

**MUNICIPALITY OF GERMANTOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD TUESDAY DECEMBER 22, 2009**

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The Municipality of Germantown Council met in special session on Tuesday, December 22, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the Germantown Public Library.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

The following members of Council were present: Mayor Theodore Landis, Mr. Scott Johnson, Mr. Terry Johnson, Mr. Lynn Koogle, Mr. Jim Lawson, and Mr. Edward Schwaberow.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mrs. Jeanne Gentry was absent.

ALSO PRESENT:

Also present were Anna M. Sizemore, Village Manager, Tom Schiff, Law Director; Dan Alldred, Fire Chief; Mike Tanner, _____

Council Incumbents: Steve Boeder, Mike Kuhn and Brian Wafzig.

Germantown Rescue Squad Inc. members: Laurie Rohrbach, Bev Campbell, and Stan Price.

German Township Trustee: Randy Benson

A roster list is on file of all visitors.

EMS FUNDING MEETING:

Laurie Rohrbach reviewed the current agreement between the Village and Germantown Rescue Squad, Inc. and items given to the Village. She also read the Germantown Rescue Squad, Inc.'s mission statement.

She went on by saying that GRS will give the Village up to \$250,000 a year and the agreement will be shortfall of about three months.

Mayor Landis questioned when will the Fire/EMS Levy be able to be put back on the ballot, Randy Benson replied that they missed the May deadline.

Mr. Schwaberow stated that the Village will not receive funds until January 2011, then questioned how did we get here.

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Lorie Rohrbach stated she had volunteered her services for the last 54 years, and GRS started paying the Village in 1995. The Village was able to operate by providing for the Fire Department, while GRS provided the EMS for the Village.

Mayor Landis questioned what is GRS intending to do in the future with funds, Lorie Rohrbach replied the GRS will receive grant funding and is a 5013C non profit organization. She went on by saying that they fund AED to churches, CPR training to those who are interested, scholarships and pay tuitions for chosen students and they did donate a new Medic for the Village.

Margaret Watson questioned how do you apply for the scholarships or tuition money, Lorie Rohrbach replied that anyone who is interested in becoming a physician, nurse, police officer or a EMT would be eligible.

Margaret Watson questioned who makes the decision on who will receive the scholarships, Lorie Rohrbach replied that the members of the GRS vote and decide who is going to receive the GRS scholarship.

Mr. Schwaberow questioned who were the GRS members and were do they get together and vote at, Lorie Rohrbach replied there were 30 members.

Margaret Watson questioned how do you get to be a member, Lorie Rohrbach replied anyone can apply.

Margaret Watson questioned how would anyone be aware of the GRS having available positions available for a members, Lorie Rohrbach replied that it is by word of mouth.

Mr. Schwaberow questioned if many people have applied to be a member of GSR and what exactly were the criteria, Bev Campbell replied that people just need to apply.

Stan _____ stated he would like to apply.

Mayor Landis questioned what the members of the GSR do; Lorie Rohrbach replied they work at the waffle trailer.

Mayor Landis stated that there is still some confusion on the entire process of becoming a member.

Stan_____stated that the GRS was very well supported by the residents

Chief Alldred stated that the GRS gave very little support to the Fire/EMS. We changed the color of the Levy signs to yellow and back to try to get the residents to clearly understand that the Fire/EMS is now separate from the GRS.

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Noel Watson stated that residents do not know that they are still donating to the GRS; they think they are donating to the Fire/EMS.

Lorie Rohrbach stated that less than \$2,000.00 has been taken in since the merge in September 2007, and GRS checks do go to the GRS, not Fire/EMS.

Mr. Schwaberow questioned why does the current GRS feel the mission has changed, Lorie Rohrbach replied that the main focus is to provide a service.

Noel Watson stated that is really not honest.

Lorie Rohrbach stated that the mission statement had to change because the EMS merged with the Fire Department.

Mr. Schwaberow questioned if GRS put out an annual report, Lori Rohrbach replied the last one was December 2007 and there is one on file for 2008 and the public is welcome to see them.

Lorie Rohrbach stated that GRS owns the building and the land.

Mr. Schwaberow stated that the funds should be available to the public.

Greg Carroll stated that the merger happened only because they lost their dispatching, nothing would had changed if the dispatching would not have been an issue.

Mr. Scott Johnson stated that Montgomery County said they could not do the dispatching, but later changed their mind.

Noel Watson stated that this merger will affect the taxes of the residents; because the perception of the people is that they are already giving and will not want to give any more.

Greg Carroll stated just because that is the perception, that does not mean it is the truth.

Mr. Schwaberow stated that many of the residents have a disagreement over first emergency first. The funds from GRS were to provide assistance to the Village and to get training. Some of the Fire/EMS employees are cross-trained.

Lorie Rohrbach stated as long as they are getting cross-trained they will help with the funding for their classes.

Steve Boeder questioned why are we trying to just maintain and why can't they disburse the funds to the Village.

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Stan _____ stated the only way out is to change the mission and to give the medic, supplies and funding for the next three years.

Mr. Terry Johnson stated that the Manager needs to negotiate a new agreement between GRS and the Village.

Stan ___ questioned if the Village pursues the Levy and is not successful, what will happen. There will be a gap in funding.

Lorie Rohrbach stated she would rather see if the Levy passes or fails then meet with the Manager to discuss a new agreement.

Stan _____ questioned what are the other options other than to ask the residents who use the services for money.

Chief Alldred stated that he has been trying to get the Levy to pass for a year, is there any way we can do that again.

Scott Anding questioned if there is an agreement that can extend the contract.

Chief Alldred questioned if we GRS would give the Village funds upfront or would we have to wait till the end of the year, Lorie Rohrbach replied that they would not.

Lorie Rohrbach stated that the funds are just not sitting there to be given away.

Mike Turner stated that the Village has not spent all of the \$250,000 that the agreement states the Village will receive.

Lorie Rohrbach stated that she agreed that all the funds have not been given to the Village, and if the Village is running short on funds for the Fire/EMS to let them know.

Greg Carroll questioned if the Village goes to first emergency first will GRS pay for the third person billing.

Noel Watson stated he was disturbed by the change in the mission statement of the GRS.

Margaret Watson stated that the Village residents are still giving money, so why would they need to vote yes on the Levy.

Tom Schiff questioned what happens to the money if it is not used.

John Smith questioned what is a investment portfolio.

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Lorie Rohrbach stated that GRS is not a public entity, Tom Schiff replied that he disagrees that GRS is a public entity.

John Smith stated he was disturbed that the financial figures are not available to the residents and that by keeping this a secret will affect the vote on the Levy.

Steve Boeder questioned if they are going to put out an annual report, Lorie Rohrbach replied that the Better Business Bureau stated that they are not required to do so and that they are meeting all the requirements.

Tom Schiff stated the Village does not have to provide a annual report to GRS.

Lorie Rohrbach stated that the GRS's attorney says that if the Village is billing the insurance company it is the same as billing the patient/ resident.

Tom Schiff stated he would disagree with Mr. In_____, by definition it would not be changing the agreement by billing the insurance company.

Tom Proctor stated only the municipality bills for EMS services with regard to soft billing the Village will have to bill the insurance company. If the Village does the soft billing they will recoup \$125,000 or more, and this needs to be considered if we want to continue to have a Fire/EMS department.

Mike Turner stated that we are all supposed to be one department, not all separated.

Mr. Schwaberow stated when he was in Chief Alldred' office the other day someone brought in a check to donate to the Village. When Chief Alldred accepted the check he asked what department the person would like the check to go to. He asked if the GRS was cutting the Village off at the knees, and who has the authority to do so.

Mr. Terry Johnson asked if the Village would be able to have a list of the members of GRS.

Mayor Landis stated that everyone needed to act as a group and support the Levy together.

Chief Alldred stated that he put an article in the Germantown Press asking for citizens who would like to help with the Fire/EMS Levy and he received no responses.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Kelli R. Sanders-Novak
Clerk of Council

Theodore E. Landis
Mayor