

ECAC Meeting – September 2020 Minutes

Monday, September 14, 2020

Present: Tom McGurk, Betsy Fadem, Jim Oram, Ron Mintz, Hal Ward, Buck Buchanan, Kristan Burgess, Palmer Dalesandro, Pete Motel, Alessandra Nicolas, Tom Torresson, Dave Obzud, and Bill DeFeo

Absent: Dave O'Brian

The meeting was called to order at 6.15p via web.

Buck mentioned that he was concerned about the new Trash Company selection of BFI. Citing concerns on their service. We had 3 issues with Waste Management in 4 years. Jim Oram commented on the process as it relates to the RFP. The Township put the RFP out to bid and had to award to the lowest possible bidder, per the law. The lowest bidder was BFI. The Township will be going from Waste Management to BFI. It starts 10/1 and will take tote with them and get new tote from BFI. BFI is owned by Republic. So tote will say Republic.

June 2020 Minutes were approved.

Space Project

- Tom McGurk recapped the project since it has been on hold since June 2020.
- Tom got a Phase 1 budget estimate from HSA that was \$19k in January 2020. The updated budget number from HSA is now \$25k due to additional space needs due to COVID-19.
- Public Meeting space is one issue. Police space is another issue that needs more of an immediate need.
- Each Township is doing things differently as far as public meetings. Currently Easttown Township does not have facilities for public meetings at the current time. If we do, we would need to have the ability to broadcast the meetings virtually for the many that cannot attend in person.
- Chief Obzud talked about his space issues especially during COVID-19. The PD is not able to social distance properly due to small space issues. If prisoners are in the PD, then that limits the space even more.
- What is the optimum time to start project? 2 or 3 years
- Could Obzud use public meeting space room for his PD?
- Chief mentioned if we could rent space for township employees and let PD have the whole building?
- Could we convert Hilltop House to staff space?

- Continued brainstorming on making project two-fold. PD needs space now, public space can wait.
- Tom asked Jim and Betsy expectations of cost and capital spend time frame they are comfortable with due to a slight revenue shortage to the Township. Betsy said she wouldn't feel comfortable spending more monies into 2021 for projects.
- Look at rental cost for staff and what costs PD would need to convert 2nd floor to PD.
- Could staff take trailer if PD took building? So maybe shuffle people around.
- There is money in the budget for an architect so perhaps Chief could use these funds for repurposing downstairs conference room.
- Let's repurpose the downstairs meeting room and put project team together to figure out the temporary solution. Team may include – Chief Obzud, Don, Gene, Jim Oram, Bill DeFeo, Palmer, Tom McGurk, and an additional ECAC member.

Fire/EMS

- Tom McGurk recapped the start of the project to entail what it would cost for the Township to run their own Fire Company. Would that be feasible?
- Betsy mentioned that the Task Force has been meeting regularly and we asked for an update from BFC on how they are doing.
- Tom Torresson mentioned that items were sold to make money for BFC. This year, on the operations side, the BFC has a balanced budget. They haven't had this in a long time.
- PPE was granted to BFC and they applied to have it forgiven which would allow them to come out of 2020 in a positive financial state.
- Volunteerism may decrease, do we combine fire companies; some questions Betsy asked.
- County today release strategic plan for Fire/Ems today, Tom Torresson mentioned.

New Projects and Initiatives

- Open Finance Project will be reported on at October 2020 Meeting.
- BoS would like ECAC to do a Benchmark Comparison for the Police Department, like we did with FIRE/EMS. More information to be provided by Jim and Betsy.
- A/V needs of the Township for virtual meetings and broadcasting. Radnor and Tredyffrin have their own TV station. What should we do?

Next ECAC meeting is October 12th at 6.15p. The meeting was adjourned at 8.10p.

Respectfully submitted,

Alessandra H. Nicolas
ECAC Secretary