

February 25, 2020

Michael Bailey
Oakland Township Supervisor

It is my hope that you will exert your authority to call Board meetings and set agenda items in order to lead the Board to address my concerns below in a timely and thorough manner. I would like to see a Board vote to 1) reject or 2) accept and act on each individual concern, just as if this was a court complaint.

Bob Yager

cc: Board, Manager, Asst. Mgr., Chief, Asst. Chief, 419 residents

One Resident's 24 Concerns about Oakland Township Fire Department

Public Information and Input

1 - The Board has not provided meaningful opportunity for the public to understand Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Advanced Life Support (ALS) Services compared to Basic Life Support Services (BLS) so the public can express their preference. See NFPA definitions from NFPA 1720.

3.3.27 Life Support.

3.3.27.1 *Advanced Life Support (ALS).* Emergency medical services beyond basic life support that provide for advanced airway management, including intubation, advanced cardiac monitoring, defibrillation, establishment and maintenance of intravenous access, and drug therapy.

3.3.27.2* *Basic Life Support (BLS).* A specific level of prehospital emergency medical service provided by trained responders that is focused on rapidly evaluating a patient's condition; maintaining a patient's airway, breathing, and circulation; controlling external bleeding; preventing shock; and preventing further injury or disability by immobilizing potential spinal or other bone fractures.

2 - My family does not want service downgraded from Advanced Life Support (ALS) to Basic Life Support (BLS) at any time; even temporarily.

Direction from Board to OTFD

3 - Board members knowledge of OTFD varies considerably from member to member. Some appear to have inadequate knowledge to perform their legal duty to give direction to OTFD.

4 - The Board does not seem to be in compliance with State Law Act 359 of 1947; The Charter Township Act - **"42.13The township board shall make and establish rules and regulations for the government of the department, the employes, firemen, and officers thereof; and for the care and management of the buildings, engines, apparatus, and equipment pertaining thereto....."** <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/mcl/pdf/mcl-act-359-of-1>

5 -The Board has neither studied nor understood, nor deliberated on either NFPA 1710 nor 1720 and decided what portions, if any, apply to Oakland Township
<https://www.nfpa.org/Codes-and-Standards/All-Codes-and-Standards/Free-access>

6 - The Board has not defined their desired list missions for OTFD.

7 - The mission statement on the Township website likely does not cover all the Board desired missions.

- The Mission of the Oakland Township Fire Department is to safely respond to fire and medical emergencies within the community, to help its citizens deal with those emergencies, and, with regard to the safety of its members, do all it can to limit loss of life, property, and the environment.

8 - The Board is out of compliance with NFPA 1720 Section 4.1.1 <https://www.nfpa.org/Codes-and-Standards/All-Codes-and-Standards/Free-access>

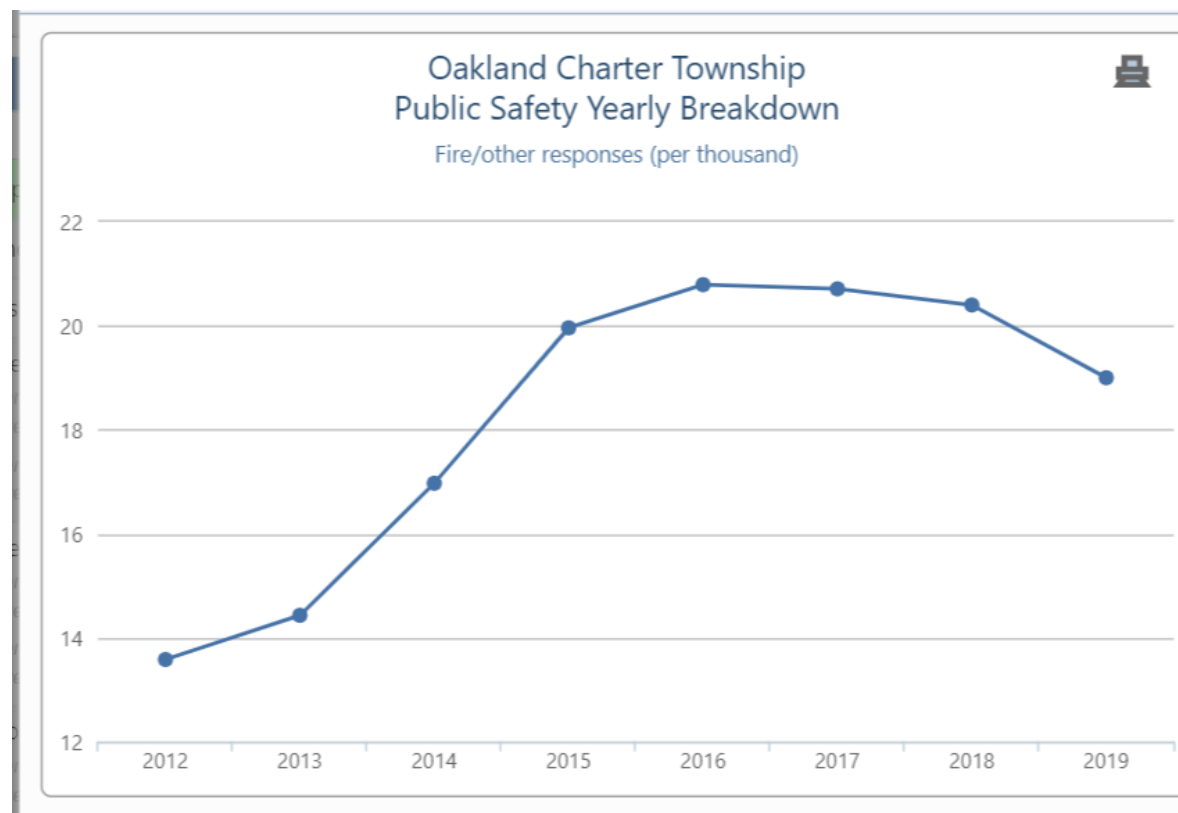
4.1.1* The authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) shall promulgate the fire department's organizational, operational, and deployment procedures by issuing written administrative regulations, standard operating procedures (SOPs), and departmental orders.

Managing OTFD Performance

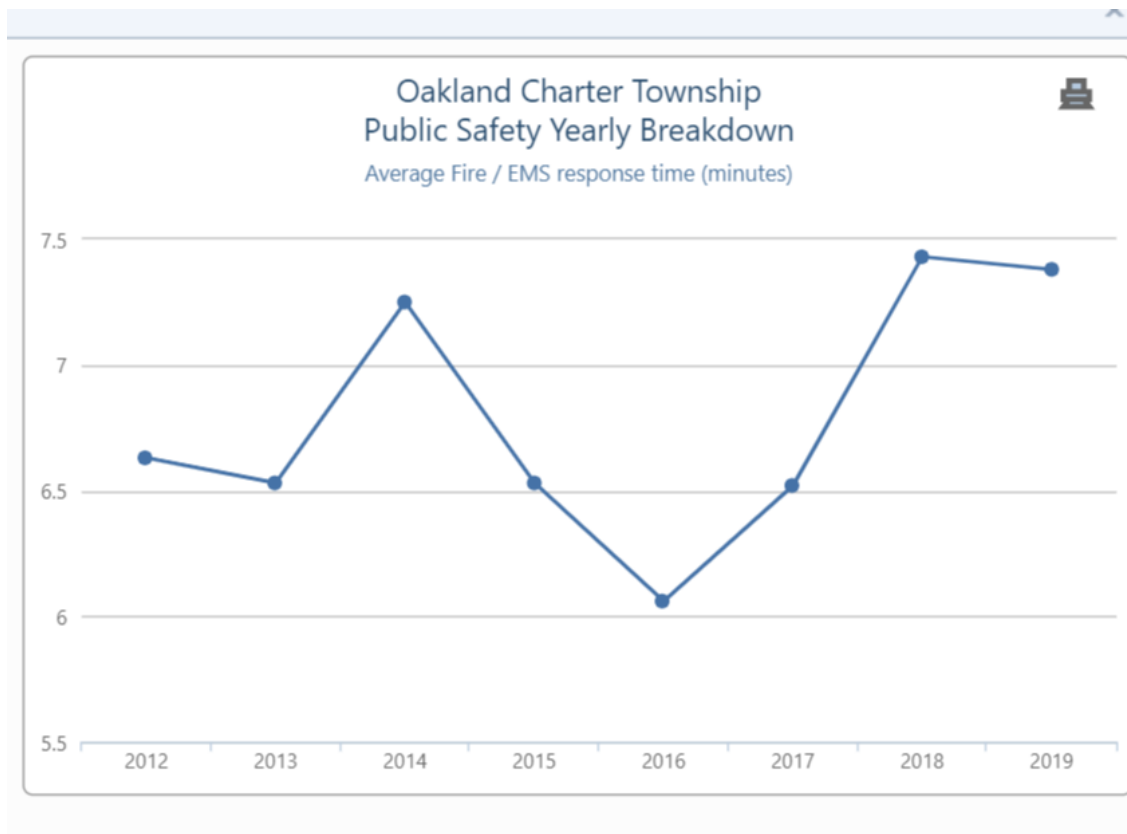
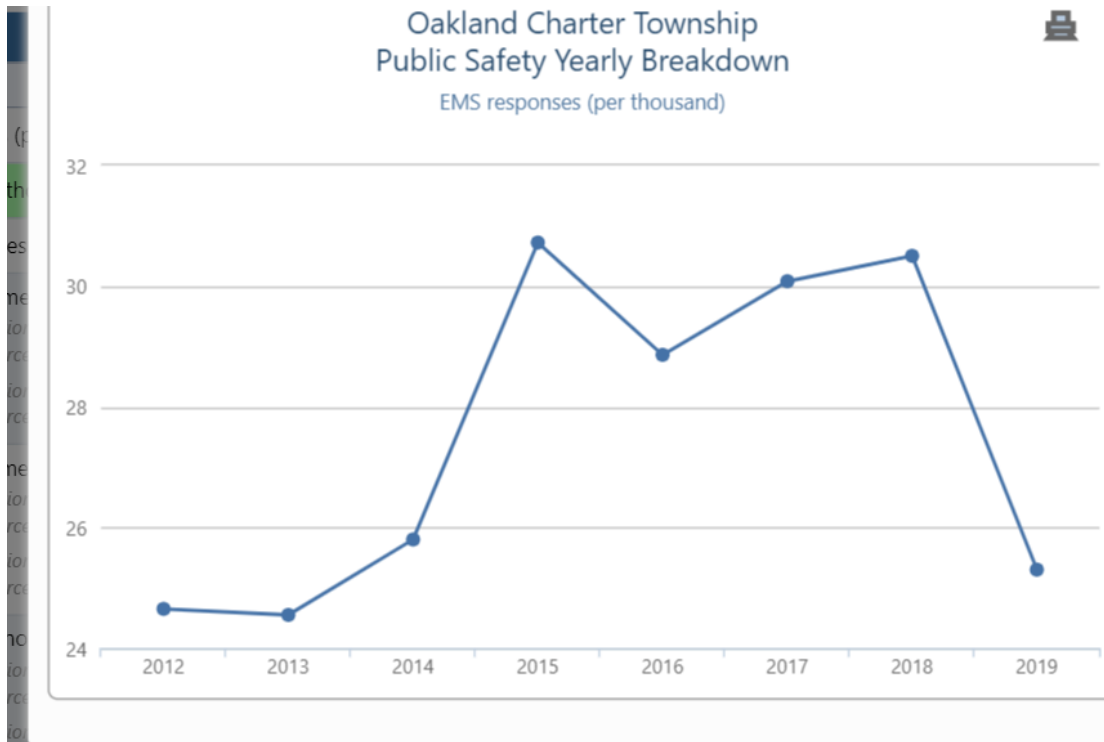
9 - The Board has required little to be communicated to the community by OTFD about their performance versus pertinent NFPA or OCMCA standards.

10 - Information on the Performance Dashboard is very weak and does not represent Key Performance Metrics, even so the data is never discussed by the Board for meaning or implications.

Public Safety			
	2018	2019	Progress
Fire/other responses (per thousand)	20.40	19.00	↓
EMS responses (per thousand)	30.50	25.30	↓
Average Fire / EMS response time (minutes)	7.43	7.38	↓



11 - Why do we now have more fires per thousand than in 2012? Do we have poorer fire prevention programs? This question has not been explored.



12 - Average response times as measure have been consistently criticized by many experts including NFPA and Rochester, Michigan Fire Chief. We should not be using it. See my letter to Dale Stewart. <https://oaklandtownshipsentinelcom.files.wordpress.com/2018/04/3-9-18-e28093-yager-to-dale-stuart-e28093-average-vs-fractal-90-response-time.pdf>

13 - Even so, why the wide fluctuation?

14 - OTFD does not have public review after fires as some communities do with the purpose of improvement

15 -The last OTFD annual report on the website is for 2017

16 - The 2017 OTFD study of response times that showed an actual 90% of 12+ minutes, not 9 minutes, due to inappropriate method of “stopping the clock” when only one EMT is on scene. This is not acknowledged by the Board and likely not understood. See <https://oaklandtownshipsentinel.com/2018/04/28/otfd-concerns-and-suggestions/>

17 - Response time data provided to the Board in “**Fire Department Report February 24, 2020**” on sheet #18 of the unnumbered pages for 2012-2017 is grossly incorrect on the low side. See my numerous previous communications listed in the above.

Planning

18 - We have no overall OTFD plan approved by the Board

19 - The Board has adopted no planning model for OTFD to guide their planning efforts.

20 - A planning model suggested by a resident who is a retired executive was rejected by the Board without any public deliberation.

21 - While other Township “comprehensive plans” are made with the assistance of consultants; this is not the case for OTFD.

22 - The Board seems to dismiss concerns, suggestions and other input of long-service full-time Firefighter / Paramedics as unimportant or solely motivated by their motivation for personal gain.

23 - The Township Supervisor provide little leadership on OTFD matters; for example by forcing the Board to deliberate and plan; which is within his powers.

24 - We seem to have no plan for meeting EMS response time standards set by OCMCA. We are failing now at 9 minutes to meet the 8 minute standard. In 2020 the standard will tighten to 6 minutes.

25 – It seems the Board feels the response time standard is not realistic; however no publicly known action has been taken to have the standard revised.

