2017: individual memberships and a Borough donation

Finance and Administration Committee, August 15, 2017. Original PDF page 1.

Review of Financial Statements for Western Berks Ambulance Association:
F&A Chair Portner has reviewed all of the information that has been received from WBAA. The Committee discussed the possibility of purchasing memberships for every Borough household. The Committee decided that they are satisfied with the current arrangement where Borough residents can purchase their own membership. A donation to the WBAA will still be made each year and the amount will be discussed again during the 2018 budget review.

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2023: membership checks, refunds and donations

Published/signed Council minutes, November 14, 2023. Original PDF page 2.

Toni Tucci, Western Berks EMS briefly explained the available Municipal Membership program for Western Berks EMS services, noting that various participating municipalities typically pay between $45 to $50 per household per year for the membership which covers all costs related to Western Berks EMS care. He shared that individual memberships would no longer be offered to residents in areas covered by the Municipal Membership program, and any checks received for individual memberships would be refunded to the member. Donations from residents and business owners would still be accepted under this model, as often people donate to thank EMS for their care, or to support the overall EMS agency. Council commended Western Berks EMS, recognizing the outstanding service provided within the Borough and surrounding communities.

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The minutes summarize Tucci, rather than certify a verbatim spoken quotation.
This 2023 explanation does not establish every current or 2027 term.

2023: advertise the proposed municipal-membership budget

Published/signed Council minutes, November 14, 2023. Original PDF page 6.

As presented during public comment, Council further discussed their desire to participate in the Municipal Membership Plan which increases the total 2024 financial commitment for EMS services to $135,695. The membership eliminates residents from having to enroll into individual EMS memberships, and would eliminate balance billing after insurance is applied. A Wyomissing resident is also covered if traveling to another municipality serviced by Western Berks EMS. Tony Tucci briefly shared with Council and the public that EMS nationwide, is in crisis. Medicare and Medicaid does not reimburse at comparable rates, and many commercial insurances want to only pay Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement rates. He lastly noted that EMS is not permitted to balance bill when someone is using the federal or state insurance program.

Councilmember Derr made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Brunner to authorize advertisement of the 2024 proposed budget to include the discussed enrollment into the Western Berks EMS Municipal Membership Plan at $135,695, all in favor, 7-0.

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This motion authorized advertisement; final budget adoption is on the following page.

2023: adopt the 2024 budget

Signed Council minutes, December 21, 2023. Original PDF page 2.

Councilmember Brunner made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Barnett to adopt the proposed 2024 budget, all in favor, roll call vote, 5-0.

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