

West Caln Township
West Brandywine Township
Special Meeting – August 8th, 2011

A special meeting was held on August 8th, 2011 at the West Caln Township Municipal Building between West Caln Township and West Brandywine Township in regards to Ambulance service for both municipalities. The meeting was called to order at 8:04 PM with the following in attendance:

- West Caln Township – Chairman Paul Pfitzenmeyer, Vice Chairman Harry Price, and Supervisor Donald Martz.
- West Brandywine Township – Chairman Carl Lindborg, Vice-Chairman Josef Obernier Sr. and Supervisor Thomas McCaffrey.

Mr. Pfitzenmeyer opened the meeting by stating that the Ambulance Divisions from the Honey Brook Fire Company, Washington Hose Company and Westwood Fire Company would make public presentations.

Honey Brook Fire Company opened the public presentations with Ambulance Captain Dave Mellinger presenting. Mr. Mellinger presented on the submitted proposal to both municipalities touching on staffing, vehicles, equipment, public training and time studies. Ken Whistler of Ambleside Way asked about the response times of the Ambulance and Medic unit. Mr. Mellinger stated the Ambulance would be responding from the Martins Corner Fire Company and the Medic unit is a separate entity coming from Brandywine Hospital. Mr. Whistler also asked for a clarification on staffing, if they would respond from home or the station, and Mr. Mellinger reiterated that the staff would be fully paid and would be on station at all times. Dan Meltzer of the Martins Corner Fire Company asked what the start-up time would be and Mr. Mellinger stated it would be approximately 48 hours to begin operations. Mr. Lindborg asked about the proposed location of the Ambulance. Mr. Mellinger responded that they would house the Ambulance at the Martins Corner Fire Company until the end of the year and after that time frame an alternate location can be discussed, such as the West Brandywine Township Building.

Washington Hose Company presented next. Career Supervisor Dave Faust presented on the behalf of Washington Hose Company and he presented on the submitted proposal to both Township's. Mr. Faust presented on the submitted proposal to both Township's. Mr. Faust touched on that the Ambulance would be housed at the West Brandywine Township Building. They would purchase/lease a mobile trailer to be placed at the Township Building until the needed renovations could be completed in the garage. Mr. Faust covered their staffing plan for their rigs in both Coatesville City and West Caln/West Brandywine Township. He also stated that with this proposed location, he would recommend to add the Honey Brook Fire Company Ambulance and Whitehorse Ambulance on anything North of Telegraph Road. Mr. Obernier asked if the Washington Hose Company has had time to look over at the proposed contract. Mr.

Faust stated that they have and some minor corrections would need to be made. Mr. Lindborg asked for a clarification about the territory North of Telegraph Road. Mr. Faust stated he felt that Honey Brook and Whitehorse would be closer to these portions of West Caln Township and stated the municipalities should consider adding them as the primary responders in these areas. Greg Lewis Jr. of the Martins Corner Fire Company clarified that Martin's Corner Ambulance's subscription drive occurred March to March each respective year. Mr. Lewis also asked about the call volume and staffing numbers for Washington Hose. Mr. Faust stated that they run approximately 3,100 calls a year and their staff is made up of one full time employee and approximately 25 part-time employees. Ken Whistler of Ambleside Way asked if Washington Hose was proposing advanced life support service with this proposal. Mr. Faust clarified that this proposal and all three proposals were for basic life support service and advanced life support would be continued to be provided by Brandywine Hospital. Rose Dmytryk of Old Wilmington Road asked Mr. Faust if the closing of the helicopter service at the hospital would affect their transports, and Mr. Faust stated it would not. Police Chief Martinez asked about their staffing and use of volunteers and Mr. Faust reiterated that the staffing was by paid employees.

A further discussion ensued about the Ambulances current staffing and how the county will make up units if one unit is not available at the time of an emergency. All three fire company representatives explained this to the public. Mr. Martinez asked how many "scratched" calls that the Washington Hose Company has. Mr. Faust did not have an exact number, but he estimated about 25 a year. Mr. Obernier asked the Honey Brook Fire Company representatives if they have had time to review the proposed contract and if they have any needed changes. Mr. Mellinger stated that they have reviewed it and no changes were necessary.

The final presentation was from the Westwood Fire Company and presenting on their behalf was Battalion Chief John Sly. Mr. Sly presented on their submitted proposal touching on staffing, budget figures, call volume, and Ambulance subscription membership. Mr. Lindborg asked for clarification on the number of Ambulances that Westwood operates and the staffing that will be in place for their proposal. Mr. Sly stated that they currently operate two Ambulances but a third one will be bought, either new or used, if awarded the contract for service. Until this can be completed, Mr. Sly reported that he has talked with local area Ambulance companies and stated they would be able to loan one in the event one is down for maintenance, service etc. Mr. Sly reported that their staffing will be done with fully paid EMT's. Curt Martinez asked where the funding was going to come from to start up the staffing. Mr. Sly reported that he has talked to a funding source and they would supply a short term loan if given the territory to fund all associated start-up costs. Greg Lewis Jr. asked about their staffing model and if they were going to take second calls in their original first due area. Mr. Sly reported that their staffing was to be done by two EMT's 24/7. He also reported that their ambulance would not take second calls on where they are not dispatched on. Whatever the closest, appropriate Ambulance would then take the second call. Curt Martinez asked about volunteers on the Ambulance. Mr. Sly stated that volunteers would be permitted to ride as a third person or to cover in emergency situations, but

otherwise the Ambulance will be staffed with career personnel. Greg Lewis asked about the status of the loan that Mr. Sly talked about. Mr. Sly stated that it is not in place at this point because the contract was not in place at this time. Once the contract was in place, if it was to be awarded to Westwood, then the funding would be available.

Mr. Bob Johnson of Christopher's Lane asked all three services what they thought the profitability would be for this venture. Mr. Faust from Washington Hose stated he thought it would be rather profitable with the fact his proposal is to use part-time staff only, no full time staff, cutting down on employee expenses such as benefits. Mr. Sly from Westwood showed a slide within his presentation showing his profit vs. loss projections. Mr. Mellinger stated he felt it would be a profitable venture for Honey Brook as well. Mr. McCaffrey stated that both Townships need to work together to make sure it is a winning venture for whichever service is to take over. Rose Dmytryk asked if both municipalities were going to re-evaluate EMS services for both. Both Townships stated that the proposed contract is for 18 months and at that time it will be re-evaluate as needed on an as-need basis.

Mr. Lindborg asked about a clarification of services being provided by all three providers. All three potential providers gave an additional brief overview of their proposals. Mr. Obernier asked Mr. Sly if he had an opportunity to review the proposed contract and if he requested any changes. Mr. Sly stated that Westwood has reviewed the contract and no changes are needed. Mr. Pfitzenmeyer stated for the public that separate books will be kept for this new service, whoever the provider is. Dan Meltzer asked Mr. Pfitzenmeyer what the contract entails and if it is similar to West Brandywine's contract. Mr. Pfitzenmeyer stated that it is very similar to the West Brandywine contract.

Rose Dmytryk asked about the debt that Martins Corner is in. Fire Chief Dan Metzler stated that they would be selling assets of the Ambulance Division to make up the debt and that there still would be additional monies coming in from billing. Mr. McCaffrey stated he would like to see an audit in a few months on the status of the Ambulance debt. Dan Metzler asked if West Caln will be giving any contribution to the new Ambulance Service. Mr. Pfitzenmeyer stated that the only thing that would be given to the new service would be fuel for the first contract period. Dan Metzler asked why this was not given to Martins Corner and Mr. Pfitzenmeyer stated that Martins Corner never asked for this assistance. Shelly Meadowcroft, a non-resident, asked why the Township would give this assistance to the new service and not Martins Corner or about not supplying a loan to the fire company for assistance. Mr. Pfitzenmeyer stated again that Martins Corner never asked for fuel and that West Caln did offer money to assist but the debt was too much to cover totally. Ms. Meadowcroft stated that she felt the Township was favoring the Wagontown Fire Company over the Martins Corner Fire Company. Mr. Obernier stated that West Brandywine Township would not be giving fuel to the new Ambulance service.

Mr. Lindborg thanked all of the Ambulance services and personnel involved with this process. Bill Ford from Honey Brook Fire Company stated that all parties will continue

to work together. Mr. McCaffrey asked if anyone from the Daily Local was in the audience. Jennifer Carboni stated she was present from the Daily Local. Mr. McCaffrey stated he was disappointed in the article in the paper that both municipalities had an illegal meeting. Mr. McCaffrey stated that the meeting involved contracts and personnel which is allowed by the Sunshine Act. Ms. Carboni stated that this was not part of the meeting and she would be happy to talk to Mr. McCaffrey after the meeting. Gerry Lindenlauf of Telegraph Road stated that after hearing all three presentations that Westwood seems to be the best choice.

Mr. Pfitzenmeyer moved that Westwood Fire Company be named the new Basic Life Support provider for West Caln Township contingent on Westwood accepting the contract and West Brandywine Township accepting the same provider, with a second by Don Martz. With there being no comments, the motion passed 3-0.

Mr. McCaffrey reiterated that future planning and re-evaluation of services would be needed.

Mr. Obernier moved that Westwood Fire Company be named the new Basic Life Support provider for West Brandywine Township to be stationed at the Wagontown Fire Company with the condition that Westwood Fire Company agrees to the contract and that West Caln Township is in agreement. The motion was seconded by Mr. McCaffrey. With there being no comments, the motion passed 3-0.

Mr. Lindborg read updated resolution #26-2011 for West Brandywine Township, updating the emergency services resolution. Mr. Obernier seconded the updated resolution. With there being no comments, the motion passed 3-0.

Mr. Pfitzenmeyer read updated resolution #07-11 for West Caln Township, updating the emergency services resolution. Mr. Martz seconded the updated resolution. With there being no comments, the motion passed 3-0.

Mr. Pfitzenmeyer thanked all in attendance and all Ambulance service personnel for their hard work during this process. Mr. Martz moved for a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second by Mr. Price. With there being no comments, the motion to close the meeting passed 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Neil D. Vaughn