

UPPER MACUNGIE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
&  
SOUTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

A special joint meeting of the Upper Macungie Township Board of Supervisors and the South Whitehall Township Board of Commissioners was held on Thursday, January 15, 2015, at 6:00 PM, at Cetronia Ambulance Corps, 4300 Broadway, Allentown, PA 18104. Those present were Upper Macungie Township Board Chairman, James M. Brunell; Vice Chairman, John P. "Sean" Gill; Secretary, Kathy A. Rader; Fire Commissioner, Grant Grim; and Solicitor, Andrew Schantz. From South Whitehall Township: Chairwomen, Christina Tori Morgan; Commissioners David Bond, Glenn Block, Thomas J. Johns; Emergency Management Coordinator, Jeff Kelly; Township Manager, Howard Kutzler; and Solicitors, Joseph Zator, Esq. and Jennifer Alderfer, Esq. Also attending, Caitlin Stibitz from Cetronia Ambulance Corps. The purpose of this joint meeting was for the two townships to discuss the acquisition of an Incident Command Vehicle.

SWT Chairwomen Morgan opened the meeting. Morgan thanked Cetronia Ambulance Corps. for hosting the meeting. She then asked for a moment of silence for Samir Ashmar.

Regarding the Incident Command Vehicle, there is still an open intermunicipal agreement and questions of funding, maintenance, and the \$30,000 in grant money. She then turned the meeting over to EMC's Grant Grim and Jeff Kelly for comment. Mutual aid with other municipalities was discussed and laws verified by the township solicitors.

In addition to mutual aid and staffing for the vehicle, township financing was the major topic of concern. Morgan reported that SWT had to raise taxes for 2015. Brunell reported that UMT is presently involved in litigation that could be costly. If the two townships are unable to pursue this project, perhaps Lehigh County could be approached to participate, as well as other municipalities. Chairman Brunell does not want to lose the \$30,000 in grant money that was given to the two townships for working together. Perhaps there is another piece of equipment to pursue, jointly, or a public works project. Decisions need to be made sooner rather than later, as the grants expire at the end of 2016.

After much discuss it was decided to investigate the following possibilities:

--Meeting with Lehigh County representatives to talk about the challenges with this project. See if the County would consider replacing the existing antiquated county Incident Command Unit, with assistance from other municipalities.

--Check on the grants to see if this project could be changed to a different project.

Everyone agreed that they liked the concept of the two townships working together. The two public works directors should meet to see if there are any possibilities, in the public works area, for a joint project. A new Cascade System for the fire companies was mentioned. Commissioner Bond suggested that perhaps we could purchase a portable band shell and avoid both townships having to rent Allentown's for our events. The possibility of an "agility" type agreement, between the two townships was mentioned.

It was decided that step one would be to see if the grant money could be changed to another project. Morgan and Rader will meet with County officials to discuss.

On another matter, Rader reported that UMT recently met with Lower Macungie Township regarding the failing of the US 222 Bypass in the area of Hamilton Boulevard and I-78. Also, the joint Hamilton Boulevard Corridor Study. SWT was asked if there was interest in being involved in discussions of both. Morgan stated that SWT is also doing a study of Hamilton Boulevard, in their township, and expressed an interest. Brunell stated that UMT will be sure to invite SWT to future meetings.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Block, seconded by Supervisor Rader, and unanimous, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

  
Kathy A. Rader  
Secretary

