

GLEN ARBOR TOWNSHIP
EMERGENCY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
July 27, 2022

Present: John Dalton, Linda Ihme, Peter Van Nort, Larry Krawczak, Ralph Mittelberger, John DePuy

Absent: Jan Bauer

Glen Arbor Township representatives: Pam Laureto, Tom Laureto

Staff Members: Chief Bryan Ferguson, Pablo Cevallos, Jeff Hester, Mike Ball, Nate Perdue, Lt. Steve Lienard, Lt. Jay Morse

Public: None

I. Call Special Meeting to Order

The meeting was opened at 10:02 am by Van Nort

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of agenda*

DePuy moved to approve the agenda and Ihme seconded. Motion carried.

IV. Conflict of Interest

None

V. Public comment

None

VI. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the purchase of a new Fire engine to be housed in the Empire fire station and to make a recommendation to the Glen Arbor Township Board.

Ferguson provided an overview and his recommendation (attached). He summarized the Replacement Plan Outlook and Engine Comparison Worksheets. He recommended purchasing the Spartan truck and noted the price does not reflect the paid-in-full discount, which is shown on the CSI proposal (attached). He explained that the money would be held on account with REV financial services until delivery (attached). Dalton asked if REV would provide Glen Arbor with a performance bond and Ferguson confirmed. Ferguson said if we choose to finance the truck Spartan would consider it paid in full. He reiterated that it would cost less up front if we pay in full but there are options for financing.

Ferguson went over the cost to fix our current truck which has a rusted frame and won't pass DOT inspection in the next year. It is hard to find someone to fix the frame. Few companies will do so. It is a minimum of \$100,000 to have the frame repaired. To do a full refurbishment on the truck would cost \$250,000 - \$290,000. We would spend nearly \$300,000 and the value of the truck would be around \$125,000. It currently has no resale value.

DePuy asked if a refurbished truck would be a secondary response vehicle. Ferguson said yes but it only buys us a few more years. Dalton noted the cost per year could be \$60,000 to operate that piece of equipment for the next 3 years. DePuy asked how long it would take to repair (6 months) and noted we would be without a truck for that long. Ferguson said several companies won't even fix frame issues. Krawczak asked if we need 3 engines. Ferguson said in his opinion that we do. Discussion followed about sending two versus three trucks and the use of mutual aid. DePuy noted that asking for mutual aid increases response time. A lack of hydrants is an issue.

Ferguson said they also looked at stock models and adding components that GLFD needs. This could be \$65,000 cheaper but his preference would be to have everything

engineered by the factory, as opposed to having after-factory additions. Ferguson explained issues dealing with Pierce trucks, including getting parts and having maintenance done. Mittelberger asked if leasing is an option. DePuy said a lease/purchase is an option and similar to what Ferguson has on the payment plan sheet. The engine would not be ours until the lease is up and we would pay finance charges in addition. Dalton asked if they looked at purchasing a used truck. Ferguson said they did. DePuy reiterated that the department, with limited personnel, needs a multi-purpose vehicle. Dalton asked if Ferguson thought about the Ford F550 for storage. Ferguson said it was considered. Ferguson noted if we buy this truck it will help the IOS score.

Dalton asked questions about the replacement schedule. Ferguson said the next vehicle to be replaced is an ATV. They will sell both ATVs and replace them with one new one. Then they will replace the brush truck, for about \$350,000. Krawczak asked if the brush truck could assist in a fire. Ferguson said perhaps, if we had the manpower. He is not sure it can be built to his specifications. It would only be a pump, there is no tank. They would still need a water source.

Ferguson described the bid process. Van Nort asked if he had to give up on any specifications. Ferguson said yes and referred to a list of items the removed.

Mittelberger wondered why, given the number of fire departments, why there are so few companies making these trucks.

Ferguson said he would like to amend the proposal to match the prepaid number. DePuy made a motion to recommend to the township to approve the purchase of one new Spartan Star Series Side Mount Rescue Engine from CSI Emergency Apparatus for \$825,589 to replace Engine 211. Ihme seconded. A roll call vote ensued. DePuy, Mittelberger, Ihme and Van Nort responded with aye. Dalton and Krawczak voted nay.

Dalton said Mittelberger could change his vote. Mittelberger questioned Dalton why he voted no. Dalton gave his reasoning. No votes were changed. DePuy supported the chief's rationale and does not agree with micromanaging the fire chief, who has put a lot of time into doing his homework. Ihme said she read his rationale and it makes sense. Van Nort will relate the recommendation to the Township Board and point out the 4-2 vote.

VII. Public Comment

DePuy commended the GLFD for the manhours and research put into the proposal. Mittelberger joined in support.

VIII. Adjournment

Van Nort adjourned the meeting at 11:23 am.