

## BALDWIN TOWNSHIP FIRE WORKSHOP

April 4, 2017

**Present** – Supervisors Brad Schumacher, Jay Swanson, Tom Rush, Larry Handshoe and Bryan Lawrence

**Call to Order** – The April 4, 2017 fire workshop meeting of Baldwin Township was called to order by Chairman Brad Schumacher at 6:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Discuss Creation of Emergency Services Ordinance** – Fire Chief Scott Case stated that the fee schedule goes along with the draft ordinance. Livonia's ordinance has fees within the ordinance and he feels that the fees should be an appendix to allow revisiting the fees every year. Schumacher stated that he spoke with the township attorney regarding the Livonia ordinance and there have been some state updates that have happened. Case stated that the draft he wrote is from a fire perspective and all pursuant to state statutes and would recommend that it be reviewed by the township attorney. Schumacher stated that he would like to see some kind of fee schedule for the fire department. Case stated that his draft ordinance is somewhat adapted from Princeton, City of Arlington and City of Spicer.

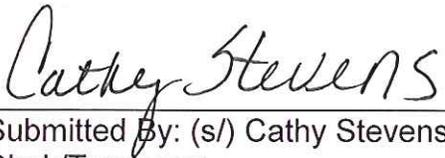
Schumacher stated that the collection of billings is his biggest question and would like to see a sample invoice. Case stated that the department would collect the information and the clerk would send out the bill. It would be sent to either the homeowner or car owner. It is a fact of life for insurance companies. Insurance information would be obtained through the police report. Discussion on people without insurance. Handshoe stated that it would be better to send it to an insurance company than the person.

Lawrence asked what the cost estimate would be for the department to implement. Case replied 3-5 hours per month; \$50-\$100/month of the fire department time doing billing. An estimate of what Princeton and Livonia/Zimmerman collect per month is \$2,000. The monies generated would be used for equipment and upkeep. Medical runs are not billable. Discussion regarding repercussions. Case stated that there will always be 2-3% irate charging for something that they pay taxes for and 10% saying it is good. The Town Board will get more repercussion than the Fire Chief. Lawrence stated that, if billing, it should be ready to mail out. Discussion on phone calls to insurance companies. Case stated that the alternative would be to look for a billing service; however that would cost more than what we are billing. He believes it should be the chief or assistant chief doing this initially until a template is set up. Discussion on billing for certain instance where there is a smaller fire (i.e., toaster oven inside of a kitchen). Schumacher stated that the Town Board needs to talk about it a regular township meeting to determine whether to move forward and send to the attorney. This item will be placed on the April 17, 2017 agenda and, by May, the township attorney would have reviewed and then publish and public hearing. It may be done by June.

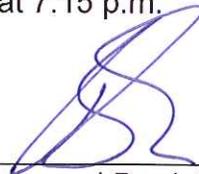
Lawrence stated that he would like to see 3 different departments on what they receive over a 3 month average. He stated that this is not the first time the board has seen this and there is a change that a lot of people who don't have insurance would be a burden. He feels it is not necessary. These dollars won't reduce taxes. He does not want to target residents again for services they have paid for with taxpayer dollars. He is not in favor of this at this time. Someone else may call and not know the whole story. Case said it would be discretionary and they need to be fair and consistent.

Lawrence asked the Chief about fire fighter retention. If it is a problem what can we do about it? Case responded that fire fighters now need certifications and it takes a lot of time out of people's lives. Other departments retain fire fighters but it is the pension at the end. That is why guys stay in. The pension is not transferable to another department. Three fire fighters left last year but they did not go elsewhere. Schumacher stated he would like to meet with the Wells Fargo advisor and/or attorney. Case encouraged the Town Board to contact Andy Walker and meet with Wells Fargo and the state retirement people. It may alleviate the board of some responsibility. Case stated that he wants to make fire fighter retention a priority. Swanson stated that with the retirement fund and the \$2,300 they have approved and the town has approved \$2,000, if it goes underfunded then the town has to meet that requirement. Discussion on Blue Hill Township. Discussion on changing criteria to be eligible for certain positions within the fire department.

**Adjourn** – Swanson/Rush unanimous to adjourn at 7:15 p.m.



Submitted By: (s/) Cathy Stevens  
Clerk/Treasurer  
Baldwin Township



Approved By: (s/) Brad Schumacher  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors  
Baldwin Township

5-1-17

Date