

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
Board of Commissioners
Commissioners Meeting Room**

**September 9, 2019
Monday, 7:00 p.m.
Township of Haverford**

1. **Opening of Meeting** – Andy Lewis, President, opened the meeting and indicated that the Board met in Executive Session prior to the meeting.

- a. **Roll** – all 9 Commissioners were present at roll call: Commissioners D’Emilio, Oliva, McCloskey, Siegel, McGarrity, Hart, Wechsler, Holmes and Lewis.

Also present were: David R. Burman, Township Manager, Ross Anderson, CPA, Township Auditor, James J. Byrne, Jr., Township Solicitor, Tim Denny and Aimee Cuthbertson, CPA, Assistant Township Managers, Chief John Viola, Deputy Chief Joe Hagan, Lt. Craig Scott, Dan Mariani, Public Works Director, Joe Celia, Codes Enforcement Director and Dave Pennoni, Township Engineer.

- b. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Commissioner Lewis asked for a moment of silence for the loss of lives due to Hurricane Dorian.

2. **Statement regarding Bon Air Fire Company**

Commissioner Lewis read aloud a statement regarding the Bon Air Fire Company (see attachment)

The Board took a five-minute recess.

3. **Commissioners’ Committee Update**

Commissioner Holmes stated that the 2020 budget preparation is underway.

4. **Township Auditor Update**

Ross Anderson reviewed the expenditures and warrants and found no irregularities.

4. **Citizens Forum – 20 Minutes Registered Speakers/20 Minutes Agenda Items**

Llanerch Avenue Residents – the Pennsy Trail Extension

Richard McFadden – Llanerch Avenue

Keith Fledderman – Llanerch Avenue

Diane McGoldrick – Llanerch Avenue

Stephanie Matsinger – Llanerch Avenue

The Llanerch Avenue residents would like to be involved in the process. They all have smaller back yards. They are requesting trees as a buffer and green space. Their easements are too close to the trail. They have been stewards of green space. They have made improvements behind their homes and are asking the board to expand on the work they have done. They are questioning protection from liability. There will be loitering and trash accumulation.

Commissioner Oliva stated that there are 66 homes on Woodland Drive that will also be affected with the extension of the trail. He will be setting up a meeting with all the residents to come together at one time and their questions will be answered.

Ann Phillips – Freedom Playground

Calling all volunteers...the 9th Annual Maintenance Day will be held on Saturday October 12th from 10 am to 4 pm.

END OF REGISTERED SPEAKERS

Anthony Weiss – Belvedere Avenue – Bon Air Fire Company

He is very happy to live here. He agrees with the Board's decision and said No to a hate group.

Justin Metna – St. Mary's Lane – Bon Air Fire Company

There are a lot of false accusations being made. Everyone has a right to look into groups. He disassociated from the group. Because he did a thought crime, in turn, punished the fire company.

Robert Dell – Brittany Lane – Bon Air Fire Company

Mr. Dell coached Mr. McClay, Jr., years ago. There is not a racist bone in his body. He made the right decision to walk away.

Christine Flowers – Llandaff Road – Bon Air Fire Company

This community was a comfortable community to live in. Now it is a "Town without Pity". I am ashamed to live here. The firefighter was never convicted, he chose to investigate the group and it was his constitutional right to also not follow through.

Joe Maloney – Annabella Avenue – Bon Air Fire Company

You bullied Bon Air into political correctness. This is ridiculous. I am ashamed at what you did.

Michelle Alvarez – Hastings Avenue – Bon Air Fire Company

Michelle is here tonight to support a new library and playground. Do both on that property.

Jim Dougherty – North Belfield Avenue – Bon Air Fire Company

He detests politics. The safety of the community is your duty as elected officials. You closed the Bon Air Fire Company. You failed your community. Safety first. Open that fire house tonight.

Marsha Morelli – Darby Road – Bon Air Fire Company

There are basic principles here: It was okay with Haverford officials to be okay with the Drag Queen Story Time. Because the Bon Air Fire Company failed to accept his resignation, township officials closed the Fire Company. We lost 37 volunteers; this had a domino effect.

Eric Horst – North Manoa Road – Bon Air Fire Company

Mr. Horst circulated a statement and 500 people signed it. No one wanted to see Bon Air close. The fire company is taking positive steps. The volunteer did make the right decision to walk away.

We are proud to have leaders to stand up for our values.

Tony Morinelli – Mill Road – Items 15 and 16 on the Agenda

Mr. Morinelli thinks the Brookline School should be preserved.

END OF OPEN FORUM

6. Approval of Minutes Regular Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2019

Motion made by Commissioner D’Emilio and seconded by Commissioner Siegel to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2019.

Roll Called.

All 9 Commissioners voted Yes: Commissioners D’Emilio, Oliva, McCloskey, Siegel, McGarrity, Hart, Wechsler, Holmes and Lewis.

7. Approval of Warrants

Motion made by Commissioner Holmes and seconded by Commissioner Siegel to approve the following warrant #9-2019 totaling \$3,314,037.43

General & Sewer fund Payroll for August 22, 2019 in the amount of \$678,067.96
General & Sewer fund Payroll for September 5, 2019 in the amount of \$628,161.70
General Fund disbursements #9-2019 in the amount of \$1,299,323.07
Sewer Fund disbursements #9-2019 in the amount of \$505,481.03
Community Development Block Grant Fund disbursement #9-2019
in the amount of \$67,485.30

Capital Projects Fund disbursement #9-2019 in the amount of \$128,241.03

Postage Meter Refill (ACH) in the amount of \$3,000.00

Credit Card Statement ending August 27, 2019 in the amount of \$4,277.34

Roll Called.

All 9 Commissioners voted Yes: Commissioners D’Emilio, Oliva, McCloskey, Siegel, McGarrity, Hart, Wechsler, Holmes and Lewis.

8. 2020 Minimum Municipal Obligation

Motion made by Commissioner Holmes and seconded by Commissioner Siegel to accept and certify the 2020 Minimum Municipal Pension Obligations for the Police and Non-Uniform Defined Benefit Plans and Non-Uniform Defined Contribution Plans.

Roll Called.

All 9 Commissioners voted Yes: Commissioners D’Emilio, Oliva, McCloskey, Siegel, McGarrity, Hart, Wechsler, Holmes and Lewis.

9. Ordinance No. P15-2019

Grange Estate - Extend Lease and Agreement between Haverford Township and the Friends of the Grange, Inc. (2nd Reading)

Motion made by Commissioner McGarrity and seconded by Commissioner Hart to adopt the second reading of Ordinance No. P15-2019 approving to extend Lease and Agreement between Haverford Township and the Friends of the Grange, Inc. for the property leasing, maintenance and preservation of the Grange complex.

Roll Called.

All 9 Commissioners voted Yes: Commissioners D’Emilio, Oliva, McCloskey, Siegel, McGarrity, Hart, Wechsler, Holmes and Lewis.

10. Ordinance No. P16-2019

Trail Easement Agreement – 3823 Darby Road (2nd Reading)

Motion made by Commissioner Siegel and seconded by Commissioner McCloskey to adopt the second reading of Ordinance No. P16-2019 AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP TO ENTER AN EASEMENT AGREEMENT FOR PORTIONS OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3823 DARBY ROAD FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TRAIL FACILITIES.

Roll Called.

All 9 Commissioners voted Yes: Commissioners D'Emilio, Oliva, McCloskey, Siegel, McGarrity, Hart, Wechsler, Holmes and Lewis.

11. Ordinance No. P17-2019 Traffic (1st Reading)

Motion made by Commissioner McCloskey and seconded by Commissioner Oliva to adopt the first reading of Ordinance No. P17-2019 rescinding a traffic Restriction on the following highway:

Rescinding from § 175-92 Schedule XVII: Parking of Commercial Vehicles Prohibited at All Times

Morlyn Avenue, Both sides, from Lee Circle to Doe Road

Roll Called.

All 9 Commissioners voted Yes: Commissioners D'Emilio, Oliva, McCloskey, Siegel, McGarrity, Hart, Wechsler, Holmes and Lewis.

12. Ordinance No. P18-2019 Smoking in Parks (1st Reading)

Motion made by Commissioner McCloskey and seconded by Commissioner Siegel to adopt the first reading of Ordinance No. P18-2019 PROHIBITING THE USE OF TOBACCO IN RECREATIONAL AREAS, PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF.

Motion to TABLE made by Commissioner Oliva and seconded by Commissioner McGarrity.

Roll Called.

6 Commissioners voted Yes to TABLE: Commissioners D'Emilio, Oliva, McGarrity, Hart, Holmes and Lewis.

3 Commissioners voted No to TABLE: Commissioners McCloskey, Siegel and Wechsler

13. Resolution No. 2151-2019 Assault Rifles

Motion made by Commissioner Siegel and seconded by Commissioner Holmes to adopt Resolution No. 2151-2019 that the Haverford Township Board of Commissioners strongly supports the reenactment of the Federal assault weapons legislation which would place a ban on both assault weapons and assault weapon ammunition; and

RESOLVED, that the Haverford Township Board of Commissioners strongly supports legislation which would require a permit for the purchase, acquisition or possession of ammunition and place

certain prohibitions on the sale of ammunition and would place a ban on assault weapon ammunition; and

RESOLVED that the Haverford Township Board of Commissioners believes every person who purchases a gun should pass a universal background check with the elimination of all loopholes.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Haverford calls on the President of the United States and the United States Congress to take prompt action in advancing common sense gun restriction legislation.

Roll Called.

All 9 Commissioners voted Yes: Commissioners D'Emilio, Oliva, McCloskey, Siegel, McGarrity, Hart, Wechsler, Holmes and Lewis.

14. Resolution No. 2152-2019

Amendment to Consolidated Fee Schedule/Cable and Telecommunication Administrative Fee

Motion made by Commissioner Wechsler and seconded by Commissioner Hart to adopt Resolution No. 2152-2019 amending Resolution No. 2140-2019 the Consolidated Fee Schedule adopting the following revision to the Consolidated Fee Schedule by establishing a Utility & Cable Provider Administrative Fee in the amount of \$1,000.00 for each instance in which wires excessively hang, cause a ground pile up or are otherwise subject to human interaction. The fee will be reassessed every thirty (30) days in which the utility or cable service provider fails to address the hazard.

Motion to TABLE made by Commissioner McCloskey and seconded by Commissioner Oliva.

Roll Called.

All 9 Commissioners voted Yes: Commissioners D'Emilio, Oliva, McCloskey, Siegel, McGarrity, Hart, Wechsler, Holmes and Lewis.

15. Resolution No. 2153-2019

Authorizing Township Manager and Engineer to obtain proposals for demolition of the Brookline School

Motion made by Commissioner Hart and seconded by Commissioner Wechsler to adopt Resolution No. 2153-2019 authorizing the Township Manager, in conjunction with the Township Engineer, to take all steps necessary to obtain proposals for demolition of the Brookline School, and directs the Township Manager to take such steps as necessary to effectuate this Resolution.

This Resolution is to ascertain costs only. The Property Committee will hopefully do a presentation at the October Work Session.

Commissioner Hart is requesting a Public Hearing for more comments from the public.

Roll Called.

All 9 Commissioners voted Yes: Commissioners D’Emilio, Oliva, McCloskey, Siegel, McGarrity, Hart, Wechsler, Holmes and Lewis.

16. Resolution No. 2154-2019

Determine the comparative costs of either building a new Library or Renovating the Existing Library on Mill Road

Motion made by Commissioner Siegel and seconded by Commissioner McGarrity to adopt Resolution No. 2154-2019 that the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Haverford hereby authorizes the Township Manager, in conjunction with the Township Property Committee and Township Engineer, as necessary, to hire consultants, to determine the comparative costs of building a new Library at either the current location or the Brookline School site, or renovating the existing Library, and to provide such information as expeditiously as possible, and directs the Property Committee to take such steps as necessary to effectuate this Resolution.

Roll Called.

All 9 Commissioners voted Yes: Commissioners D’Emilio, Oliva, McCloskey, Siegel, McGarrity, Hart, Wechsler, Holmes and Lewis.

17. Resolution No. 2155-2019

**5 Year Municipal Winter Traffic Services Agreement/
Snow Removal**

Motion made by Commissioner McGarrity and seconded by Commissioner Hart to adopt Resolution No. 2155-2019 authorizing the Township of Haverford to enter into a 5 Year Municipal Winter Traffic Services Agreement/Snow Removal.

Roll Called.

All 9 Commissioners voted Yes: Commissioners D’Emilio, Oliva, McCloskey, Siegel, McGarrity, Hart, Wechsler, Holmes and Lewis.

18. Resolution No. 2156-2019

Agreement between the Township of Haverford and the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office – Requirement for Participation in the Certified Local Government Program

Motion made by Commissioner Wechsler and seconded by Commissioner McCloskey to enter Into an Agreement between the Township of Haverford and the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office – Requirement for Participation in the Certified Local Government Program.

Roll Called.

All 9 Commissioners voted Yes: Commissioners D’Emilio, Oliva, McCloskey, Siegel, McGarrity, Hart, Wechsler, Holmes and Lewis.

19. Resolution No. 2157-2019

Application for Traffic Signal Approval -Darby Road Streetscape

Motion made by Commissioner McCloskey and seconded by Commissioner Oliva to adopt Resolution No. 2157-2019 authorizing David R. Burman, Township Manager, Secretary to submit an Application for Traffic Signal Approval for the upgrade of the pedestrian signals at the intersection of Darby Road and Benedict Avenue to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and to sign the application on behalf of the Municipality.

Roll Called.

All 9 Commissioners voted Yes: Commissioners D’Emilio, Oliva, McCloskey, Siegel, McGarrity, Hart, Wechsler, Holmes and Lewis.

20. Resolution No. 2158-2019

Application for Traffic Signal Approval – Eagle Road & West Darby Road and Eagle Road & East Darby Road/Hathaway Lane (Republic Bank)

Motion made by Commissioner McCloskey and seconded by Commissioner Wechsler to adopt Resolution No. 2158-2019 authorizing David R. Burman, Township Manager, Secretary to submit an Application for Traffic Signal Approval at Eagle Road & West Darby Road and Eagle Road & East Darby Road/Hathaway Lane (Republic Bank) to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and to sign the application on behalf of the Municipality.

Roll Called.

All 9 Commissioners voted Yes: Commissioners D’Emilio, Oliva, McCloskey, Siegel, McGarrity, Hart, Wechsler, Holmes and Lewis.

21. Release of Funds – Haverford Reserve – Parcel 4 Improvements

Motion made by Commissioner Siegel and seconded by Commissioner Oliva to authorize the Township of Haverford to release the balance of the remaining money associated with the Haverford Reserve Parcel 4 Improvements in the amount of \$276,409.17.

Roll Called.

All 9 Commissioners voted Yes: Commissioners D’Emilio, Oliva, McCloskey, Siegel, McGarrity, Hart, Wechsler, Holmes and Lewis.

22. Continuation of Citizen's Forum for Non-Agenda Items

Steve Ogdon – Bon Air Fire Company

The volunteer fire fighter is an active member of the Proud Boys. The group is a hateful group that threatens your parents and even your pets.

Joe Coligan –Bon Air Fire Company

Mr. Coligan has family in the Bon Air section. That fire house helped my family and friends. Who's next? You put public safety at risk.

Mark Cohen – Bon Air Fire Company and Senior Citizens

Mr. Cohen fully supports the statement read tonight.

When deciding on Item 16, please keep Surrey Services in mind to include adequate space for senior citizens.

Iris Cresco – Darby Road -

Her family is new to the area. They have two children in the Middle School. Her son was approached and was being recruited by an "elite" socio cultural" group. They are a group that initiates transgender awareness. She and her husband have household values.

Many are not aware that the President of the Proud Boys is Hispanic.

Mike Levin – Brookline School and the Pennsy Trail Extension

Mr. Levin stated that no plan has come forward on demolition, new library and playing fields.

The building is going to be a maintenance issue.

Mr. Levin stated that to build across Darby Road to extend the trail, years ago, the cost was \$1.7 million dollars.

Larry Arata – Bon Air Fire Company

I am proud of all the board that you accepted the volunteers' resignation. Their board arrogantly refused his resignation. The Proud Boys are a violent group. Adhere to the 14th Amendment.

Mr. Rubio – Bon Air Fire Company

Mr. Rubio indicated that his family moved to Haverford because it was "community". Something is wrong. This township is biased. Antifa won. Shame on us. We should not have extremists here. You as a board, did not hear us. What did the volunteer actually do? You shut down a fire company.

Mrs. Rushton – Bon Air Fire Company

Her husband was a volunteer fireman. These members put extensive training in. Response time is crucial. The fire company should not have been closed.

The Proud Boys was considered a hate group with the FBI and then were taken off the list.

Suzanna Barucco – Historical Commission

Suzanna thanked Commissioner Hart for the clarification that the board will just be obtaining costs. She appreciates that there will be more public comment. Demolition is still on the table?

Dan Weber – Bon Air Fire Company

As an educator, they are told, “whatever you do in private can be brought out in public”. All educators and first responders need to be held to a higher standard.

Loretta Kurlish – Taxes and Harassment/Intimidation

Ms. Kurlish does disagree with the township’s decision to close Bon Air.

She has heard about your values and asked if the full board was told her story. There are gross discrepancies in taxes. She entered one department to inquire on a property on her street. Within 30 minutes, she received a knock on the door and was harassed and intimidated by a citizen whose property she inquired about.

Evan Kramp – Bon Air Fire Company

Mr. Kramp offered his appreciation to all the Board and Township Manager. You acted quickly. You upheld the laws of the township.

Shannon Merman – Haydock Road – Bon Air Fire Company

Thank you for taking the action you did. We are in a political charged climate since 2016. People are emotionally charged.

Tom Scully – Treaty Road – Bon Air Fire Company

Response time matters. You didn’t say a word when the Drag Queen Story Time event occurred or when they dug at the YMCA. Somebody should have gone to jail for this. You need new people to run for office.

Lauren Cavanaugh – Glenbrook Road – Bon Air Fire Company

The board made the right decision. If someone is a member of a hate group, we need to be protected.

Ronnie O'Connor, Jr. – Bon Air Fire Company

His father was a lifetime member of the Oakmont Fire Company. We all make mistakes and also make bad decisions. The Proud Boys banner is all inclusive. Their President is Hispanic and there is a video of a black man highlighting the Proud Boys. More investigation should have been made.

Steve Ogdon – Bon Air Fire Company

There are many misconceptions regarding the Proud Boys. No one said they are a white supremacist group.

END OF CONTINUATION OF CITIZENS' FORUM

23. New business

Commissioner Siegel asked the Board to add to the Agenda, Resolution No. 2159-2019 announcing a Public Hearing to be held on Monday, October 7th, 6:30 p.m.:

A proposed amendment to the General Laws of the Township of Haverford, Chapter 160-5, Subdivision and Land Development, General Purpose and Applicability; Design Standards.

Commissioner Oliva seconded.

All 9 Commissioners voted Yes: Commissioners D'Emilio, Oliva, McCloskey, Siegel, McGarrity, Hart, Wechsler, Holmes and Lewis.

24. Other business

Steve D'Emilio – 1st Ward Commissioner

Commissioner D'Emilio will hold his 1st Ward Constituent Meeting on, Wednesday, September 25th, 7 p.m. at the Manoa Fire House. This will be a very important meeting; plus many important issues involving the township itself. There will also be an update on billboards.

Mario A. Oliva – 2nd Ward Commissioner

Nothing to report this month.

Kevin McCloskey, Esquire – 3rd Ward Commissioner

Commissioner McCloskey thanked everyone who attended the Ardmore Avenue Bridge Closure meeting.

Dan Siegel, Esquire – 4th Ward Commissioner

Commissioner Siegel reminded everyone that Saturday, October 5th is Haverford Township Day. Unfortunately, he will on a plane coming home from a business meeting and will not be attending this year.

There will be an upcoming Wards 3, 8 and 4 Constituent Meeting in the near future.

The board does understand the issues concerning senior citizens and a proper location for them.

Commissioner Siegel announced that before we meet again, it will be the Jewish New Year. He wished those that celebrate a Happy New Year!

Jim McGarrity – 7th Ward Commissioner

Nothing to report this month.

Gerry Hart, MD – 8th Ward Commissioner

Commissioner Hart stated that politics had nothing to do with closing the Bon Air Fire Company.

William F. Wechsler – 9th Ward Commissioner

Commissioner Wechsler will hold his constituent meeting on September 26th at the Bon Air Fire House.

On a positive note, the Music Fest was a great success!

Larry Holmes, Esquire – 6th Ward Commissioner

Commissioner Holmes stated that the township is still compiling data with regard to Wynnefield Drive and discussing future storm water matters.

Commissioner Holmes thanked everyone that came out tonight to provide their opinions.

Andy Lewis – 5th Ward Commissioner

The township will be hosting a PECO Liability Meeting on Wednesday, October 16th in this room.

Commissioner McGarrity provided a statement on the closing of the Bon Air Fire Company.

He also announced that Tim Denny, Assistant Township Manager/Parks & Recreation Director will be retiring in October.

Commissioner Siegel also announced that the repaving of Eagle Road will begin in mid to late October.

All Commissioners agreed to adjourn.



TOWNSHIP OF
HAVERFORD
DELAWARE COUNTY

1014 DARBY ROAD HAVERTOWN, PA 19083-2251

610-446-1000

MANAGER 610-446-1000 ext. 2208

HUMAN RESOURCES 610-446-1000 ext. 2233

September 9, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: David R. Burman, Township Manager
610-446-1000 ext. 2208

By unanimous action, the Board of Commissioners ratifies the actions undertaken by our Township Manager on Wednesday, September 4, 2019 (and previously considered by this Board in Executive Session) de-certifying Bon Air Fire Company from service and repossessing the Township's equipment in Bon Air's possession.

It is the unwavering policy of Haverford Township to ensure that all persons enjoy the full benefits of citizenship and equal opportunities in all things. This applies to all services provided by Haverford Township, as well as those services provided by organizations receiving support from or representing the Township. Haverford Township will serve each and every person equally, regardless of race, color, religious creed, ancestry, age, sex, national origin, handicap or disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

It is also crucial to understand that the Haverford Township Board of Commissioners and Township Manager had no desire to see the Bon Air Fire Company taken out of service. Haverford Township Board of Commissioners and its Administration has a duty to provide fire, police, paramedic and emergency response services to keep our residents as safe as possible. The decision to take Bon Air out of service was not made

Attachment

ANDY LEWIS, *President*
LARRY HOLMES, ESQ., *Vice President*
DAVID R. BURMAN, Twp. *Manager/Secretary*
JAMES J. BYRNE, JR., ESQ., *Solicitor*
PENNONI ASSOCIATES, INC., *Engineer*

WARD COMMISSIONERS

1st Ward STEPHEN D'EMILIO
2nd Ward MARIO A. OLIVA
3rd Ward KEVIN McCLOSKEY, ESQ.
4th Ward DANIEL J. SIEGEL, ESQ.
5th Ward ANDY LEWIS
6th Ward LARRY HOLMES, ESQ.
7th Ward JAMES E. McGARRITY
8th Ward GERRY HART, M.D.
9th Ward WILLIAM F. WECHSLER

hastily or lightly. We received assurances from the police department and the fire chiefs from the other four fire companies that Bon Air's territory would be served safely. With the Manoa Fire Company less than one mile away from the Bon Air fire station, the Board of Commissioners and Township Manager believed and relied on this assessment.

The Bon Air Fire Company receives significant public support from Haverford Township, including direct funding, the use of Township owned fire fighting apparatus, vehicle maintenance, fuel, insurance, and permission to wear uniforms showing that they are authorized to act on behalf of Haverford Township. The Bon Air Fire Company must adhere to the standards and policies of Haverford Township.

This volunteer's association with a hate group cast doubt on the volunteer's ability to serve all persons equally. The Township has a compelling interest in ensuring all residents receive – or believe they will receive – equal benefits of taxpayer dollars, particularly when it comes to public safety. Every person will receive help when needed.

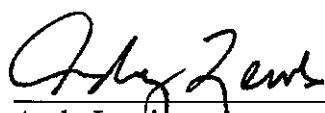
Haverford Township prides itself on being a diverse and welcoming community. To help support those values, the Board of Commissioners adopted an anti-discrimination policy (Ordinance 2626, Chapter 183) in February of 2011. Adherence to the Township's anti-discrimination policy is required under law and it is the duty and responsibility of each Commissioner to ensure that the laws of this Township are enforced. When the Fire Company Board failed to take action, this raised even greater concern about the fire company. The inaction of the Fire Company Board placed the entire organization in violation of Township policies. At the same time, we also have the duty and responsibility to make sure that the First Amendments rights, namely freedom of association and of speech, are protected.

In considering the entirety of the situation, the Township balanced the individual's First Amendment rights with its compelling interest in ensuring all individuals receive equal benefits of taxpayer dollars regardless of race, color, religious creed, ancestry, age, sex, national origin, handicap or disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

Today the Bon Air Fire company released a statement admitting that it made mistakes in the process, has agreed to accept this firefighter's resignation and to require the entire Bon Air Fire company (Board and firefighters) undergo sensitivity training. In addition, it is examining its by-laws and promising to reconstitute its Board to "be more inclusive of members of the local community whose background and expertise will lead the Fire Company into the future." These positive actions by the Bon Air Fire Board of Directors reflect a Board willing to take responsibility for their actions and the poor judgment previously shown.

The fire trucks and apparatus will be returned to Bon Air and Bon Air will be re-certified to provide firefighting services as soon as our Township Manager so recommends to this Board. In this manner, their 103-year-old tradition of serving the public can continue.

The Board of Commissioners has a duty to ensure there is no doubt that all Township staff and all persons authorized to act on behalf of the Township will protect ALL individuals. That is our promise to you.



Andy Lewis
President
Board of Commissioners