

1. Call to Order

Council President Kris Cardiff called the October 4, 2016 regular business meeting to order at 7:03pm.

2. Moment of Silence & Pledge of Allegiance

The group participated in a moment of silence and the pledge of allegiance.

3. Roll Call – Have the Secretary call the roll

Borough Secretary Nina Solivan took roll: Council President Kris Cardiff, Council Vice-President Pete Ledwich, Councilman Dennis Hockenberry, Councilman Mike Mellon, Councilwoman Morrow, Councilwoman Cheryl Petersen, and Mayor Llewellyn were all present. Councilman Casey Shoub was absent. Others in attendance were Borough Manager Rich Sahar, Solicitor Craig Alexander, Borough Engineer Don Glenn and Public Works Foreman Lou Corrales.

Notice of Executive Sessions held September 13, 2016 and October 4, 2016 for matters of personnel & real estate.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the September 6, 2016 meeting

Motion to Accept Minutes: Councilwoman Morrow

Second: Councilman Ledwich

MC

5. Payment of Bills – Approval of Expense Voucher List Dated October 4, 2016

Motion to Approve Expense Voucher List: Councilwoman Petersen

Second: Councilman Hockenberry

MC

6. Report from Borough Engineer, Glenn Engineering

- Don recommends waiting until December to re-advertise the bids for the 5th Street and Duquesne wall project. By waiting we will receive lower bids due to contractors needing winter work.
- The GROW grant application is not due until January. November or December Don will need a resolution from council.

7. Public Comment

Cynthia Kalanja 501 Gilmore: Mrs. Kalanja would like something official in writing on what is going to happen with the tree for example if the borough is going to pay for it or if the borough is not going to do anything. Mrs. Kalanja stated she has been at several meetings but has yet to be given an official answer. Mrs. Kalanja did have the tree removed because of the safety hazard. Mrs. Kalanja feels that the borough should at least help with the cost of removing tree. The stump has not been ground down, that will cost an additional \$420.00. Solicitor Craig Alexander will talk with council on where things will go. Mrs. Kalanja would appreciate any help that the borough can provide it was a big expense.

8. Consideration of Emergency Medical Services for Trafford Borough

Motion: **Move to appoint PENN TOWNSHIP as Trafford Boroughs Emergency Medical Services Provider beginning JANUARY 1, 2017.**

Motion: Councilman Hockenberry

Second: Councilman Ledwich

Discussion: -Councilman Mellon requested council give the public a general synopsis of each proposal.
-Councilman Ledwich read a lengthy statement on why he is deciding to go with Penn-Township for EMS services. *A copy is on file with the Borough Office as well as a digital voice copy.*
- TEMS Chief Matt Boonie stated there are three issues with Councilman Ledwich's statement. The first issue being the calls that were not responded to, Chief Boonie stated TEMS provided a report within the proposal. When there are back to back calls we cannot respond. For example, tonight we were on scene of a chest pain call and another call came in a few minutes later you

cannot count these calls against us. Councilman Ledwich stated the report does not dictate that information. The proposal highlighted every call that we could not take. Councilman Ledwich stated 191 times last year there was no response. Chief Boonie disagreed and stated only 31 calls were not answered last year. Councilman Ledwich stated this is not what two individual sources have stated Chief Boonie questioned where they had gotten their information from, Councilman Ledwich stated from the county. Chief Boonie questioned if the information was printed on county letterhead or was there an official document. Councilman Ledwich commented "are we not to trust the county"? Chief Boonie replied "are we to trust the people who say we've got the information from the county"? The second issue is when we are on scene it does not take five minutes to go to back-up it takes less than 30 seconds. Councilman Ledwich reiterated two independent sources provided this information, am I supposed to believe one person over two independent sources who have no skin in the game. Chief Boonie stated the numbers are wrong, last year one of those incidents was a bus accident there were 8 patients involved TEMS could only handle 2 we had to reach out to other companies. Last issue is the workman's comp, Trafford Borough only pays for volunteers and I guarantee it's not \$14,000 a year. TEMS pays for its employees' workman's comp and I know this because it just went up last year its \$1,400 a month for 12 employees' so there is no way Trafford Borough is paying for \$14,000 a year for a few volunteers. Chief Boonie stated TEMS can independently sign up for a fuel program, the only reason we are with the borough's is because the borough had already had a program in place we just piggy backed on it. TEMS pays for their own gas Nina sends us a bill. Councilman Ledwich stated the reason it was brought up was to show that council has tried to help. Chief Boonie stated its not much and it's not costing the borough anything. Councilman Ledwich stated that is beside the point, the point is that council is trying to help TEMS because if TEMS did not go through the borough TEMS would have to pay the tax on fuel. Chief Boonie stated TEMS can get their own program and still get the taxes written off. Councilman Ledwich questioned why is TEMS on the boroughs program then? Chief Boonie stated the Borough already had the program in place and it was less paperwork for TEMS. Councilman Ledwich said the borough is still helping TEMS out Chief Boonie stated that is not how we need help. To get the taxes taken off our bill just saves us a day's paperwork. Councilman Ledwich stated that is beside the point you were at the workshop meeting in September you heard the financial condition of the borough we don't have any money, where we don't have money we are trying to make up for it and those cards are it. It wasn't like council washed their hands with TEMS we literally tried. Chief Boonie questioned if the borough was getting rid of all the gas cards? Councilman Ledwich said he did not say that the borough is getting rid of the cards what he is saying is this was an example of how council has tried to help. Chief Boonie asked if your providing the fuel cards what does it cost the borough? What does the card in our truck cost the borough? Councilman Ledwich stated it's not a matter of cost. Chief Boonie stated to Councilman Ledwich "you just said your trying to save costs". Councilman Ledwich said he did not say that, he illustrated what council is doing to help. There are other things that cost money workman's comp \$14,000. Councilman Cardiff asked to put all of this back and forth to the side for a moment. To summarize what councilman Ledwich is trying to say at a meeting back in February Councilman Hockenberry, Councilman Cardiff and Borough Manager Rich Sahar met with George Brown to discuss the financial status of TEMS. Councilman Cardiff asked Chief Boonie what the current payroll is right now for TEMS, George stated it is

\$250,000 a year. Chief Boonie stated that information is not correct, councilman Cardiff reiterated at that meeting they were told \$250,000 in payroll and \$140,000 in revenue there is a wide gap between the two. So obviously we were concerned that TEMS was going to close its doors as it says in all the articles we had to make sure there was a plan in place. At that meeting with George we asked if we should go out for proposals and he said we should and that is why we started this process we got his blessing to do so. We heard and saw the numbers and needed to do something fast. When we went to send out the RFP's there was a news article that stated TEMS was not going to pursue a proposal. Council was shocked when we received a proposal which was great we wanted to see if we could work with TEMS and went from there. From there it seemed like things started snow balling. We are just concerned because George stated TEMS would not be open past mid-2017 that is 9 months away from now. Obviously we have to have some measures in place and take precautions for the town. Councilman Mellon questioned Chief Boonie, are you confident that you can survive past 2017? Chief Boonie said yes. Councilman Cardiff questioned if TEMS has a financial plan, Chief Boonie stated TEMS has had the same operating budget for the last five years. We have no more money to replace equipment that is failing. We have some grants available to us but we have the same operating budget as five years ago. Councilman Cardiff asked if your reading two years' worth of news articles that say within a year or two we are going to close the doors obviously you'd be concerned as well. Chief Boonie stated yes. Councilman Cardiff asked chief Boonie if he has a plan that will keep TEMS doors open indefinitely, Chief Boonie stated it's the same plan that we've had for five years. Councilman Cardiff questioned why was council given different numbers? Chief Boonie stated he cannot answer that, nobody talked to him. Councilman Mellon questioned who was in charge of finances Chief Boonie replied Tracy Turoczy, Councilman Mellon asked why was there a meeting with George instead of Tracy? Councilman Cardiff said because he is the president of TEMS. Councilman Ledwich questioned why for the last two years have we been told it's only a matter of time before the doors close? Councilman Hockenberry said at that meeting the first question that was asked to George was how much do you need in order to survive, \$150,000 I know you don't have that kind of money we will try to stay open until January 1 2017 so Trafford can send out proposals and get bids and that's what we did. Councilman Cardiff stated taking all of that in from the president of TEMS we need to act on this. When we received a proposal from TEMS it was a bit of a shock. Everyone is all up in arms at council over this along with the flyer that was passed out at community days was confusing because this is what we were being told from the get-go. We were just trying to ensure the town has coverage if TEMS is closing its doors like the articles have stated for the last two years. Chief Boonie stated he is not trying to sway the decision he just wants to make sure council has the correct information and that council talks to the right people. Councilman Ledwich questioned how many paid employees tems has, Tracy stated ten paid employees a medic makes 13.00/hr and an EMT makes 10.00/hr annual payroll runs about \$90,000/yr. The \$225,000 figure that you have is to operate a full paid ALS crew at the base 24/7 with no volunteers. TEMS volunteers put in about 350 man hours a month. Councilman Hockenberry asked how did we know who to talk to when we first started this George was your president. Councilman Ledwich stated George has been the individual who gives the report every month we were lead to believe he is your representative. This is why there was a meeting with him. Tracy stated George has every best interest for TEMS he has been with TEMS since the get-

go. Tracy believes what George is seeing is we are staying status quo with our financials were pretty much right to the dollar where we were five years ago. We have some cash flow, we hired a new billing company whom are great they collect at least 50% of what is due to us. With the cut backs in insurance any money that we were able to put into the savings has been taken away. George was trying to elude to council that we do need help but we are staying status quo. Councilman Ledwich stated if that was the message it was sincerely lost. Councilman Ledwich stated now we do not know what to believe for the past two years there have been reports that TEMS is going to close their doors and now you're coming forward saying you're not. Your savings are drying up. Councilman Ledwich questioned how old the vehicles were? Chief Boonie stated one is a 1993 and the other is a 2004. Councilman Ledwich asked how often are you to replace them? Chief Boonie stated every ten years. Councilman Ledwich stated so one of your vehicles is out of compliance. Chief Boonie stated it is not out of compliance. Councilman Hockenberry stated if TEMS needs to get a new vehicle that will cost \$200,000. Councilman Ledwich asked where would that money come from? Chief Boonie stated there is no spec for an ambulance because they pass licensure every year. A newer truck is better but the one we have is working for now. Councilman Ledwich questioned the 1993 vehicle that is 23 years old. Chief Boonie stated that is a reserve we use it if the other one breaks down. It still runs a few calls then it goes back into the garage. Tracy stated it also passed state licensure in the spring the vehicles are certified until spring of 2019. Councilman Cardiff requested an inspection report that shows the vehicles are certified. Chief Boonie stated included in the proposal is a copy of the licensure from the state. Tracy stated if we did not comply we would not have received a license. Councilman Hockenberry stated his main concern is if council does not make a decision tonight and TEMS only goes for another 6 months to 1 year and have to go out for bids again who knows what kind of bids we will receive. From North Huntingdon we received a bid for \$50,000 - \$100,000. If we don't do this tonight and kick the can down the road for another six months to a year who's to say a bid will come in again at \$5,000 by then it may be \$25,000. Chief Boonie stated if TEMS does not show up for a call the town is split in half at 5th street North Huntingdon covers one side and Penn-Township the other side they are our mutual aids. Councilman Hockenberry stated if TEMS goes under and we accept a bid, North Huntingdon will not cover half of the town unless we give them \$50,000. We do not have that kind of money. We are getting a bargain at \$5,000. If this doesn't go through who knows what Penn-Township will charge us next year. Chief Boonie stated if TEMS does not get awarded the RFP TEMS will be no longer they will not stay open as a transfer service. Then Trafford will be tied to Penn-Township or North Huntingdon if they decide they do not want to do it in the coming years or want more money who will be left to turn to? Councilman Hockenberry questioned isn't this for a five-year term? Chief Boonie said it was taken out of the bid document with the amendment. Chief Boonie stated what if next year they come back and say they want \$20,000 or were not going to service your town. Borough Manager Rich Sahar stated once they are appointed they are appointed until removed. Chief Boonie asked again if they say were not going to cover the town unless Trafford gives us x amount of money. Councilman Hockenberry stated that could happen with TEMS as well. Councilman Ledwich stated it is the same because TEMS is asking for \$15,000 and use of the Manchester Room for the fish fry. Chief Boonie stated we are volunteer and paid staff council can see what we do with the money. Councilman Hockenberry stated no one is faulting TEMS it is the state legislature and the

insurance companies that cut your throats. You used to be able to collect seven or eight hundred dollars now its three and four hundred. The state legislature is what is responsible for this. All small ambulance companies are going under because of the same issues. We may be taking a chance with Penn-Township but what other option do we have. Councilman Cardiff stated that puts us in a predicament if we don't choose Penn-Township right now and they remove their proposal and say well since you didn't approve it now its \$20,000. I wish we could go back and not have been told those numbers every meeting. What else were we to believe? Personally in my opinion I would like to see TEMS financial plan. We cannot contribute \$15,000. TEMS is a staple of this community and have been wonderful but in the terms of dollars and cents the borough needs to be run as a business and you need to look at the numbers. We do not want the town to suffer by taking a chance. Chief Boonie stated a lot of things were never brought up during meetings because TEMS did not think council would go this route. Councilman Cardiff stated we did not think we would have to go this route either. Councilmen Mellon questioned if it is possible being that a motion was already made to meet with TEMS financial officers to look over the finances Councilman Mellon feels there were a lot of miscommunications. Councilman Hockenberry stated council already has their financials they were included in the proposal. A member from the audience questioned if there was any exploration in having TEMS be a satellite office. Councilman Hockenberry stated at the meeting with George in February he said he would be willing to have North Huntingdon station an ambulance at TEMS. If TEMS would be willing to work with Penn Township that is up to TEMS, Penn-Township is willing to work with TEMS but that is between the two parties. The proposal was set up to try and make people work together but that did not work. Borough Manager, Rich Sahar stated in the proposal it was strongly suggested to work with other groups. Councilman Cardiff thanked everyone for keeping the discussion so calm and well mannered. A member of the audience asked if Pitcairn submitted a proposal. Councilman Hockenberry stated no Pitcairn is on the verge of going under as well for the same reasons not enough call volume. Councilman Ledwich stated those who submitted a proposal were TEMS, Penn-Township, North Huntingdon and Trafford Fire Department.

Vote: There was a tie vote Councilman Cardiff, Councilman Mellon and Councilwoman Petersen voted no. Councilman Hockenberry, Councilman Ledwich and Councilwoman Morrow voted yes. Councilman Shoub was absent. Mayor Llewellyn requested the motion be tabled until a special meeting is held. Council decided the special meeting for this matter only will be held on Thursday, October 13, 2016 at 6:00pm.

9. Administrative Reports

a. **Code Enforcement**

Report submitted to be filed

b. **Borough Manager**

We are now in budget season, the next work session held on October 18th will be a budget workshop.

c. **Borough Solicitor**

No report.

d. **TEMS**

32 calls for the month of September. One call a day, we do not have a high call volume. Our financial condition is not due to financial mismanagement.

e. **Trafford VFD**

127 calls for the year so far. Hose testing was a success tested 10,300ft. Three sections failed it's going to cost \$1600.00 to replace them. Ladders passed. VFD will be doing a joint grant application with Wilmerding for new air tanks. Fund drive letters have gone out. November 12th will be the 200 club.

f. Emergency Management

No report.

g. Recreation Board

Councilwoman Morrow made a motion to Receive the Recreation Board's 2017 Budget seconded by Councilwoman Morrow. *MC*

Councilwoman Morrow made a motion to Approve BY Park Regulations seconded by Councilman Ledwich. *MC*

Halloween Parade registrations are October 5th, 6th and 11th from 6:00-8:00pm in council chambers.

Halloween Parade is Saturday, October 22nd parade line up at 12:00 noon.

Trick-or-Treat will be Monday, October 31st from 6:00-8:00pm.

h. Mayor Report

The library had their third successful hoagie sale, they raised a total of \$2,100.00.

10. Committee Reports

Finance: No report.

General Government: No report.

Public Safety: No report.

Community Development: TECDC Bingo October 22nd at the polish club.

Public Works: No report.

Sanitation: No report.

Council Presidents Report: No report.

12. New Business

Councilman Ledwich questioned if anyone on council wants or needs any additional information before the special meeting. Councilman Mellon stated he wanted to see the Westmoreland county sealed official call volume. Chief Boonie stated that is in the proposal. Councilman Cardiff stated he would like to see finances. Mayor Llewellyn questioned why for two years has George informed the public of the critical financial condition if TEMS but the night there was a decision to be made there is a disconnect between the members of the organization and George. Councilman Cardiff and Councilman Mellon both agreed to Mayor Llewellyn's statement. Councilman Cardiff stated a meeting can be set up with the appropriate committee. Anyone who submitted a proposal may attend. The informational meeting will be scheduled for Thursday October 6, 2016 at 6:00pm.

13. Adjournment

Councilman Hockenberry made a motion to adjourn at 8:16pm seconded by Councilman Ledwich. *MC*