEEN THE WORK THAT THEY DO.

FELICIA COFFEE, FORMER MAYOR OF COLLINGDALE-MS. COFFEE STATED THAT COLLINGDALE'S FIRE COMPANY ALSO HAD TO MERGE BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF PARTICIPATION AND VOLUNTEERS. SHE SPOKE ON THE RACISM AND HOW GOD MOVES IN PEOPLE. SHE STATED TO LET THE COMMISSIONERS DO THEIR WORK AND WE ALL WILL BENEFIT.

COMMISSIONER SMITH MADE A MOTION TO RECOGNIZE AND ACCEPT THE SELF DECERTIFICATIONS OF STATION 75 AND TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE MUTUAL PARTNERSHIP OF STATION 74 TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE RESIDENTS, NORTHERN SECTION AND STATION 74 TO RESPOND TO STRUCTUAL FIRES.

COMMISSIONER LACEY STATED THERE IS A MOTION.

MR. PIERCE, SOLICITOR STATED THAT COMMISSIONER SMITH DID NOT HAVE TO DO THAT.

COMMISSIONER SMITH STATED HE WANTED TO MAKE SURE IT WAS ON THE RECORD. HE ASKED MR. PIERCE, SOLICITOR IF HE WAS CORRECT IN ASKING," DO WE NOT NEED TO PUT IT ON THE RECORD THAT STATION 75 SELF DISBANDED THEMSELVES AND THAT THEIR ATTORNEY DID SAY THEY WOULD MAKE AN ARRANGEMENT FOR THE APARATUS TO BE PICKED UP."

MR. PIERCE SOLICITOR STATED THAT THE EXACT WORDING OF THE EMAIL SAID, "THAT THEY VOTED TO DISBAND AND THEY ARE WINDING UP THEIR OPERATIONS AND THE FIRE APPARATUS WOULD BE RETURNED TO THE TOWNSHIP." SO, I DON'T KNOW WHAT DIFFERENCE THAT MEANS BECAUSE THAT'S ALREADY IN THE PUBLIC RECORDS. THAT'S WHY I READ IT.



COMMISSIONER SMITH SAID THANK YOU SO MUCH. COMMISSIONER FITZ JUST VERIFIED IT. FOR UNDERSTANDING SO THAT THE RESIDENTS ARE CLEAR, IT'S IN PUBLIC RECORD ALREADY THAT THEY DECERTIFIED THEMSELVES. THIS BOARD DID NOT DO THAT AND THE BOARD DOES NOT HAVE TO TAKE THAT STEP AT THE PRESENT MOMENT. EVEN THOUGH I MADE A MOTION, WE DO NOT NEED IT AT THIS TIME. AN AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION. BECAUSE ACCORDING TO THEIR ATTORNEYS TO RETURN THE APPARATUS. LET THIS BOARD BE FULLY AWARE THAT THERE ARE OTHER ITEMS THAT WAS PURCHASED WITH STATE FUNDS THAT NEED TO BE RETURNED AND CHECKED OUT.”

MR. PIERCE, SOLICITOR SAID, ABSOLUTELY, I'VE DISCUSSED THAT WITH THEIR ATTORNEY.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING HELD ON MARCH 7, 2022. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO. THREE APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED. COPY ATTACHED.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE LIST OF BILLS FOR MARCH 2022. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO. THREE APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED. COPY ATTACHED.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE SOLICITOR TO DRAFT A BILLING SERVICE ORDINANCE AND ADVERTISE BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING ON MAY 11, 2022. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH. FOUR APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO RATIFY THE BOARDS DECISION TO PURCHASE FIVE POLICE VEHICLES FROM THE STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO. FOUR APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO RATIFIED THE BOARDS DECISION TO PURCHASE ONE FORD EXPEDITION WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF DARBY FIRE STATION 76 OFFICER IN CHARGE UNIT (OIC) FROM THE STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH. FOUR APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF IWORQ LICENSE AND INSPECTION SOFTWARE FROM THE STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO. FOUR APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE REIMBURSEMENT OF THE GENERAL FUND FOR COVID-19 PAYROLL EXPENSES FROM 2020 TO 2022 FROM THE STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH. FOUR APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE REIMBURSEMENT TO THE GENERAL FUND FOR PPE SUPPLIES AND RELATED EXPENSES FROM 2020 TO 2022 FROM THE STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO. THREE APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2022-06 FOR THE DCNR GRANT APPLICATION FOR SYUDEVAN FIELD IMPROVEMENTS. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH. FOUR APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO APPROVE ESCROW RELEASE NO. 1, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8100.00 TO H. GILROY DAMON ASSOCIATES INCORPORATED. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO. THREE APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF SARITA PAUL AS A PART TIME POLICE OFFICER, EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 13, 2022. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH. FOUR APPROVED, MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE TO TEST FOR POLICE OFFICERS. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO. FOUR APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE PROMOTION OF OFFICER SEAN GALLAGHER TO THE RANK OF CORPORAL, EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2022. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH. FOUR APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE PROMOTION OF OFFICER LANCE CSNADY TO THE RANK OF CORPORAL, EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2022. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO. THREE APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO ADD UPPER DARBY TOWNSHIP TO THE RUN CARD FOR THE NORTHERN SECTION OF DARBY TOWNSHIP. THAT BEING SAID, THE CHIEF OF UPPER DARBY FIRE DEPARTMENT IS HERE FOR ANY QUESTIONS THAT MIGHT BE ADDED. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO.

COMMISSIONER SMITH STATED THAT BEFORE THE MOTION CARRIES, HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AN ORDINANCE TO RECOGNIZE STATION 77 AND 76 AS THE TWO FIRE SERVICES FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF DARBY. FIRST AS FIRE PROVIDER AND THEN TO AMMEND THE MOTION TO ADD THEM TO THE RUN CARDS.

MR, PIERCE, SOLICITOR STATED THAT YOU CAN'T DO AN ORDINANCE TONIGHT.

DISCUSSION ENSUED.

COMMISSIONER SMITH REQUESTED THE BOARD CHANGE THE MOTION TO STATE TO ADD UPPER DARBY TOWNSHIP TO THE RUN CARDS FOR THE NORTHERN SECTION UP DARBY TOWNSHIP FOR CONFIRMED STRUCTURAL FIRES.

DISCUSSION ENSUED.

CHIEF SAWYER, FIRE CHIEF OF UPPER DARBY TOWNSHIP DEFINED "CONFIRMED STRUCTURAL FIRE".

COMMISSIONER SMITH REQUESTED A 30 SECOND EXECUTIVE SESSION.

DISCUSSION ENSUED.

ROLL CALL VOTE-

COMMISSIONER SMITH-NO

COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO-YES

COMMISSIONER FITZ-YES

COMMISSIONER LACEY-YES

ROLL CALL VOTE WAS THREE YES AND ONE NO.

MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO MOVED TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF SIX TABLES AND ONE BENCH TO THE ALUMNI CORNER IN CONWAY PARK .BY THE DARBY TOWNSHIP ACADEMY PARK AT NO COST TO THE TOWNSHIP. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH. ALL APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE ENGINEER AND CODE ENFORCEMENT TO CHECK ON COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTIES THAT ABUT PRIVATE PROPERTIES BEHIND HOUSES ON LINDEN AVENUE, 617 AND 625 SHARON AVENUE AND ABETTING LAUREL AND LINCOLN PARK DEVELOPMENT. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FITZ. THREE APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

#### PROFESSIONAL REPORTS

ENGINEER REPORT, LISA CATANIA:

MS. CATANIA STATED THE 2021 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT, PROPOSALS WAS TAKEN FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND ZONING ORDINANCE UPDATES. RECEIVED ONE PROPOSAL, URBAN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORP OF BETHLEHAM WAS LOW BECAUSE IT'S WITHIN THE GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR THIS PROJECT. IT'S NOT ON THE AGENDA THIS EVENING BUT SHE'D LIKE TO GET ON THE AGENDA FOR NEXT MONTH.

COMMISSIONER LACEY REQUESTED A LIST OF THE DATES FOR THE DELCORA PROJECT SO THEY CAN BE LISTED ON THE WEBSITE.

COMMISSIONER SMITH ASKED ABOUT THE LIST OF STREET REPAIRS.

MS. CATANIA STATED THE LIST IS A WISH LIST AND SHE WOULD NEED A LIST FROM THE BOARD.

COMMISSIONER SMITH STATED HE WAS ASKING BECAUSE AT THE BOTTOM OF FORRESTER AVENUE THE STORM DRAIN IS COMPLETELY CRACKED AND IT IS GOING TO COLLAPSE. THE BRIDGE IS DAMAGE. ALSO, AT THE TOP OF FORRESTER AND BURTON AVENUE THERE IS STILL A CONE THAT IS UPSIDE DOWN IN A BIG HOLE. HE REQUESTED FOR THAT AREA TO BE LOOKED AT.

MS. CATANIA STATED THAT PROJECT WAS NOTED WITH WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT HEARING THAT WAS DONE IN DECEMBER OF LAST YEAR.

COMMISSIONER SMITH MOVED TO ACCEPT THE ENGINEER'S REPORT. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO. FOUR APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED. COPY ATTACHED.

SOLICITOR REPORT, MR. PIERCE.

COMMISSIONER SMITH THANKED MR. PIERCE FOR HIS HARD WORK AND DIALOGUE BACK AND FORTH AND THE MANY QUESTIONS (INAUDIBLE). COMMISSIONER SMITH MOVED TO ACCEPT THE SOLICITOR'S REPORT. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FITZ. FOUR APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED. COPY ATTACHED.

POLICE REPORT, CHIEF SOUSA.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO ACCEPT THE POLICE REPORT. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH. FOUR APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED. COPY ATTACHED.

COMMISSIONER LACEY THANKED THE DARBY TOWNSHIP FIRE CHIEFS FOR SITTING IN THE FRONT FOR THIS MEETING AND HE WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE THAT MOVING FORWARD AND HE WOULD LIKE TO DEVELOP A WAY THAT THEY COME UP WITH A FIRE REPORT LIKE THEY HAD IN THE PAST.  
COMMISSIONERS REPORTS.

COMMISSIONER FITZ, WARD III-READ THE HIGHWAY REPORT.

COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO, WARD II STATED THAT PARKS & RECREATION IS MOVING FORWARD WITH THE RECOMMENDATION FOR THE BACKBOARD AND RIM. SHE IS LOOKING TO IMPROVE THE BACKBOARDS. SHE RECEIVED QUOTES OF \$759.00. THE COURT AT FORRESTER AND CLIFTON WILL BE DONE FIRST AND THEN MOVE ON TO OTHER COURTS AS NEEDED. SHE WILL BE LOOKING FOR A MOTION NEXT MONTH. SHE AND THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER MET WITH COUNTY STAFF TO DISCUSS A NEW LIBRARY/COMMUNITY CENTER. THERE WAS VERY GOOD DISCUSSION AND SHE IS LOOKING TO GET MORE INFORMATION AND APPLY FOR NEW GRANTS. THE LOT APPRASIAL AT 816 SHARON AVENUE HAS BEEN COMPLETED. ONCE THE RESIDENT WHO IS SEEKING TO BUY THE PROPERTY IS APRIZED OF THE COST, WILL BE OFFERED AT THE APPRAISE COST AND PENDING A COURT APPROVAL. SHE IS ASKING THAT A MOTION BE MADE TO BE ABLE TO SELL THAT TO THE RESIDENT.

MR. PIERCE STATED THE MOTION WOULD BE MADE NEXT MONTH AND THEN FILED WITH THE COURT.

DISCUSSION ENSUED ABOUT THE BASKETBALL COURT.

COMMISSIONER SMITH, WARD I THANKED THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT FOR CLEANING UP CENTER AREA, CLIFTON AND FORRESTER AVENUE AREA AND SIGNS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED ON HOOK ROAD AND TRIBBETT AVENUE. POTHoles HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED ON HOOK ROAD. HE THANKED COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO FOR THE BASKETBALL COURT UPDATE. COMMISSIONER LACEY, WARD IV GAVE THE LICENSE & INSPECTION REPORT. HE ALSO SPOKE ON THE ZONING HEARING BOARD HAVING THEIR HEARING WITH WHITE AUTO AND THANKED THEM.  
NEW BUSINESS  
COMMISSIONER FITZ-NONE

COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO-NONE

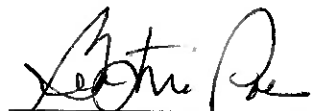
COMMISSIONER SMITH IS REQUESTING THE SOLICITOR SEND A LETTER TO THE ATTORNEY DETAILING THE RECOVERY OF THE FIRE APARATUS AND MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO PICK IT UP. HE ASKED THAT IT BE NOTED THAT HOPEFULLY THEY DON'T COME BACK WITH ANY DAMAGES AND SUGGESTED IF ANY DAMAGES THEN A LIEN WOULD BE PUT ON THAT BUILDING. IN REGARD TO ALL FIRE RELIEF ASSOCIATION EQUIPMENT AND ALL EQUIPMENT WILL BE CHECKED OUT.


COMMISSIONER LACEY-NONE

COMMISSIONER SMITH MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURNED. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FITZ. FOUR APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING WAS ADJOUNED.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

  
BEATRICE POE,  
SECRETARY

  
JOHN LACEY,  
PRESIDENT