

September 26, 2023
Kutztown, PA

A special meeting of the Kutztown Borough Council was called to order at 6:31 p.m. in the Kutztown Train Station, by the President, Mr. Kevin Snyder, with other members of Borough Council present: Mr. Derek Mace, Mr. Edwin Seyler, Ms. Lisa Ladd-Kidder, Mr. Frederick Engelhardt, and the Mayor, Mr. James Schlegel. Councilman George Kusterer was absent. Mr. Gabriel Khalife, Borough Manager/Treasurer; Ms. Gina M. Wiand, Borough Secretary/Public Relations and Marketing Director; Topton Ambulance representatives Amy Evans and Todd Evans; Kutztown Area Transport Services representatives Rodney Freeman and Allison Fuller; and resident Tim Seyler were also present.

President Snyder announced that the meeting was being held to discuss possible contribution options, for Topton Ambulance, for 2023 and 2024.

Mr. Seyler asked if there are any plans for the next budget year, and Mr. Khalife responded that half a mill has been discussed. Mr. Seyler then asked for confirmation that half a mill is equivalent to approximately \$90,000.00, and Mr. Khalife confirmed that.

Mr. Seyler asked Amy Evans, from Topton Ambulance, if they have a preferred payment schedule, and she stated that a monthly payment schedule would be preferable. Mr. Mace suggested that a quarterly schedule would be more preferable to the Borough, and Ms. Evans said she would refer that to the Ambulance Board.

Ms. Ladd-Kidder questioned how to handle payment to them in the meantime. Mr. Seyler clarified that quarterly payments could start on January 1, 2024.

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Ms. Evan asked if Council would like the funds to be put in a special account that shows what has been paid and how it was used, and Council responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Mace asked if there would be membership plans, and Mr. Engelhardt replied that memberships will be covered for residents through taxes.

Mr. Seyler asked if Topton Ambulance will still take insurance, and Ms. Evans responded that they will, and if you are a resident, you will not need to pay balances that insurance does not cover.

Mr. Khalife asked if Topton Ambulance will hold donation drives and fundraisers, and Ms. Evans stated that they will.

Mr. Mace asked how Council will interact with Topton Ambulance, and Ms. Evans stated that someone from Council or Public Safety should sit on the Board and attend monthly meetings.

Mr. Khalife asked what the Board votes on, and Ms. Evans said, “basically everything.” Mr. Khalife advised against having a Council member on the Board, and Mr. Seyler said that they should talk to Solicitor Mooney about it.

Mr. Seyler stated that Council would like to see a monthly report, and Ms. Evans said that a Topton Ambulance representative will come to the monthly Community Development and /Public Safety Committee meetings to give a report.

Tim Seyler asked if a non-resident needing ambulance service, in his home, would be covered, and Ms. Evans stated that only residents are covered.

Mr. Mace noted that the half a mill should go through the Finance and Electric Committee, and then back to Council.

Mr. Seyler suggested paying Topton Ambulance a prorated amount (\$45,000.00)

for the time and expense used since August 1, 2023.

Mr. Khalife asked how non-resident college students are figured in, and Mr. Seyler said that they should be included because they are renters. Ms. Evans agreed.

Allison Fuller urged Council to find out what other municipalities do and to do their homework to make sure the Borough is covered.

Rodney Freeman asked who pays workers' compensation, and Ms. Evans replied that Topton Ambulance pays.

Mr. Mace noted that information should be put in the utility bills about the new service and tax.

A motion was made by Mr. Mace, seconded by Mr. Seyler, Resolved, To adjourn the Council meeting upon vote. Passed by unanimous vote. The meeting ended at 7:05 p.m. Passed by unanimous vote.

Prepared and attested by: Gina M. Wiand
Borough Secretary