

**TOWNSHIP OF WINFIELD
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF
THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE – MAY 15, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Koomer called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE: In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-6 et. Seq.; Mayor Koomer read the public notice and indicated the fire exits.

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Koomer, Commissioner Byrne, Commissioner Reilly, Clerk Slowik, Atty. Colicchio, & WPD Chief Mazzarella
Absent: WVFD Chief Dustin

NEW BUSINESS: Presentation & Discussion – Union County Emergency Services

Mayor Koomer- we are here to discuss

Mike Scaniono – conversation started back with Lt. Downing, UC EMS is extremely busy. UC is the back up for everyone. Discussed current locations of . Response time out of Westfield, Clark- possibly using Winfield to use the parking lot as a staging location. Not coming in to take over Winfield Ambulance, if they cannot respond, then they are there to respond. Not unique to UC –

Mayor Koomer stated that we do not have a lot of room. Very few areas freed up. When fire call, can be even worse. In Fanwood, what kind of space is used?

They run a shoreline (extension cord) to keep battery charged. They allow access to building for bathroom, WIFI, - very simplistic. Their goal is to service areas. Ambulance would never be unattended.

Mayor Koomer- still some space is needed, electricity needed. Separate room in the back of Fire House which is under Association. We would need to talk about, not the entire building, only ½ the building. Places to sit, have lunch are not under Township control. Would need to speak with President of Association. Mentioned Billy Dembter who is here on their behalf.

Nice to have, not need to have. Other ambulance sits only in a parking lot. They are only looking for a place to park. If other amenities are available great, if not that's okay too.

Reilly- Are they 24 hours

Daytime – more during the week. 10-6; 4-6 hours to come and be closer to surrounding towns.

Koomer- no unattended truck – What are the hours expected?

Mostly during the week – power time – cannot give an exact time. They made need to wash hands, somewhere to sit to have a bite to eat. But they don't have to be inside.

Koomer- wants to respect Fire Department. Make sure no one is stepping on anyone's toes.

Byrne- Number of guys onsite?

2. 3 at the most if someone in training.

Byrne- would something go on paper? Agreement? Renewed every year or 2?

Would have to reach out to county and legal, but could.

Byrne- does oatman know or county commissioners?

He does not yet, wasn't aware this was going to be formal. Wanted to gather his facts first before.

Koomer- there have been other discussions, association officers were reached out to. But not discussed by us. They had concerns, - informal conversation.

He was not a part of this discussion.

Koomer- Handshake agreement, what are the conditions? Agreement consists of?

Fanwood M-F agreement. They use County dispatch as well. Help with Mutual Aid as well. Response times increased 8 to 10 minutes down to 1 to 3 minutes. Show up only during operating hours, have a policy written which is approved by their fire Chief and approved by administrators. Guidelines, Fanwood is not liable if their employees are injured on the grounds.

Koomer- we are a small town; are there any expenses that are occurred? Utilities? Electricity?

Nice to have, not a need to have. Day like today okay to leave out.

Koomer- issue, say you run a line out of the station, where it would come out would not be a good place to keep ambulance. Could run a line on the side of the building.

Billy- electrically, there are no issues.

Koomer- discussed where parking, and electric line could be run. Parking issues.

If your guys are going out, chance our guys are going out too. Winfield would have first chance/choice to take call. They would be accountable.

#s have improved over the last year. We are not here to close doors. If you need backup it would be them or Cranford. You'd be looking at 10 minute response. If cardiac arrest, that's a longer turn around.

Koomer- association – we could lose support. We depend on the public. They residents may think that their support is no longer needed. If we don't have our squad, then the response time would be?

It would be what it is now .

Koomer- if we lose our ambulance squad, if they are on a call, now no1 is available. We need to think about.

We are not here to take over Winfield- we are just looking for a place to sit.

Koomer- that have to look at the what ifs. May have to do improvements to the station. Have to think about the concerns of the association.

Byrne- no other questions

Koomer- is this the best location??

Clark. Looking at Winfield Linden, back of Rahway. Winfield is centrally located. Main drags of parkway, St Georges – this location is a great setup.

Numbers have been a great improvement – up to 52% of BLS volume – 30%, maybe a little less in previous years. We are here for all the County's healthcare. No matter how big or small the municipality is. The EMS is doing a lot better. They are not there to close doors. We are here to help.

Koomer- has been approving and we will support them.

Citizen's Forum: Mr. Demscher

I understand what they are looking for, I see positive and negatives. He cannot talk about items brought up in Association meetings. Representing EMS and FD. They are open to hear what is going on. They would like to speak with – physical presence of them does not concern them. There are parking issues. Their primary jobs – paying attention to CAD, majority of jobs are not here. Less than 5% here. If Clark is concern, they 2 houses. There are busier towns. We may not be the last resort, but we are one of the last resort. I see positive- quicker response times. County does a phenomenal

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job with support. Understands benefits of quicker response times. Cranford also does a great job. For association to approve, he would have to go back to them.

Koomer- we are just gathering information. Seeing what was needed. What can be provided. Other

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Koomer called for a motion to adjourn; Roll call vote, unanimous, affirmative.

TIME: 1:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Melanie Slowik
Acting Township Clerk