

WALKER TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS & PORTER TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING OCTOBER 27, 2016

Attendance - Walker Township Supervisors, Chairman Ronald Burd, Jim Heckman, Keith Harter, Porter Township Supervisors, Chairman Kevin Frank, Mike Champion, Township Secretary Carol Colucci, Representatives from Centre County 911, Clinton County 911 and 6 members of Walker Township Fire Company.

The meeting was called to order by Walker Twp Supervisor Chairman Ronald Burd at 7:00PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was then turned over to Supervisor Heckman. He stated the meeting was being recorded and please sign in on attendance sheet. The reason for the meeting was to resolve any problems and discuss concerns with dispatching with Centre County and Clinton County Emergency Management.

Heckman turned the meeting over to Fire Company Chief Doug Corman. He explained there was a storm event and an incident occurred that needs addressed. The night in question was an individual from Nittany Valley Fire Company was cutting a tree with no protective gear or any appropriate clothing.

No one from Nittany Valley Fire Company was present to represent the company and discuss the issues. Corman stated how can we work together better when we cannot get together to discuss it. If there's an accident with apparatus we'll all be drug into it. Corman also stated Clinton County self dispatched one of their departments into Centre County and this started issues of concern for Walker department and then Centre County 911 begin reviewing. He didn't think that was a good policy. Basically it is free lancing. The comment was made the county line means nothing to us. Supervisor Kevin Frank stated he thinks we need to have the two county centers to coordinate and work together better to have a faster response time to us.

Clinton County EMS Director Kevin Fanning stated they are here to help the public. The two counties need to work together for things to run smooth. He explained since the September incident of Dry Run Road confusion the center has reviewed and compared records to see what can be done to improve time delays. When calls are transferred from Clinton to Centre County it does not always take the location and phone number with it. Technology today unfortunately is not perfect or flawless. There is always that 2-3 minute delay. Signals get picked up and somehow calls go to cell towers further away that ends up in the wrong county center.

Centre County EMS 911 Dale Neff Director explained in detail the process of calls and the event of the particular incident of the tree down and how it was dispatched. Centre should have dispatched that call on a more timely bases which started the chain of events. Things are being working on to prevent that from happening again. A time analysis was done on a number of calls. It takes 2 minutes for the tones to drop. That's the best they can do when calls need to be transferred.

Supervisor Mike Champion asked if there is the same problem with other counties? The comment was there is just going to be a delay between counties. Clinton County Quality Assurance, Tammy Lannan stated there is not a delay in centers, its the delay is in the information collection to be processed twice. It's a time laps not actually a delay.

Centre County Norm Spackman reported they did an extensive review. He explained in detail how they looked at phone boundaries, selective re-routing for wire line callers were pinned down for every address. A call was taked recently that went very well. Both counties have the same CAD vendor. But there still needs to have some info structure built between the two centers. We are moving in the right direction.

Supervisor Jim Heckman addressed the problem of Pike Road to the junk yard that area the calls will go to Clinton County. Corman and Heckman made a suggestion sometime ago that Clinton County should have 1603 box in their system. Fanning explained how cell phone calls can go to the wrong cell tower. There are a lot of different variables.

Fanning is not opposed from his prospective in Clinton County to have box 1603 listed in their CAD system. Heckman said that's going back to the Dry Run Road fire. If the box was used then that wouldn't have happened. Spackman from Centre County replied

Comcast gave them the wrong address programmed on their end. Comcast phone record had Bald Eagle Township on it. The data base with Comcast cannot be trusted it is not correct. Fanning confirmed there are three Dry Run Roads in Clinton County. There was a long discussion followed on the issues. Tammy asked Corman to contact her directly at the center when there is something that can be taken care before to much time passes it would be much easier.

Supervisor Frank asked who is going to take care of the liability if dispatched and we walked in on your area? There are enter government agreements that was signed sometime ago. Fanning said he believes that has been superseded. It is covered under Mutual Aide. If one companies workers comp goes after another's then that's when again Mutual Aide comes in.

Supervisor Burd suggested is there a possibility Walker could put pressure on Comcast since they have a franchise agreement with Walker Township. Spackman explained how the data is handled with Comcast and stated they are a big company.

Supervisor Heckman stated there are problems with Nittany Valley Fire Company calling other companies out before they are. He suggested Porter Supervisors look into the fire company and find out things. Supervisor Frank reported they have addressed the company and there are some issues they are working on but no one really wants to listen to them.

The comment was made that it sounds like issues with each other that has nothing to do with the Centers. Supervisor Champion stated we do have eternal problems and we need to keep in mind they are volunteers they do a good job and change is difficult and it won't happen overnight.

Over all, all parties agreed the key is good communication and continue improving what we can as much as we can. On a 1st motion by Heckman and a 2nd by Frank motion passed to adjourn 8:25PM.

Porter Township Secretary /Treasurer
Carol Colucci

