

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, March 12, 2019
Public Hearing Minutes

At 7:00pm Chairwoman Ann Hanna called the hearing to order. The purpose of the hearing was to discuss the possible reimplemention of Resolution 2012-32, establishing the collection of fees from for-profit property owners whose fire and ems calls exceed five in a calendar year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mr. Rick Noco – representative of Simco Management Co. on behalf of Kent Village Apartments addressed the board expressing their concern and opposition to the collection of such fees. Their contention is that tenants' use of 911 for emergency is outside of their control, therefore unable to be the responsibility of the owner. Simco Management would certainly challenge this resolution. Trustee Keith Benjamin expressed gratitude to Kent Village Apartments for being good neighbors in the township community and let Mr. Noco know that there have been very limited calls from its' tenants over the last few years. Kent Village has not been a for-profit business that has presented the problem for excessive and often non-emergent calls. All three trustees inquired about Simco's willingness to work with the township educating residents on appropriate use of 911 for emergencies only and he stated that they indeed would be willing to help.

Mr. Tim Benner spoke briefly about the large increase in call volume over the last few years. In Franklin Township, and the City of Kent, residents have become dependent of a response for help from the fire department – animal assistance, odor investigation, lift assistance, appliance malfunctions, etc. Residents who have little or no support network know that if they call 911 the fire department will come and help. Kent Fire Department Chief John Tosko noted that from 2016-2018 there were 501 fire related calls in the township. This number includes false alarm drops. The number of ems and non-emergent 911 calls far exceeds this by hundreds. Fiscal Officer Lisé Russell stated that the total cost to the township in 2018 for fire and ems calls was \$827,885.25. One-hundred and two of the calls in 2018 belonged to just five township for-profit commercial properties.

No other public comment was said on the matter and at 7:22pm the hearing was adjourned by a motion made by Keith Benjamin; 2nd Ann Hanna. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairwoman _____