

We don't attend many Township meetings, but when we were informed about the potential change to our Emergency Services (LGRFA) we have attended three Township meetings and one Fire Board Meeting.

At the Township Board meetings we found that some Board Members were as confused as were we. We were told to attend The Fire Board Meeting to get answers to our questions. We did attend the next meeting of The Fire Board and when we attempted to ask a question we were told "we could make a statement but that they were not answering any questions and there was to be an informational meeting October 17, at the Township Hall".

Since we were not able to get answers to some questions we have from hear say and from reading my copy of the proposed FIRE AND AMBULANCE SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT, we have written some statements and questions that you hopefully will attempt to answer.

1. We are told it is not a merger with Delta Township, so what is it?????
2. We left a working relationship with Grand Ledge Fire Department and were told then it was better to have our own with Eagle Township. Why is this proposal with Delta better?
3. We have not seen and do not understand the financial arrangement but are told it saves our Township some 26%. Where and how??
4. Have gotten mixed opinions about whether owning an ambulance as compared to contracting services makes or costs money in the long run. If in fact owning one is self supporting, why don't we just own our own??
5. We have some very well trained and dedicated people working for Looking Glass Regional Fire Authority. However, we are told this plan provides no guarantee they would be hired by Delta Fire Department even if they are qualified for openings. Is this true? If so we need to share input for hiring since they are serving our needs.
6. We have seen no operational plan for the proposal. Is there one and what is it?

We want the best possible emergency services for Watertown Township residents at fair costs and perhaps this Shared Services Agreement with Delta Township accomplishes that end. However, when we are told there is great urgency in getting this plan approved but that we couldn't ask any questions at the Fire Board it raised our dander and concern for the need for more public input.

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