

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT: SUPPORT FOR PLUMSTEAD'S VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES

Lurleen and Jim have become aware of perceptions about funding for Plumstead's volunteer fire companies. Specifically, it has been rumored that the Republican majority of the Board of Supervisors has denied funding to the Plumsteadville Volunteer Fire Company (PVFC). This paper is to set the record straight.

At the BOS meeting on February 9, 2021, PVFC requested a waiver of application fees and escrow associated with the Land Development Waiver submitted for Station 20. The application fee was waived by the BOS on a 4-1 vote. The dissenting vote was cast by Mr. Lichtenstein.

At the BOS meeting on March 9, 2021, the Point Pleasant Fire Company (PPFC) requested a waiver of the \$700 building permit fee for their new training facility. The vote was unanimous in favor of waiving the fee.

At the April 13, 2021, meeting of the BOS, PVFC requested a Land Development Waiver for the Emergency Services Building to be located at 970 Easton Road. The request was granted unanimously.

On January 11, 2022, PVFC requested all permit fees, associated with the Station 20 demolition and construction, be waived. The BOS unanimously approved the request.

At the August 9, 2022, BOS meeting, the BOS authorized the township to submit two RACP grants for PVFC's Station 20. Both requests were unanimously approved. Although a dollar figure was not assigned to this vote, the grant applications required a significant amount of work for the township manager. Application fees of \$1,000 for these grants were also approved by the BOS to be paid by the township.

On October 25, 2022, both fire companies appeared before the BOS. Several requests were made:

- A per call stipend for volunteers was requested and approved for \$26,000 to be included in the 2023 budget .
- The fire companies requested a reimbursement for fuel costs. \$10,000 was approved to be included in the 2023 budget.
- PVFC requested assistance with paving the parking lot at Station 20. Public Works was tasked to perform this paving at an approximate cost of \$5,000.

At the same meeting, a new fund for Fire and EMS Capital purchases was created with a budget of \$200,000, \$100,000 for each fire company.

On January 10, 2023 the BOS approved the authorization for the Bucks County Redevelopment Authority to serve as the Grantee for the RACP Grant. The BOS also

unanimously approved covering the \$15,000 cost associated with BCRA being the Grantee.

On 13 September 2023, the BOS again approved additional funding of \$7,500 for fuel costs for the rest of the year.

On April 10, 2024 the BOS unanimously waived the field use fees at Hanusey Park for 3 games for PVFC and 4 games for PPFC.

At the May 8, 2024 meeting, the BOS unanimously authorized reimbursement to the PVFC for legal fees associated with their USDA loan needed for the RACP project. Expenditures are not to exceed \$5,000.

At the BOS meeting on May 14, 2025, PPFC requested funding for a catastrophic sewer line collapse. The total cost of the repairs was about \$200,000. PPFC was asking for anything the township could provide. This request was deferred but the Township Manager was authorized to review the budget to see if any funds could be made available.

At the July 9, 2025 BOS meeting, the board did authorize \$100,00 to be paid from the Fire and EMS Capital Equipment Fund to PPFC for their sewer repair project. This was a one-time emergency exception authorization to use the Fire and EMS Capital Equipment Fund for this issue. There were no other funds available in the 2025 budget to honor PPFC's request.

Sometime during 2024, PVFC came to a BOS meeting and requested the board raise the fire tax by one to two mills and all the extra funding should go to them and nothing to PPFC. They had no justification for this request, and there was no motion by the board to act on it. This is not reflected in meeting minutes as no action was taken and thus did not need to be recorded, but it happened.

All of the above statements can be verified by the minutes of each meeting. The record clearly shows that the Board of Supervisors has consistently supported both PVFC and PPFC through fee waivers, budget allocations, emergency funding, and grant facilitation. Claims of partisan denial of funding are not supported by the facts. Lurleen and Jim believe transparency is essential — and the truth is that Plumstead Township has repeatedly demonstrated its commitment to both volunteer fire companies.