

January 13, 2015

A joint meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Heidelberg Township and Lynn Township was held on January 13, 2015 at 6:00pm in the New Tripoli Fire Company, 7242 Decatur Street, New Tripoli PA 18066. In attendance were Supervisors Steve Bachman and Rodney Schlauch Jr., Township Administrator Janice Meyers and Township Solicitor Charles Waters for Heidelberg Township, Supervisors Justin Smith, Steve Feinour and Brian Dietrich, Secretary-Treasurer Tammy White and Township Solicitor Marc Fisher for Lynn Township.

The purpose of the meeting was to continue to discuss ambulance service within the townships which started at the December 16, 2014 joint meeting.

Justin Smith, acting chair for the meeting, opened the meeting and all joined in the pledge to the flag. He introduced each township representative present. Mr. Smith then updated the attendees regarding the previous joint meeting. He said that a Request for Proposal was created based on discussions at the last meeting and given to the three ambulance services. He stated that Lowhill Township was planning on attending this meeting but decided to choose Cetronia Ambulance Service to cover the area of their township now covered by Northwestern Ambulance Corps. A final decision will be made at a later date. He explained that Northwestern, Cetronia and NOVA will have five minutes to briefly explain their submitted proposal.

Public Comment: Lynn Township resident Donna Snyder asked if the Boards have contacted the state legislators and offered her opinion of the ambulance services. Justin Smith said he contacted some legislators and no help was offered.

Kathy VanAllen, Director of Northwestern Ambulance Corps review their proposal stating that four options were given. She asked the Boards to remember who could give the best care to the residents.

Larry Wiersch, Executive Director of Cetronia Ambulance Service reviewed the highlights of their proposal. He said that he has initiated the process for staffing if chosen by both townships.

Joseph Solderich, Executive Director of Northern Valley Ambulance Service and Jason Breidinger, NOVA Board member reviewed their proposal stating that each township would be offered one voting seat on the NOVA Board. He reminded the Boards that subscribers would not be charged over the amount paid by their insurance companies.

Justin Smith asked if the Board members had any questions for the individual ambulance services. There were none at this time. Each Board member was asked to offer his opinion on the pros and cons of each proposal. After a lengthy discussion, the consensus was Lynn Township preferred Cetronia Ambulance Service to cover their township and Heidelberg Township was split, with one supervisor preferring NOVA and one undecided. Heidelberg's Board concluded to make a final decision at their January 15, 2015 monthly meeting. Motion by Steve Feinour, seconded by Brian Dietrich to approve agreement of ambulance service with Cetronia contingent with Heidelberg Township agreeing with Cetronia on Thursday and both township's mutually agreeing on a cost share. Motion carried unanimously by Lynn Township's Board.

Steve Bachman stated that NOVA did offer a separate proposal to service Heidelberg Township independent of Lynn Township due to the Heidelberg's location and NOVA's present service area. Joseph Solderich of NOVA said a separate offer could be given to Lynn Township also.

Public Comment: Richard Snyder, Lynn Township, Mark Smith, Heidelberg Township, Betty Hartman, Heidelberg Township, Charlie Perich, Heidelberg Township, Lin Turner, Heidelberg Township, Janet Henritz, Heidelberg Township, Chris Gulick, Lynn Township, Donna Snyder, Lynn Township, Kathy VanAllen, Lynn Township, Brian Carl, Weisenberg Fire Company Chief and Weisenberg and Lowhill Township Administrator, all offered their opinions and experiences regarding all three ambulance services.

Justin Smith thanked all present and said a final decision must be made by February 13, 2015.

The joint meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm..

Respectfully submitted,

Janice M. Meyers
Heidelberg Township Administrator/Township Secretary