



Tinicum Township Fire Company

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February 28, 2022

Honorable Karen Boback, Chairman
Pennsylvania House Veteran Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee
Room 41-B, East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 202117

Dear Representative, Boback:

My name is Raymond Lonabaugh and I am the Treasurer of the Tinicum Township Fire Company in Delaware County, PA. Tinicum Township is a combination volunteer and career Fire and EMS Department. Unfortunately, I cannot attend the Public Hearing on Pennsylvania – EMS System in Crisis on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. due to a prior commitment. Therefore, I'm forwarding this letter with my comments.

The title of the Public Hearing "EMS System in Crisis" is exactly what we are currently experiencing here in Delaware County and no doubt across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I know it well as the person who pays the bills and handles the department income. As far as I know there are no more volunteer ambulance and medic services in Delaware County. Those of us who are left and have not closed our doors on EMS are all doing so with either full time paid personnel or compensated personnel. There are too many calls for service and personnel qualifications and training for a volunteer system to support EMS here in Delaware County

Tinicum Township Fire Company employees 12 full time EMT/Firefighters along with several part-time EMT/Firefighters. This establishes four platoons of four career personnel each that staff two ambulances 24/7. The career personnel also staff our fire and rescue apparatus, which on an occurrence reduces our ambulance staffing. Our annual budget is 1.25 Million per year and is rising and does not include capital expenditure such as new ambulances or rebuilds. We have a primary dispatch area; however, we can and are dispatched to any EMS assignment in Delaware County based on what ambulances are available. Our responses are over 2,500 per year and are steady rising. There are many reasons for the annual increase in responses. One is because several fire companies in Delaware County have gone out of the EMS/Ambulance business as it has become unaffordable. Our insurance billing and Medicare payments do not come anywhere near our expenses, therefore the Township of Tinicum helps us with our budget in the amount of \$500,000.00 per year. In addition, many patients that we provide service are not insured especially in those areas we are dispatched outside of our primary area.

Tinicum township bears the brunt of the expenses while other municipalities that we are dispatched to getaway free. The Public Safety Authority Bill could solve many of our

problems but I understand there is resistance by those who are totally clueless as to our crisis and who really don't understand the bill as well.

Thank you for your time and interest in this crisis.

Sincerely,

Raymond W. Lonabaugh

Raymond W. Lonabaugh, CFPS, EMT, MS
Treasurer
Tinicum Township Fire Company