

**LONDON GROVE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES
February 22, 2016 – 6:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Richard Scott Harper
David Connors
Michael Pickel
Robert Weer

STAFF PRESENT:

Steven C. Brown, Manager
Matt Goudy, Chester County engineer
Bob Hotchkiss, SCCEMS
Matt Bessick, Avondale Fire Chief
Guy Swift, Avondale Fire Co. President
Charlie Owens, Avondale Fire Co.
1 audience member

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Scott Harper opened the meeting at 6 p.m. He said the purpose of the meeting is to discuss a plan for the provisions of emergency services when the State Street bridge in Avondale is closed. Mr. Goudy showed the Board the latest plan for the bridge as presented to the DEP. The plan continues to show a temporary crossing in the event Avondale Borough agrees to it. The new bridge will be similar to what is there today. Mr. Goudy said it is the intent of the Count to start work this summer and hope to have the work completed in 6-8 months. He then reviewed the detour route with the Supervisors, noting that it generally stays on State routes due to local restrictions on other options.

Chief Bessick said the Avondale Fire Company will continue to use Ellicot Road, Clay Creek Road and Garden Station Road to access London Grove Township. Mr. Hotchkiss said the blackberry farm on the corner of Ellicot and Garden Station could be a location to temporarily house one of their vehicles. Mr. Hotchkiss said he would need additional staff in order to place the vehicle on the London Grove side of the bridge. He said he favors the installation of the temporary crossing during construction. Mr. Swift stated that his opinion is that a temporary bridge would provide a faster response time; however he is not necessarily speaking on behalf of Avondale Fire Company.

Mr. Scott Harper said that only Avondale Borough is not in favor of a temporary bridge. He will call Steven Fromnick, County Facilities Manager, to discuss. Mr. Goudy said the County is requesting a letter with the Township's position. Mr. Scott Harper asked SCCEMS and Avondale Fire to provide letters to the Township on the subject.

Chief Bessick said that he is flexible and is fine with a temporary bridge as long as it used only for emergency vehicles.

Mr. Weer pointed out that another reason to construct a temporary bridge is the need to get volunteers from the London Grove side to the firehouse along Route 41. He asked Avondale Fire Co. and SCCEMS to provide the Township with a plan as to how they will provide services in the event a temporary crossing is not installed; this is in addition to a letter stating their position on the temporary bridge. Chief Bessick and Mr. Hotchkiss said they would do so.

The Board considered the next item of business which was additional funding requested by the Avondale Fire Company for ambulance service. Mr. Swift provided the Board with the 2015 statistics regarding fire and ambulance calls plus copies of the most recent financial audit. He stated he would be glad to entertain a regional funding agreement as there is in place for the West Grove Fire Company ambulance division. Mr. Swift said they have 22 part-time and one full-time employee in order to provide 24/7 ambulance service. He noted that a firefighter/EMT was added recently to help provide coverage. Mr. Connors explained how the process worked with the involved communities and West Grove ambulance. He said he has had preliminary discussions with New Garden Township regarding this idea. Mr. Connors said the Township wants to satisfy their financial needs both in terms of staffing and capital replacement and not be involved in their daily operations. Mr. Swift said he wants to continue to work with the Board throughout the year and keep the Board informed ahead of the next budget cycle. Mr. Weer suggested that a third party be contracted with to help with the assessment of all emergency service needs and costs in the Township. This will help the Township in properly funding these services. The Board decided to discuss this idea with the other municipalities serviced by Avondale and West Grove.

There was a discussion of providing additional funds to both Avondale and West Grove Fire Companies ambulance divisions and fire operations. Mr. Pickel made a motion to pay the additional \$4,600 to Avondale for ambulance services. There was no second. Mr. Connors made a motion to pay Avondale the \$4,600 for ambulance and \$4,947.26 additional for fire based on the millage and 60/40 formula used to fund the two fire companies, plus to pay West Grove Fire Company additional monies requested late in the fall of 2015. Mr. Weer seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0 voted.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Brown
Township Manager