

**August 16, 2021
Monday 9:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairman Robert H. Rohner, Jr. called the meeting to order at 9:04 A.M. Also present were Theresa Laino, Vice Chair, Aaron Springs, Supervisor, Ambulance Service Review Committee members Kyle Rohner, Township EMS Director, Sally Bensley, Susanne Duffy, and Edwina Wolfe, Assistant Secretary

Middle Smithfield Supervisors Annette Atkinson, Michael Dwyer and Mark Oney and Township Secretary Michele Clewell were also in attendance.

Mr. Rohner began the meeting by informing Middle Smithfield representatives that Lehman Township has begun the process of forming the Lehman Pike Emergency Medical Services. An ambulance, chase vehicle and equipment to outfit both vehicles has been ordered. Mr. Rohner introduced the Ambulance Service Review Committee and introduced Susanne Duffy as the administrator for the ambulance service. It is hoped the ambulance service will be up and running by January of 2022.

Mr. Rohner explained that the township supervisors are not happy with the lack of service provided by Bushkill Emergency Corp. There is no ALS available in the township on most weekends which presents a huge concern.

Mr. Rohner discussed the letter sent to Bushkill Emergency Corp by Lehman Township by the township solicitor and the response sent to the supervisors from the Corp. In short, the supervisors were told if they are not happy with the service provided to look elsewhere. This response is what prompted township supervisors to form the committee and begin the process to form the new ambulance service.

Mr. Rohner asked if Middle Smithfield supervisors are open to the being part of new ambulance service. Mr. Dwyer responded the supervisors need to discuss this as a board. Mr. Springs asked if they feel they have adequate coverage in Middle Smithfield Township. Mr. Dwyer responded saying they meet with Bushkill Emergency Corp regularly and are aware of the ALS coverage issue and think there may be an issue with BLS coverage as well. Mr. Dwyer believes the formation of the new ambulance service will supplement the mutual aid in the area but the problem will still exist.

Kyle Rohner discussed the fact that Bushkill Fire Department covers approximately 17% of Middle Smithfield Township and the possibility of the Lehman Pike Emergency Medical Services covering the same area for ambulance services. He would like to match the fire coverage map with ambulance coverage.

K. Rohner explained the lack of coverage by Bushkill Emergency Corp and discussed the fact they have no man power. The best way to service the township is to form a new ambulance service for the residents. It is understood that the ambulance will go on calls outside of Lehman Township for mutual aid. The fact that Lehman Township is working with Suburban Emergency Services to house an ambulance in the township 7 days a week for 14 hours a day at the cost of \$14,516.00 per month was explained.

K. Rohner explained that the ambulance committee is looking at a building located in southern Lehman Township and a location in northern Lehman Township to house the ambulance and chase unit.

K. Rohner explained that the ambulance service will be a Pike County agency as is the Bushkill Fire Department. It will be licensed through the Northeast EMS council and will be dispatched out of Pike County.

K. Rohner asked if Middle Smithfield has had any discussion regarding ambulance coverage with Marshalls Creek Ambulance. Mr. Dwyer answered they respond as a secondary ambulance. They only have 2 people who run the ambulance, the service is not 24 hours a day and they have no intention to expand.

Mr. Dwyer asked where Lehman Township plans to get the employees for the ambulance service. Mr. Rohner responded that there are people showing interest already. The pay will be competitive with benefits.

K. Rohner explained that Bushkill Emergency Corp has lost paramedics over the years because of the poor working environment. Recently 3 or 4 have left because of multiple instances of questionable narcotics handling.

K. Rohner reminded Middle Smithfield Supervisors the Lehman Pike Emergency Medical Services is willing to cover the 17% of the township the fire department covers.

Mr. Rohner informed Middle Smithfield Supervisors the Pike County Commissioners will pay each township or borough up to 2 mils for emergency service. For Lehman Township this amount will be approximately \$360,000.

K. Rohner reminded Robert Rohner the budget for the ambulance service needs to be prepared by October 1, 2021 to show where the money is being used.

Annette Atkinson asked how many employees the ambulance service expects to employ. Mr. Rohner responded there will be 1 administrator, 8 full time EMTs, 4 part time EMTs, 4 full time paramedics, and 2 part time paramedics.

Ms. Duffy reminded those in attendance that nobody is trying to take over Bushkill Emergency Corp, but are trying to protect Lehman Township residents and save lives.

Ms. Clewell asked if the mishandling of the narcotics was reported to the state. Nobody in attendance was able to discuss that issue.

K. Rohner commented there has been a lot of time dedicated to this project in a short amount of time and that Dr. Amini has been locked in as the medical director.

Ms. Bensley reiterated the newly formed ambulance service hopefully will coincide with the fire coverage for the area.

ADDENDUM #1

Mr. Dwyer was here last week to meet with Tim Rohner to measure the fire house for paving. They would like to do half this year and half next year. He asked if Lehman Township would agree to split the cost of the asphalt, \$10,600 between them and Middle Smithfield Township. Lehman Township supervisors agreed to split the cost. Mr. Dwyer will coordinate with Tim to determine a timeframe to do the work.

ADDENDUM #2

Lehman Township has a Federal Land Access Program grant which is transportation and parking issues as it deals with the National Park Service. Mr. Rohner sent an email about this and the kick off meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2021.

Motion to adjourn at 9:53 A.M made by Mr. Rohner second by Ms. Laino. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by,

Edwina Wolfe
Assistant Secretary