

A special meeting of the Borough Council of Lewisburg, Union County, Pennsylvania, was held with the East Buffalo Township Supervisors on **Tuesday, December 13, 2016** in the East Buffalo Township Building, 589 Fairground Road. Present for the Borough of Lewisburg: Council President Bergonia; Councilmembers Cox, Derman, Frederick, Mahon, Morris and Yohn; Mayor Wagner, Manager Lowthert and Secretary Garrison. Present for East Buffalo Township: Supervisor/Chairman Daniloff, Supervisors Schumacher and Baylor; Manager Kifolo. Also present: Buffalo Valley Regional Police Chief Yost, Sam Pearson, Carol Stechel, Bonnie and Angelo Kifolo, Sue Cox, Mike Hanyak, Judy Peeler, April Fairweather, Nancy Stecko, Donald Steele, Matt Farrand, Tom Egan, Brian Auman, Nada Gray, Stacy Hinck, Linda Treese and William Wagner.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Daniloff called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT (IGA) FOR BUFFALO VALLEY REGIONAL POLICE (BVRPD):** Chairman Daniloff indicated this meeting is being held because of their (EBT's) concerns with some of the language contained in the IGA. This IGA is a document that basically states how the BVRPD is going to operate. Those that created this document should be commended because it was not easy taking two police departments and merging them into one. However, they have found quite a bit of contradictory information within this agreement. An example was Article II, "All mutual municipal boundaries of the Municipalities shall be obliterated for the purpose of police service so that a single police jurisdiction comprising the total geographic area of the Lewisburg Borough and East Buffalo Township is established (see exhibit A)." In this agreement we then proceed to include a methodology, Police Protection Units (PPUs) to allocate costs to each municipality, but these costs were not allocated equally. It is felt that the 52/48 (EBT/Borough) split should be a 50/50 split.

Councilmember Derman indicated there was to be a consolidation study where some of this could have been addressed, but East Buffalo Township withdrew from this study.

Borough Manager Lowthert explained the consolidation study was more recent and wasn't intended to deal specifically with the Police regionalization, but more with regard to possibly consolidating other facets of the Borough and the Township. He said when the Police regionalization was being discussed, there were many strategies for funding considered and the PPU's were selected because everyone felt this was best and because use of PPU's would allow for an easier transition of other municipalities to join the BVRPD.

Supervisor Baylor clarified when there is mention about this Board of Supervisors wanting to change the IGA, etc. he wants it known that he doesn't necessarily agree with his fellow supervisors on this subject. There was assistance from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and based on the history for success of regionalization, the PPU's concept was determined to be the best. One of the major reasons the PPU concept was viewed favorably is because in future years, and we all know it will eventually happen when a Governor signs a Bill for payment of State Police services, many municipalities will want to be a part of a regional police force. Ideally, the BVRPD is already established, has a good history, and just two years ago received an award for the best Regional Police Department in Pennsylvania. Having the PPU's will allow easy access for anyone wanting to join. DCED removed the concept of Borough/East Buffalo Township borders figuratively to show the regionalization aspect for police service, not funding. In terms of the 52/48, that was determined that EBT has the preponderant of people and felt it was fair. The whole purpose of regionalization was to provide a better service to both EBT and the Borough. Regionalization wasn't intended to be cost savings measure in the first few years, but it was realized that a cost savings would be recognized in later years.

Mayor Wagner said we began this regionalization the right way, based on solid factual data. We had a study, we had a peer chief come and work with both EBT and the Borough. The biggest thing when creating a new agency is the funding. DCED came forward with five formulas for review. We thoroughly looked at each one of them and EBT was way ahead of the Borough for each one with regard to what they should pay. The variables used were taxable assessed values, population, road miles, square miles, and density. Everyone tried the best they could to be as fair as possible. It was then determined it should be a 54/46 split and in the interest of wanting to merge and be fair, everyone was willing to comprise at the 52/48 split. After that, the PPU's were established.

BVRP Chief, Paul Yost, explained he finds himself to be in the middle right now as his employer is the Buffalo Valley Regional Police Commission (BVRPC). He doesn't work for East Buffalo Township or the Borough of Lewisburg. Members of each municipality sit on the BVRPC, which oversees his department. He was invited by the Manager of Lewisburg, who wanted me to be available to address how the regionalization came about, where we are now and where we can be in the future. Chief Yost presented a very

**ATTENDANCE**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**DISCUSSION OF IGA FOR BVRPD**

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

detailed power point presentation showing information regarding the formation of the BVRPD (Plans A through E), as well as the related statistics. Also shown was the court fine activity, the parking fine activity, and the call for services activity. The Police Protection Unit (PPU) was presented in detail, and the daily log used by officers was reviewed.

There was **very much** discussion. Questions were asked by members of the public and answers were provided. Suggestions were made with regard to other means of funding the regional department, one being to assess each property owner in the same manner as the School District, meaning the cost for police services would be the same regardless of whether you lived in EBT or the Borough.

Township Manager Kifolo pointed out there is contradictory information contained within the IGA and she strongly believes the language of the IGA must be reviewed/addressed. She also pointed out that the figures reported in the monthly report provided by the Chief are flawed.

It was the sense of all those present (EBT and the Borough) that a smaller group should be formed to specifically discuss/address all of the concerns that were shared with regard to the IGA. Those participating would then be able to share with their respective Board/Council, the findings from these meetings. Mayor Wagner suggested that a mediator be brought in to participate.

There being no further business, Chairman Daniloff declared the special meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Garrison  
Borough Secretary

**FORMATION OF  
SMALLER GROUP TO  
ADDRESS  
MISCELLANEOUS  
CONCERNS  
REGARDING IGA FOR  
BVRPD**

**ADJOURNMENT**