



# TOWNSHIP OF SPRING

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## **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

**OPENING OF MEETING:** Chairperson Smith called a Budget Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 30, 2024, in the Public Meeting Room of the Township of Spring Administration Building, located at 2850 Windmill Road, Spring Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

**ROLL CALL:** Upon roll call, Supervisors Smith, Kocher, Royer, and Wertz were present. Mr. Stuck was absent. John Groller, Dean Murray, Mary Rossi, Jeremy Baez-Reyes, Chief Hackman, and Chief Powell were also present.

**AGENDA AMENDMENTS:** None

### **INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT:**

*Motion to appoint Mr. Royer as the Board of Supervisor Representative to serve on the Infrastructure Committee was made by Mr. Kocher and seconded by Mr. Wertz. Upon roll call, All Supervisors present voted affirmatively. MOTION CARRIED*

### **FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES:**

Fire Chief Colin Hackman addressed the Board, stating that the Fire Rescue Services continues to follow the Township Board of Supervisors' vision to provide high-quality yet safe Fire Rescue services to the residents and guests of the Township of Spring. Chief Hackman stated that high-quality services rely on adequate staffing, training, apparatus, equipment, and Public Relations / Community Outreach. Chief Hackman noted that as of Monday, October 7, 2024, the Township of Spring Fire & Rescue Services (TSFRS) will be back to 12 Full-Time Firefighter / EMTs. Chief Hackman reviewed the current staffing levels in the Department, noting that the Department continually evaluates its operations and efficiency based on response times and personnel per incident following NFPA Standard 1710 Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, EMS, Special Operations in Combination Departments, saved property and ISO (Insurance Services Office) Rating. Currently, TSFRS has an ISO rating of 3Y as of March 2024, and only 3,826 Departments in the United States are rated at 3.

**Chief Hackman reported the following response times for the Department for 2024.**

2024 Responses: 1,770

2024 Personnel per Incident: 5.0

2024 Dispatched to Enroute: 1.48

2024 Dispatched to On Scene: 6.31

2024 Average on Scene Time Per Incident: 18.40

**FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES:** (Continued)

The Department continually evaluates and provides training and professional development for all personnel, as well as engaging the community through Fire Prevention Activities, Pre-Fire Planning, Witnessed Fire Drills within schools and commercial properties, Children's Book Readings at the libraries, Open House, and the Smoke Detector Program. Above that, when requested, the Fire Marshal's office conducts Fire and Life Safety Inspections on all commercial and residential properties and reviews plans.

**Fire & Rescue Services Budget:**

Chief Hackman stated that Fire Rescue Services does not produce revenues like a regular business, and rather than evaluating on a financial basis, evaluations are based on National Standards following NFPA and ISO with the bases of response times, personnel, and saved property. Revenues received are for Fire and Life Safety Inspections, Permits, services provided (billable incidents, fire reports, false alarms), EMA rental, and donations. Chief Hackman reviewed the Department's budget, including issues with vehicle maintenance incurring costs.

The Department continually applies for grants through the Office of the State Fire Commissioner, FEMA, PA American Water, and UGI. In 2024, the Department was awarded an OSFC Grant in the amount of \$16,954.99 and a FEMA Grant in the amount of \$122,250.00 (FEMA Portion 90% \$111,136.36, TSFRS Portion 10% 11,113.64). From 2010 to date, the Department received \$509,832.77. The Department also received verbal confirmation of a PEMA Grant with an unknown award amount.

Chief Hackman reviewed the Department's requests for the 2025 Budget, including hiring four (4) additional Firefighters to bring the Department up to the National Standard for staffing, noting there are five (5) candidates on the hire list. Chief Hackman explained that the Department's hiring process is extensive, takes approximately six months, and incorporates physical agility, testing, and multiple interviews. The National Standard for Firefighter Physical Agility Testing is the Candidate Physical Agility Test, which only occurs twice a year. Chief Hackman stated the Department's current building is 20 years old, and only routine maintenance and minor renovations have been completed. The day room is the most used area in the station, with 24-hour staff and volunteers. Chief Hackman said that the 2016 Rescue will need to be replaced, noting it currently takes approximately 24- 48 months to receive a new apparatus. Chief Hackman, in his closing comments, reviewed future planning goals for the Department.

Key discussion points and questions from the Board included but were not limited to the amount of money billed out as to what is collected, the number of firefighters neighboring municipalities have, over time, following National Standards and liability, County-Wide Mutual Aid Agreement, local training opportunities, and recommended Fire Tax.

Mr. Wertz stated that you can't put a price on a life and suggested the Township hire the four firefighters sooner rather than later, utilizing the already collected millage.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Powell discussed future planning goals for the Department, noting that the Department will have two retirements on December 31st, a lieutenant and a sergeant. Chief Powell updated the Board on a recruit who has accepted a conditional offer and is expected to begin in early November.

Chief Powell reviewed the current districts and an anticipated district that will require additional personnel, noting the importance of staggering hiring to avoid having retirements all co-occur in the future, leaving the Department depleted. Chief Powell discussed current fleet conditions and needs and said that the Township's mechanic, Jack Stednitz, is a great asset, saving the Township money and noting the short turnaround of repairing vehicles so that vehicles are available. Chief Powell said an LSA Grant is pending, and the Township should know if the grant was awarded this month. Chief Powell said he appreciates the support of the Board. Chief Powell and Mr. Groller answered questions regarding the police budget.

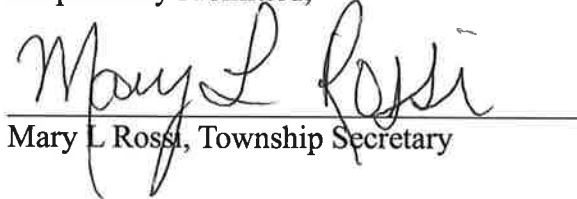
**TRASH & RECYCLING DISCUSSION**

Mr. Groller discussed the bids recently awarded and the total projected expenses. After a lengthy discussion, the Board agreed to bill residents based on the number of toters a resident uses, and reviewed rate increases for trash and recycling.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairperson Smith adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m., and the Board went into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. The Executive Session adjourned at 9:10 p.m., with the Board not taking any additional action.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Mary L. Rossi, Township Secretary