

SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP  
WORKSESSION MEETING AGENDA  
FEBRUARY 4, 2016  
7:30 PM

1. Meeting called to order by the Mayor
2. Reading of the Sunshine Notice
3. Salute to the Flag
4. Roll Call: Mr. Frank, Mr. Hlubik, Mr. Marinello, Mr. McDaniel, Mr. Sobotka
5. Endeavor and America Squad
6. Review of Department Reports
7. Review of Bills
8. Review Correspondence
9. Township Officials' Business
10. Public Comment
11. Adjournment

**TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING**  
**February 4, 2016**

The meeting of the Springfield Township Council was called to order by Mayor McDaniel with Council Members David Frank, John Hlubik, Anthony Marinello (Via telephone conference ) and Peter Sobotka present. Also present was Township Manager Mr. Keller.

The Sunshine Notice was read:

"Public notice of this meeting pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act has been given by the Springfield Township Council in the following manner on January 10, 2016:

- a. Posting written notice on the official bulletin board at the Municipal Building, Jobstown, NJ
- b. Transmitting written notice to the Register News and the Burlington County Times
- c. Filing written notice with the Clerk of Springfield Township
- d. Mailing written notice to each person who has requested copies of the regular meeting schedule and who has prepaid any charges fixed for such services."

Mayor McDaniel led the salute to the Flag.

**ENDEAVOR AND AMERICA SQUAD PRESENTATION**

Dave Eckelberg, Endeavor Chief Operating Officer  
Ron Kieft – America Squad Chief and Chief Operating Officer

Chief Eckelburg stated that both organizations are non-profit and consist of paid and volunteers. For the year 2015 they responded for a total of 8746 calls between the two squads. He added that there is always a supervisor on duty. He went over the staffing and Boards for each organization and the years of experience of both himself and Chief Kieft and the qualifications for the paid and volunteer staff and the continuing education programs.

Chief Eckelburg stated that Endeavor would cover everything west of 206 and Route 206 and America would provide services for all areas east of 206. All ambulances would be staffed by at least 2 EMTs. Each company would provide monthly reports regarding calls for the previous month. Mr. Frank asked how many ambulances would be on the road for each squad each day and Chief Eckelburg replied that America has one ambulance on 24/7 and Endeavor has one ambulance on 24/7 then a second one on from 6 am to 2 am and a third Monday through Friday 8 am to 4 pm. He added that each company would respond to any complaints regarding to service directly to the Township Manager and they would conduct an investigation and provide a report to the Manager. They would also like to be made aware of any complaints the Township receives as they are received. Chief Eckelburg explained that mutual aid would be available if either squad could not respond timely.

Chief Eckelburg stated that they would provide an ambulance for any critical events, such as a fire and a standby ambulance for mutually agreed public events at no charge. He added that training would be provided at no cost as well as continuing education for the police to keep their EMT certification.

Mr. Sobotka asked about the residence of employees and volunteers and Chief Eckelburg responded that full-time staff can come from different municipalities and if a member is a Pennsylvania resident they are required to have NJ certifications. He added that the staff is stationed at the EMS building and would not be coming from home to respond to calls.

Chief Eckelburg stated that priority one calls are for heart attack, breathing, broken limb and priority two calls would be for a fall with no injuries and for priority two calls there would be no lights or sirens. He added that for advance life calls paramedics would also be dispatched and they are located in Columbus and the response time to Applegate Rd. from there is 8 minutes normal drive time. He further added that from America squad to that same location is 13 minutes normal driving time. Chief Eckelburg explained that for Springfield EMS to get to the Old York Rd area would be 12 minutes normal driving time. He explained that to have an 8 minutes response time to all areas of Springfield Township it would require two ambulances to be stationed at 2 different locations. Chief Kieft is trying now to plot where the majority of calls are coming from and Endeavor has 3 ambulances on during the work week when calls are heaviest. Chief Eckelburg stated that he estimates the average response time for both would be 8 minutes and again reiterated that for critical calls paramedics would be dispatched and the response would be sooner. Chief Kieft added that there are medics stationed at various areas that would respond depending on where the call is in the township.

Chief Eckelburg went over the number of called that Springfield EMS had in 2015 and he went over how many were for the Fairgrounds, Market and MVAs.

Chief Eckelburg went over that billing for a transport is \$750 or \$175 for refusal and each company would bill insurance companies then send to the party if not covered by insurance. He added that the bills are mailed three times and then they stop and no one is sent to collections. Chief Eckelburg said the amount collected is about 30-33 percent of amount billed.

Chief Eckelburg went over the 911 process for dispatch and how calls are handled. He added that they try to transport to Lourdes Willingboro or Deborah and Virtua Mt. Holly to keep the

turnaround time for the ambulance as quick as possible but they will transport further if the need for treatment requires a different hospital or if a person requests to be transported elsewhere. He also went over quality control process to make sure that level of service and care is good.

Chief Eckelburg stated that the squads go out to community activities if a group requests it. Mr. Sobotka asked how they stay funded and Chief Eckelburg responded that most of the money comes from billing and Endeavor only gets about 9 percent funding from the Township. Mr. Sobotka asked how his company funds the purchase an ambulance and Chief Eckelburg responded that they took a loan to purchase a new ambulance very recently. He added that they also purchased a building and rehabbed it and took a 30 year loan to finance that but they pay cash for everything else. He also added that a starting EMT gets \$13.00 an hour and there are no tax dollars involved other than donations that the community may give. Chief Eckelburg stated that before Springfield Township had an EMS they were the providers of EMT services in the community.

Mr. Marinello asked if all ambulances are on other calls who would respond and Chief Eckelburg responded that if all ambulances were tied up then mutual aid would respond. Mr. Marinello asked if America would have any trouble responding to the far end of the Township by Wrightstown and Chief Kieft responded that they would not and added that as Chief Eckelburg stated drive time to that area is 13 minutes without lights and siren. Chief Kieft also stated that for some critical calls paramedic units from different locations closer to the site of the call would be dispatched as well.

Mr. Frank commented that the presentation was very well put together. Mr. McDaniel asked how soon both companies could start and Chief Eckelburg responded about 30-45 days to allow for time to meet with Police Chief and Fire Departments. Mr. Keller stated that he has the contract already if the Township wishes to proceed with service.

Chief Eckelburg stated that for the Farm Fair they would work with County and Farm Fair to see what services would be needed. Mr. Marinello stated that currently we provide service to the Market and has anyone reached out to them and Eckelberg stated that they are on the list of groups to contact and that is why they would like 30-45 days to get up and running. Mr. Hlubik asked about other events at fairgrounds and Chief Eckelburg responded that they would work with all entities to see what services are needed. Mr. Frank stated that he is concerned it could be overly taxing on the EMS with all the activities that they will be having at the Fairgrounds and Chief Eckelburg stated that the private groups that are using the facility may have to contract with the EMS separately so as not to burden the taxpayers of the municipality. He added that the ambulance that would be there would be separate from the ambulance responding to the residents. Mr. Sobotka made a motion seconded by Mr. Frank to move forward with negotiations and possibly next week Council can approve the contract. Mr. Keller stated that he will send a copy of the contract to the Solicitor tomorrow for review. Mr. Marinello recommended that this be discussed in executive session before entering into a contract in open session and Mr. McDaniel clarified that the motion is not to approve the contract just to authorize the Manager to move forward with the process. All in favor. Motion carried.

## **REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Mr. Sobotka asked about tax sale and he was advised of the date and that there were approximately 30 properties still on the list. Mr. Marinello asked if Council had discussed the notices sent out at the end of the year and it was discussed that Council agreed the notice was

adequate. It was also discussed that all taxes not paid for 2015 are part of the tax sale being held in two weeks.

Mr. Sobotka stated that on Springfield Meeting House Rd. there are 3 street lights out and Chief Trout responded that we can put in a request to have the lights fixed but also mentioned that residents can report them out as well on the electric companies websites. Mr. Sobotka asked how the Township knows if the lights are taken care of and it was discussed that the Township would only know if someone called again but that the Township does not get many complaints from residents calling to say the lights was never fixed.

Mr. Sobotka saw in paper that 13 communities attended a training regarding DNA marking to help get back stolen equipment and he asked if our Police Officers part of that and Chief Trout responded that they have not attended that training but he would look into it.

Mr. Frank asked if we dealt with the plastics fire at the Specca Farm and Chief Trout responded that they were burning all types of material without a permit and when he called the State the first time he was told that because the farm did not have a burn permit they would not respond. Chief Trout followed up because that information did not make sense to him and was advised the second time that the information he received the first time was incorrect and the next time there was an issue with that farm burning give them a call and they can address it.

Mr. Hlubik asked if there were any problems during the snow storm and Chief responded that the County does not have enough equipment to handle the County roads in the Township so the intersections were not good but the Township roads were pretty good.

McDaniel commented that the Market has a lot of new activity on the construction report and the Market is also moving forward with plans for the property they just purchased next to their property.

Mr. McDaniel mentioned that there is a permit for demolition of a building on Island Rd. that really needs to be demolished. Mr. Frank mentioned that Mr. Bercy had been cited for the farm building on his property on Route 206 but he also owns a house that is falling down on that property as well and Mr. Keller responded that he will follow up.

Council agreed to hold the reports until next week.

### **REVIEW OF BILLS**

Council agreed to hold the bills until next week.

### **REVIEW OF CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Correspondence from Denis Germano regarding Probasco farm – It was discussed that this matter would go to the Ag Board for site plan but still be reviewed under the Township's standards.

### **TOWNSHIP OFFICIAL'S BUSINESS**

Sobotka would like to invite the Deputy EMC to the next meeting for the discussion with about the EMS and would like to discuss some plans for the emergency management. Mr. Marinello responded that Chief Trout as the Emergency Management Coordinator could have a meeting with the Deputy and all other parties and get back to the Council regarding plans for

emergency management. Mr. Keller stated that the Township is moving forward with the generators. Chief Trout stated that he spoke to Mr. Eaton during the storm but there were no major problems and Chief Trout just filed the request for public assistant form to try and get some reimbursement for the snow removal.

Mr. McDaniel stated that the Township is moving forward with the purchase of the house at the corner and the lawyers for both sides are talking and making a little progress. He added that Council will have an update from the Solicitor next week. Council discussed the plans the County provided regarding the intersection reconfiguration at that intersection and Mr. Frank stated that he thinks the Township should send a letter regarding the encroachment onto the Schnoor right of way and also mention that the Township does not plan to give them a parking area on the property that is being acquired for affordable housing. He added that the Township could probably find the County another area for the parking for the bike path. Mr. Marinello stated that he would not be willing to cooperate with the County until the Township gets some cooperation from them on some issues the Township has been asking about such as the reduction of the speed limit on Jacksonville-Jobstown Rd. through Jacksonville. Mr. Keller stated that the last discussion he had was that the County would reduce the speed with cooperation from the police department for enforcement. Mr. McDaniel stated that he is not sure what the County is expecting as far as the parking area but it is a paved area on the plan they provided but not labeled as anything. Mr. Frank stated that the Township could offer space at the annex and get the County to put in a paved lot there and Mr McDaniel added that maybe the County would like to purchase that entire property.

Mr. Hlubik asked how do will deal with the Springfield EMS and Keller stated that he will be talking to the Solicitor tomorrow about how we deal with that.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Hearing no comments, Mr. Frank made a motion seconded by Mr. Hlubik to close public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Sobotka made a motion seconded by Mr. Frank to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 PM. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Clayton  
Township Clerk