



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting  
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
March 1, 2005

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**APPROVED MINUTES**

A joint special meeting between the Borough of Swedesboro and the Township of Woolwich was held on the above date in the Woolwich Twp. building with the Honorable Guiseppe Chila presiding. Those in attendance from Swedesboro are as follows: Mayor Fromm, Councilman Gage, Flaherty, Murray, and Churchville. Those in attendance from Woolwich were as follows: Mayor Chila, Committeeman Lott, Otten and Hampton.

Mayor Chila called the meeting to order and all saluted the flag. Mayor Chila stated that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law.

Both municipalities called roll for attendance.

Mayor Chila opened the meeting to the public.

No one spoke.

Mr. Otten moved to close the public portion, seconded by Mr. Lott. Vote all yes.

Mayor Chila stated that this is a joint meeting to discuss both proposals (Woolwich Fire Co. and Logan EMS) for the Emergency Medical Service for Swedesboro and Woolwich.

Mr. Hampton questioned the 180 do not responds from correspondence dated 8/1/03. Mayor Chila went over that letter and report.

Mr. Dryden arrived at 8:05 PM.

Mr. Dryden stated that it is not do to negligence that they are not responding but that the volunteers are not available and that this problem has been brought to Councils attention before.

Mayor Fromm stated that there has been issues and it is not working.

Mr. Otten agreed that both presentations were straightforward and easy to understand.

Mr. Dryden reported that both Logan and the Fire Co. have a plan to have a pool of people to pull from and that it is a smart move.

Mr. Flaherty stated that Woolwich Fire might need to purchase a new EMS vehicle due to the one unit being 15 years old.

Mr. Dryden stated that he liked both proposals and was sure that Logan would do a great job but that he had a hard time paying someone other than the ones who have done it all these years for free.



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Mrs. .Gage agreed with Mr. Dryden and that it needs to be offered to the people who have given their time.

Mayor Fromm stated that we need to take sentiment out of our decision and do what is good for the people and the town.

Mayor Chila stated that the applicants would have to meet the criteria and that it is easier with three towns working together rather than two towns and we need to try to save money.

Mr. Dryden stated that both proposals are similar in costs.

Mrs. .Gage stated that Woolwich has 14 certified EMS and Logan could not hire all of them and it would better the town by using people from town.

Mr. Dryden stated that the problem of not responding would go away if they were there and paid.

Mr. Flaherty stated that we are talking to separate teams and that by combining them we give the communities more coverage, more opportunity for backup availability and putting two together for the cost of one.

Mr. Murray stated that we need to consider the growth of the area affects the systems and that a budgeting point in both proposals is the purchase of a 3<sup>rd</sup> ambulance, if joined together they could buy it jointly instead of each buying one ambulance.

Mr. Dryden said that was a valid point that they will continue to grow and will need to purchase a third ambulance eventually.

Mr. Murray felt that cost would be better managed with the two services combined.

Mr. Hampton asked to give Woolwich Fire Co. a chance to use and pay people who have been doing it for free.

Mayor Fromm stated that regionalization saves money that we need to provide the best service and that the cost is close on paper but if we merge the systems it would be more efficient. Mayor Fromm stated that one system or two systems it is what is best for the people. People are responding to people in need and the costs are close and the concern needs to be about service and response times.

Mayor Chila reported that it more beneficial combining three towns. The Logan system is running now and we can merge into it.

Mr. Dryden stated that the Fire Co. has a system in place already. Mayor Chila stated that it is not the same system.



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Mayor Fromm said there are advantages to regionalize, it saves money, there are grants available and stated that he feels regionalization is the cheaper way to go and we would get the best for Swedesboro tax wise. Mayor Fromm stated that the present EMS people will have a chance to get into a merged system.

Mayor Chila asked the Council and Committee for their comments. Mr. Otten stated that to regionalize would give better service. Mr. Hampton said that the Woolwich proposal is lower in cost and the people who have been doing this service need the opportunity to continue. Mayor Fromm said it would be merging two good systems into one better system and that Logan has a proven track record. Ms. Churchville said that she is leaning towards regionalization for better service and the expense strain would be better split three ways.

Mr. Otten motioned to move in direction of regionalization for Woolwich and have interlocal agreements prepared, seconded by Mr. Lott. Roll Call Vote- Hampton, no, Otten, Lott, and Chila, yes.

Mayor Fromm stated that we will have to go with Logan or go alone.

Mr. Dryden asked if it would be viable to keep a volunteer service just for Swedesboro. Mr. Flaherty stated that it would be risky business.

Mayor Chila stated that the Otten motion is to engage with negotiations with Logan and they are not signing an agreement tonight. Mayor Chila stated that he would like it up and running by the end of the month and the Woolwich Committee want to go with Logan.

Mr. Murray motioned to enter into negotiations with Woolwich and Logan with our people being explored first for job opportunities, seconded by Ms. Churchville. Roll Call Vote- Gage and Dryden, no, Flaherty, Murray and Churchville, yes.

Mayor Chila asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Otten moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Lott. Vote all yes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM.

Dolores M. Connors  
Borough Clerk