

TABERNACLE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2020

IN ATTENDANCE:

Kimberly A. Brown, Mayor	Present
Joseph W. Barton, Deputy Mayor	Present
Nancy K. McGinnis, Committeewoman	Present
Samuel R. Moore, III, Committeeman	Present
Robert C. Sunbury, Jr., Committeeman	Present

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

La Shawn R. Barber, RMC, Municipal Clerk	Present
Douglas A. Cramer, CPWM, Administrator	Present
Peter C. Lange, Jr. Township Solicitor	Present
William Burns, Special Counsel	Present

CONTRACT NEGOTIATION: Fire Company and matters falling within Attorney Client Privilege. At this point, Mr. Lange entered the meeting and held discussions with members of the Township Committee.



Unfortunately, under the contract relationship, this has wrangled over time with limited results. Members of the Subcommittee, Ms. Brown, and Mr. Moore were charged with looking at these issues for contract terms which would be acceptable for everyone.

The TFC#1 is the license holder of the building pursuant to the occupancy agreement. The occupancy agreement includes a significant amount of detail regarding rules and regulations covering occupancy of the building. The agreement does not provide for a leasehold and the Township maintains control over the building and can use the building also under the agreement.

It was stated that the Township is compelled to take necessary control to deliver firefighting services and protect its taxpayers in managing these issues.



Mr. Lange addressed management issues with members of the subcommittee by advising them that contract and negotiating discussions are for executive session. However, if there comes a time when discussions might go in another direction in a form of an ordinance, the Township Committee will need to leave executive session to have a meaningful spirited discussion in public.

Mr. Barton recalled cost savings to the taxpayers for dissolution of the fire district and contracting with the fire company in 2015, recounting the amount of work involved to get to this point.

Mr. Moore and Ms. Brown provided background information regarding their research which began in 2019, as the subcommittee members for emergency services. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The subcommittee interviewed over 35 people in order to develop a better solution with the contract.

Mr. Barton expressed his opinion regarding the current contract and a facility use agreement could be developed with one hundred percent transparency, if the Township scrutinize every single item and create a grievance procedure to manage the fire company moving forward. To have a contract would necessitate having a public safety director for oversight of all emergency services.

Mayor Brown advised that as of October 1st, the Fire Chief has resigned and will no longer be in charge.

[REDACTED]

Mr. Sunbury spoke of Mr. Barton's concern of trying to make the current contract work and [REDACTED] and wants to move discussions out of executive session to further discuss another method. Mr. Moore expressed his desire to move discussion of establishing a Township Fire Department and a Fire Chief. Ms. McGinnis expressed wanting to move discussions of an ordinance concerning better structure of having a fire department. The executive session was adjourned in favor of a public discussion of alternatives to a contract.

Mayor Brown reconvened to the regular meeting at 9:36 p.m. to pursue further discussion.

Respectfully,

La Shawn R. Barber, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

Approved: 11/23/2020

RELEASED: _____