

3-29-18 – Yager to Mike Bailey – Oakland Township Fire Department (OTFD) Performance Data...

Robert Yager

From: Robert Yager <yager@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2018 2:01 PM
To: Michael Bailey (mbailey@oaklandtownship.org)
Cc: Frank Ferriolo (fferriolo@oaklandtownship.org); Jeanne Langlois (jlanglois@oaklandtownship.org); John Giannangeli (jgiannangeli@oaklandtownship.org); Karen Reilly (kreilly@oaklandtownship.org); 'Imangiapane@oaklandtownship.org'; Michael Bailey (mbailey@oaklandtownship.org); Robin Buxar (rbuxar@oaklandtownship.org); Dale Stuart (dstuart@oaklandtownship.org); Dan Kelly (dkelly@gmhlaw.com); Paul Strelchuk (pstrelchuk@oaklandtownship.org); Greg Ball (gball@oaklandtownship.org)
Subject: Re: Oakland Township Fire Department (OTFD) Performance Data and Information Review

To:

Michael Bailey – Supervisor, Oakland Township

Cc:

Karen Reilly – Clerk

Jeanne Langlois - Treasurer

John Giannangeli – Trustee

Lana Mangiapane – Trustee

Robin Buxar – Trustee

Frank Ferriolo – Trustee

Dale Stuart- Township Manager

Paul Strelchuk – Fire Chief and Emergency Manager

Dan Kelly – Township Attorney

Re: Oakland Township Fire Department (OTFD) Performance Data and Information Review

Supervisor Bailey:

I suggest that a regular agenda item at each regular BOT meeting be devoted to Fire Department Issues. I will stop in at 4/2/18 Officer Office Hours to discuss and clarify the idea presented below in more detail. Others are welcome to join us.

Some residents, our Fire Chief and some Fire Department members have expressed concerns about various aspects of OTFD's capability to serve the public as summarized below:

EMS (Emergency Medical Services)

- Too slow response time (time to get a 2-medical team* and an ALS ambulance on scene per OCMCA Protocol 6-18)
- Ambulance staffing (only one medic vs. two required by OCMCA Protocol 6-1)

*We are using the term "2-medical team" to mean either two paramedics or one paramedic and one EMT-Basic

Fire and Other Emergencies

- Too slow response time (time to muster appropriate crew and equipment on scene per one or more standard in NFPA 1710 and or 1720)

Data representing these key required performances is not widely available nor regularly reviewed by BOT or the public, but should be.

OTFD has recently (3/13/18) been given permission to comply with a letter of non-compliance to OCMCA Protocol 6-1 by hiring part-time and/or scheduling Paid-on-Call personnel. Such a change can have unexpected consequences. For example scheduling Paid-on-call may actually reduce the numbers voluntarily responding to a fire as they have already met their minimum time goals by being scheduled. This is a second reason to review key performance data and information.

Therefore, I suggest that a regular agenda item at each regular BOT meeting be devoted to Fire Department Issues.

I suggest the detailed agendas below:

EMS Issues (presentation by Chief – 1st regular monthly Board Meeting)

- EMS Response time data - run chart, 1-1-2017 to present, 90% fractile for the month
- ALS ambulance staffing - % runs with 2-medical team at all times for month, run chart, 1-1-2017 to present,
- % shifts with 2 personnel (for Stations 1 and 2 separately), run chart of monthly data
- Presentation of any new plans
- Performance vs. 2018 improvement objectives
- Announcement of any changes in department rules or procedures and Board approval of same
- Any problems, issues encountered in the past month.
- Public comment on EMS issues (Dept. employees may also speak freely at this point if they desire to do so.)

Fire and Other Emergencies (presentation by Chief – 2nd regular monthly Board Meeting)

- Response time versus appropriate NFPA standard or standards recommended by Chief - run chart, 1-1-2017 to present, X% fractile for the month (as per standard – 80% or 90%)
- Presentation of any new plans
- Performance vs. 2018 improvement objectives
- Announcement of any changes in department rules or procedures and Board approval of same
- Any problems, issues encountered in the past month.
- Public comment on Fire and Other Emergency issues (Dept. employees may also speak freely at this point if they desire to do so.)
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In anticipation of some arguments against doing this I offer the following -

Objection: We will be exposing ourselves to lawsuits by possibly publicly exposing non-compliance.

Reply: Won't willfully ignoring this type of information prior to a serious incident of preventable harm to a resident be more likely cause a real problematic lawsuit?

Objection: Quarterly review is often enough.

Reply: Not with just having made a major change. The most serious problems happen from changes that are not closely monitored.

Objection: Why not do this in a special meeting during the daytime instead of at the regular meeting?

Reply: Great idea.

Robert Yager

1146 Bear Creek Ct.

Acronyms and abbreviations:

BOT – Board of Trustees – ultimate governing body responsible for safety, etc. In Oakland Township consisting of Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and four Trustees.

FTFFPM – full-time firefighter / paramedic. These people are flexible and either fight fires or render emergency medical service as needed. Pay approximately \$23 / hour.

NFPA – National Fire Protection Association

OCMCA – Oakland County Medical Control Authority

OTFD – Oakland Township Fire Department

POC – Paid-on-Call unscheduled firefighter / paramedic, firefighter EMT-B or EMT-B who responds voluntarily and is paid for hours spent responding to a call. Pay approximately \$18 / hour.