

FEBRUARY 26, 2008

The South Harrison Township Committee held a special meeting on Tuesday February 26, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in the South Harrison Township Municipal Building.

Deputy Mayor Robert Campbell called the meeting to order and was followed by the flag salute.

Requirements of the "Open Public Meetings Act" were met. Notice of this meeting was given by: (1) sending sufficient notice herewith to the Today's Sunbeam of Salem and the Gloucester County Times of Woodbury; and (2) posting notice on the public bulletin board at the South Harrison Township Municipal Building.

Roll Call: Cornelius McIntyre - present, James McCall - present, Charles Tyson - absent, Robert Campbell – present, Gary Spinner – present, Colleen Bianco, Administrator – present, Christie Melfi, CFO – present, Celeste Keen, Deputy Clerk – present, Nancy Kearns, Municipal Clerk - present.

Unity Ambulance

Robert Diaz presented a slide show on the history of Unity Ambulance highlighting points of interest over the years (copy attached). Mr. Diaz stated that the ambulance and personnel are equipped to handle anything that comes along, although most calls are routine and not life threatening. Every call is responded to, if not by Unity by mutual-aid. 2.6% are mutual-aid and the County is using this to justify regionalization. Unity Ambulance runs about 200 calls a year, including mutual-aid. The cost of regionalization is unknown it is projected at \$12 million to handle approximately 846 calls (mutual-aid) and this does not include the cost of the rigs. The County wants to buy 10 trucks, how much is that going to cost? Mr. Diaz spoke about an article in the paper on the Gloucester County Budget which allocated 6.8 million dollars for emergency medical services; they are assuming \$3.3 million will come from 3rd party billing and that will leave a \$3.4 million deficit that will have to be funded from somewhere else. Their total estimate is \$13.5 million in 2008, of which \$3.4 is not funded at this time. 3rd party billing is only about 24% of the budget. The article states there will be not increase in the tax rate. The response time is 8 minutes, 59 seconds, less than 9 minutes, 90% of the time. This guideline is for urban areas, not rural areas. From point A to point B with traffic, traffic lights and the number of stairs, it calculates horizontal and vertical distance. The new numbers are down around 6 minutes or less, if you want to save a cardiac patient. Unless the truck is parked here you cannot get to the South Harrison calls in 9 minutes. 8 stations are 24/7; the others are 13 hour days; 2 EMTs on a truck. Unity Ambulance is funded by the Township's contribution, the Landfill, and resident contributions; only about 25% of the residents actually contribute and this year Unity Ambulance sent a letter to the Township advising that the contribution normally given to them be used elsewhere for this year. Unity Ambulance does not believe that regionalization is a good fit for South Harrison Township at this time, and recommends that Unity Ambulance should continue as is until such time as there becomes "no choice". There are still too many unanswered questions with regionalization. Committeemen James McCall and Gary Spinner thanked Mr. Diaz for his presentation and agreed with his recommendations.

Resolution – R-08-31A

Resolution for Excluding the Public (Personnel Matters)

Motion to adopt Resolution R-08-31A was made by James McCall, second by Gary Spinner.

Roll Call Vote: Cornelius McIntyre – yes, James McCall – yes, Charles Tyson – absent, Robert Campbell – yes, Gary Spinner – yes. **R.C.V.: 4 - yes', 0 – no's. Motion carried.**

Return to Open Session:

Motion to return to open session was made by Gary Spinner, second by Cornelius McIntyre. Motion carried.

The Committee reviewed the Public Works budget and after a brief discussion this was tabled for more clarification. The Municipal Clerk's budget was reviewed and approved for now. The Elections budget was agreed to for now. The Administrative budget was reviewed and the Committee requested the Administrator to further review this budget to see if it can be reduced to \$10,000.00. Human Resources budget was approved. The Tax Collector's budget was reviewed and approved for now. Unity Ambulance advised that they will not be submitting a request for funds for this year. The Municipal Court Budget was reviewed and the operating expenses were approved. The salary portion of this budget was tabled. The Administrator will review this request for a future meeting. The Planning/Zoning budget was discussed and approved at this time. The Police Department budget was discussed and reviewed with the Committee cutting this budget to \$20,700.00. The Administrator will talk with the Chief regarding items #ed 8 (tires), 12 (clothing) and 26 (computer) on his budget for further clarification.

Open Meeting to the Public:

Motion to open the meeting to the public was made by Cornelius McIntyre, second by James McCall. Motion carried.

Marc Nagtegaal addressed the Committee regarding the Environmental Budget and if there is any money for it. Mr. Nagtegaal was advised to submit the budget for review. Marc would like to have a survey in the newsletter re: open space.

Close Meeting to the Public:

Motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Gary Spinner, second by James McCall. Motion carried.

Return to Closed Session:

Motion to return to closed session was made by Gary Spinner, second by Cornelius McIntyre. Motion carried.

Return to Open Session:

Motion to return to open session was made by Gary Spinner, second by Cornelius McIntyre. Motion carried.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by James McCall, second by Gary Spinner. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy E. Kearns, RMC
Municipal Clerk