

Board of Supervisors Special Meeting Agenda
West Brandywine Township and West Caln Township
May 23, 2011

The joint meeting between the Board of Supervisors of West Brandywine and West Caln Townships was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Vice-Chairman Obernier. Those in attendance were as follows:

West Brandywine Township

Carl S. Lindborg abs Josef G. Obernier, Sr x Thomas J. McCaffrey x

West Caln Township

Paul E. Pfitzenmeyer x Harry T. Price x Donald W. Martz x

Also in attendance on behalf of each Township were Neil Vaughn, Asst. Mgr. West Caln Township and Ronald A. Rambo, Jr., Twp. Mgr. West Brandywine Township.

It was noted that the meeting was advertised as a public meeting between the Boards of Supervisors in the Daily Local News on Friday, May 20, 2010 to discuss ambulance service of the two municipalities. Supervisor Obernier turned the meeting over to Paul Pfitzenmeyer of West Caln to bring the group up to date.

Paul noted that Martins Corner Fire Company and Ambulance had approached the West Caln Township Board of Supervisors with regard to financial support to assist with the operation of the ambulance service as they anticipate they will run approximately \$39,000 in the red for the year. It was noted that neither Township could afford to bail out the ambulance service and that we were together to discuss ideas as to how we can assist the ambulance service.

Discussions ensued between the Boards with regard to the financial conditions of both the fire company and the ambulance company. Upon review of the financial information provided to each Board for review, the fire company over the past few years had positive financial numbers, while the ambulance service had negative financial numbers.

During these discussions a questions arose as to whether there were two separate organizations with separate charters and tax ID numbers. The West Brandywine manager noted that he had checked the Pennsylvania Department of State Corporation Bureau website and could only find one non-profit organization, the Martins Corner Fire Company. Harry Price of West Caln noted

that he had been shown a separate charter for the ambulance. This was to be looked into before the Board's next meeting.

After some additional discussions, representatives of East Brandywine and Wagontown Fire Companies, whom were in attendance at the meeting, questioned why no one from Martins Corner was present. It was noted that no invitations had gone out to them specifically inviting them to the meeting. Questions arose as to why no one was present to ask questions of the ambulance operations and what they were looking for. Both Boards noted that this meeting was being held to come up with a list of questions for presentation to Martins Corner so as to gain more knowledge of what was being sought.

Leo Scaccia, III Director of Medic 93 and the president of the EMS Counsel introduced himself and offered the Board's his assistance. He noted what was being discussed this evening is not new and is happening all over the state. With volunteerism being down, companies are looking at putting paid personnel on to provide ambulance service. Leo noted that fees are going up for services and reimbursements are going down. This issue is being felt everywhere and he foresees that in five years, the utilization of paid personnel will be everywhere. Leo also noted that many personnel are cross trained as EMT's and Firefighter's. This leads to where ambulance personnel may at times be responding with both fire apparatus and ambulance.

Additional discussions ensued with how the ambulance company is paying for all utilities of the fire company. It was suggested that the ambulance company look at entering into a contract with the fire company and pay a rental fee based on the space it utilized. A brief comparison of the finances of both the fire company and ambulance company noted that the fire company has been in the black for the past two years and the ambulance company has been in the red for the past two years.

The thought of creating special assessment districts was brought up and as to whether it could be done. A review of the Second Class Township Code should take place. After a brief discussion, it was determined that the idea of assessment areas may be hard to determine.

Both Boards determined that a review of the Martins Corner operations needs to take place. Township personnel were requested to come up with a list of questions and requests that would be presented to Martins Corner to address. This list would be reviewed by both Board's and presented to the Fire Company before the end of May 2011 so that they could provide the Township's with the requested information.

It was determined that an Executive Session between both Board's would be held on Monday, June 13, 2011 immediately following the West Caln Township meeting. Representatives of Martins Corner Fire Company would be requested to be present. Both Boards would announce this Executive Session at their upcoming meetings and that additional discussions would be taking place between the Township's and Martins Corner Fire Company.

Being no other comments or discussions, Paul P. motioned to adjourn the meeting, followed by a second by Joe Obernier and all present voting to adjourn at 9:13 p.m.