



KENNETT TOWNSHIP

TO: Kennett Township Board of Supervisors
FROM: Eden Ratliff, Township Manager
SUBJECT: March 2021 Department Head Report

1. Kennett Greenway- Public Engagement Process

As most of you probably already know, preliminary engineering of the Kennett Greenway along Chandler Mill Road and a connector at West South Street have been recently completed by McMahon Associates. At the leadership of the Kennett Trails Alliance, we have been involved in an intense and intensely enjoyable public engagement process to help everyone understand the concept, the plans, and voice any concerns. To date, there have been 12 meetings with the public, impacted neighbors, Supervisors one-on-one, and consultants.

While this topic is not on tonight's Board of Supervisors agenda, please be encouraged that this is intentional. Each Supervisor had their own meeting with the consultants about the preliminary design results. Because of the Sunshine Law, they cannot discuss this matter together unless in public. There will be ample time given to this topic at the Special Board of Supervisors meeting on March 25th and at the regularly scheduled April 7th Board of Supervisors meeting.

The next two public meetings, as listed on the www.kennettgreenway.com website, are:

March 18th – Design Review Zoom Session: Chandler Mill Trail & West South Street *Come meet the Kennett Township trails consultants and learn about design options for the Chandler Mill trail and West South Street path. Give your feedback on the designs. This interactive meeting is open to all members of our community and future Greenway users. The Zoom link is on the Township Calendar online.*

March 25th – Special Board of Supervisors Meeting *The trails consultants and Kennett Township Board of Supervisors will be available to discuss the design options for the Chandler Mill trail and West South Street path. Prior to this meeting, the public will have the opportunity to review the designs at several other meetings in March. See our events for more details. They will also be available on our website for your review. A Zoom link will be available on Kennett Township's Agenda Center the Friday prior to the meeting.*

2. Spar Hill Farming

Recently, the Township was approached with a very interesting and exciting opportunity for members of the Emergent Abundance Farming Collective to use Spar Hill to grow food to support those in our community who are in need. Please see the attached Policy Briefing Summary for more details.

3. EMS Commission Update

At the last Kennett Fire and EMS Regional Commission meeting held on March 9th, Kennett Fire Company made an official request for the Commission to support paid firefighters. Kennett Township had the privilege of helping KFC analyze their response performance data from all of 2020 to help them make an informed decision and request. Please see the attached Information Briefing Summary that outlined the data results.

4. Sewer Discussions

The Township is faced with complex challenges that revolve around sanitary sewer. There are Township residents that would like to connect to public sewer but are unable to because the infrastructure does not exist for them. This is a problem especially when they have failing on lot systems. Additionally, with developments coming online the infrastructure is not always existing for them which causes their investment which has its own complications traveling across municipal boundaries. Furthermore, it is unknown how much sewer capacity the region must support the needed upgrades. Kennett Township has applied for grant funding with Kennett Borough to upgrade our Act 537 Sewer Planning Module which will study some of these plans. East Marlboro Township has applied for the same grant to study sewer challenges they have. Addressing these complicated sewer challenges may be a regional opportunity as we have needs for our current population as well as challenges with growth pressure.

5. Spring Newsletter

For 2021 we are excited to return to the Spring/Fall Newsletter distribution schedule. That means that you can expect to see the next newsletter roll out the first week of April. Remember that our newsletter is digital. If you need a hard copy, please email gretchen.flack@kennett.pa.us and she will ensure you get one. This next issue will be a special edition that will provide small biographies on all the staff at Kennett Township. We recognize that we are coming out of a tumultuous time and truly love the team we have built. We want you to get to know them!

6. EAC Update

The Environmental Advisory Council, for those that do not know, is a group of individuals on a formally created Township Committee who are incredibly knowledgeable and dedicated to environmental preservation, natural resources, and the enhancement of them for Kennett Township. In efforts to continue the utilization of this Council, they have willingly agreed to assist the volunteer efforts to enhance Barkingfield Park. There is never a shortage of volunteers who want to help beautiful and enhance the ecology of Barkingfield and the meadow. Conversations surrounding mowing schedules, new native garden plantings, and others will be reviewed by the EAC for consideration who will continue to make professional recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this report on some activities within the Township.

Respectfully Submitted.

Eden R. Ratliff
Township Manager



Policy Briefing Summary
Board of Supervisors

RE: Emergent Abundance Farming Collective
Date Presented: March 17, 2021
Prepared By: Eden Ratliff, Township Manager

Action Forcing Event

Kennett Township has been approached by Emergent Abundance Farming Collective (EAFC) with a request to provide land that would be used to grow organic vegetables to be donated to Kennett Area Community Service (KACS) and other food banks to benefit those experiencing food insecurity.

Background

The Township acquired Spar Hill Farm in 2018 for the purpose of preserving open space and natural resources. The majority of Spar Hill is still farmed by a local farmer and is used by many residents for trail walking and other passive recreation opportunities. The farm is technically closed due to the need to address the dilapidated buildings on the property which is an action item in the 2021 budget. Agriculture uses and passive recreation are both activities supported by the deed restriction of the property.

Analysis

EAFC proposes to use 1-acre of land at Spar Hill to engage in natural and organic growing practices to produce vegetables and other foods to donate to KACS and other local food banks who support those facing food insecurity. In 2020 the EAFC maintained a 1-acre garden on private land that produced over 1,000 lbs. of food that was donated to area food banks including KACS. EAFC proposes to expand their operation to public lands such as Spar Hill to allow for greater growing opportunities, enhanced visibility, increase volunteer participation, and decreased costs. EAFC proposes to use 1-acre of land on Spar Hill to continue this operation mainly supporting KACS.

Authorizing EAFC to use 1-acre of Spar Hill to engage in organic growing will directly support Kennett area community members who utilize the services of KACS as the harvest of EAFC at Spar Hill will be packaged and provided to KACS for distribution. This operation has been developed and arranged in coordination with both EAFC and KACS.

EAFC is an emerging organization that is not yet legally incorporated and is in discussions with KACS to form a formalized organization to support and grow this mission. While this potential legal entity has not yet been formed, Kennett Township still proposes to enter into a legal agreement with EAFC who will be using Spar Hill. The Township Solicitor has provided a legal agreement to the members of EAFC for execution along with liability waivers to be executed by anyone participating in the gardening at Spar Hill. Should EAFC be incorporated into KACS, this current agreement would be terminated, and a new legal agreement would be proposed for execution.

The agreement with EAFC only provides for Kennett Township to provide 1-acre of land for the gardening. Kennett Township will not provide any monetary support without additional approval but will be allowing the Public Works team to provide moderate mowing services around the garden. The current farmer of Spar Hill, Jamie Hicks, will be donating plowing services to EAFC to assist with the initial establishment of the garden.

The opportunity for Kennett Township to partner in this manner with EAFC by allowing the use of publicly preserved land for growing food enables us to help members of our community who are in need. As the success of this initial organic garden grows the opportunities for partnership with EAFC and KACS does as well.

Financial Impact

The agreement has no monetary components. Kennett Township will be directing the Public Works team to engage in moderate mowing around the gardens including designated paths through the garden.

Recommendation

For the reasons outlined herein, I recommend the Board of Supervisors adopt an agreement with the members of Emergent Abundance Farming Collective to engage in organic gardening on 1-acre of land at Spar Hill farms for the purpose of supporting Kennett Area Community Service and other local nonprofit food banks.

Exhibits

Presentation by Emergent Abundance Farming Collective
Legal Agreement
Liability Waiver



Information Briefing Summary

Kennett Fire and EMS Regional Commission

An Analysis of Kennett Fire Company Fire & Rescue Response Performance

Date Presented: March 4, 2021
Prepared By: Eden R. Ratliff
Co Authors: Kennett Fire Company Deputy Chief Steve Melton & Sergeant Rick Franks

Action Forcing Event

In February 2021 the leadership of Kennett Fire Company comprised of Deputy Chief Steve Melton, Vice President and Office Manager Gina Puoci, and Sargent Rick Franks, asked Kennett Township to complete an analysis of fire responses for Kennett Fire Company (“the company”) for calendar year 2020 to determine if there was justification to add paid firefighters (“paid fire”) to the company’s operations. They further asked that the findings be provided to the Kennett Fire and EMS Regional Commission (“the Commission”) to complement a request for funding for paid fire if justified.

This Information Briefing Summary is a summary of the analyzed data designed to inform decision-making by Kennett Fire Company No. 1, the Kennett Fire and EMS Regional Commission, Borough of Kennett Square Council and Mayor, and Kennett Township Board of Supervisors. This Briefing Summary is not a policy review, nor does it endorse any recommendations.

Background

The analysis was completed with oversight by the Company who provided all the necessary data to be analyzed leading to this report. Additionally, this analysis and written report (“the report”) was completed by the Kennett Township staff at no cost to the Commission or the Fire Company. The contents of this report have been reviewed and approved by the Company for accuracy and disbursement.

This report only focused on call data for 2020 as provided by Kennett Fire Company. If there are any inaccuracies within the reports provided by the Company, then those inaccuracies would translate to this report. Additionally, the report makes assumptions which are detailed throughout and are necessary to sift through the voluminous data. Importantly, the report only focuses on responses to fire calls based on Incident Type (see page 2 for those Incident Types that were excluded from this study). While some analysis focuses on the Tanker, the majority is focused on the Engine, Truck (ladder), and Rescue.

The purpose of the report is to develop a complete understanding of the quality of fire and rescue responses from the Company in 2020 to inform operational changes that may be necessary moving forward. The reporting system in the Company is not setup to drill down on the quality of fire and rescue responses as it relates to the staffing of apparatus or the time it took an apparatus to respond to an incident. Therefore, an individual analysis of each dispatch was necessary to develop a comprehensive understanding.

Analysis

At the onset of this analysis Kennett Fire Company laid out standards that they hold their company to for fire and rescue responses. It was those standards that were investigated, measured, and reported on in this analysis. The two standards that were analyzed were Turn Out Time and Apparatus Staffing. These two standards were applied only to the first due apparatus per incident.

For the analysis, the provided data was sorted to only focus on incidents that require a fire response. Accordingly, only UNITS/Apparatus ENG24, RES24 and TRK24 were considered for this analysis. (AM241, AM241, ATV24, BOT1, BOT2, BOT3, BRU24, CHF24, FP, NA, OFC, POV24, SQD24, TNK24 and UTL24 were deleted.) Similarly, INCIDENT TYPES 341, 360, 361, 363, 500, 520, 551, 571, 600, 812, 813, 900 and 911 were deleted if present. This brought the number of dispatches down from 1,057 to 323. Note that the number of "dispatches" is not the same as number "incidents." Rather, this is the number of times ENG24, RES24, and TRK24 logged a DISPATCH TIME.

Often, more than one apparatus responds to an incident, so after the initial condensing of the data mentioned above, the dispatches were sorted to determine which of the pertinent apparatus was considered the "first due" apparatus. Either the Fire Engine, Rescue Engine, and Ladder Truck were first due 209 times in 2020. The remainder of the analysis focuses on the 209 times those three units responded to a dispatch on a first due basis.

The 209 first due apparatus then had the standard of Turn Out Time applied. The first due Fire Engine (ENG24), Rescue Engine (RES24), or Ladder Truck (TRK24) must "turn out" within 7 minutes and 59 seconds of being dispatched to be considered qualified. This is referred to as "turn out time" and is a Chester County standard.¹ Turn Out Time was calculated as the Roll Time minus the Dispatch Time. In other words, an apparatus has 7 minutes and 59 seconds from the time a dispatch call comes in (Dispatch Time) until the time they pull out of the station to go to that call (Roll Time). If an apparatus did not turn out within the allotted time frame, then the response is a failed response.

The second standard of Minimal Staffing was applied next. An appropriately staffed unit is set by the Company and follows the standards set by the Southern Chester County Fire Chiefs.² For a Fire Engine and a Ladder to be minimally staffed for the Company, they must have at least 3 Qualified Interior Firefighters plus 1 Driver or 4 Qualified Interior Firefighters. There are some Qualified Interior Firefighters who are trained to operate a three-person rig. If three of them were on an apparatus, it also counted as qualified. Additionally, the paid staff of the Company counted as qualified for this analysis. Junior Firefighters, Exterior Firefighters, Fire Police, or firefighters who will not wear an air pack and enter a burning building, are not counted in the Minimal Staffing levels per the policy. If RES24 was the first due to a motor vehicle crash (Incident Types 322, 323, 324, 351, 463, and 542), it needed to have at least 3 Vehicle Rescue Technicians to be Minimally Staffed.

If an apparatus does not have these Minimal Staffing on it, then the response is considered a failed response. Notably, most often when qualified, the first due apparatus has more than 3 qualified responders on it. Also, of note, just because a response is a failed response does not necessarily mean that it does not go to the incident, rather it is doing so either not on time, with inadequate staffing, or both.

Turn Out Time Results

Kennett Fire Company turned out within 7 minutes and 59 seconds 164 times, or 78.47% of the time, out of the 209 first due apparatus dispatches. The Company had a failed response based on Turn Out Time 45 times, or 21.53%. The review also breaks down the qualified responses by apparatus.

¹ Chester County FireEMS Dispatch SOP, Department of Emergency Services, Chester County PA, January 20, 2021

² Staffed Unit Guideline, Southern Chester County Fire Chiefs Association, January 2021

First Due UNIT Turn Out Time		Turn Out Time	Q% of Sum	Qualified 1st Due UNIT Turn Out Time	
	Qualified	164	78.47%	ENG24	113
	Unqualified	45	21.53%	RES24	46
	Sum	209		TRK24	5
				TOTAL	164
				% out of 209	78.47%

After determining annual Turn Out Time ratios we wanted to review how the data broke down into shift categories. The three shifts are Weekday: Monday – Friday 7:00am to 5:00pm, Weeknight: Monday – Thursday 5:01pm to 6:59am, and Weekend: Friday 5:01pm to Sunday 11:59pm. Dispatches from 12:00am Monday to 6:59am Monday are included in the Weeknight shift.

The below tables show Turn Out Time by shift and apparatus.

ALL First Due Shift Breakdown Q and UQ Turn Out Time		% of total	ENG24 Qual by Turn Out Time Only		RES24 Qual by Turn Out Time Only		TRK24 Qual by Turn Out Time Only	
Weekday	77	36.84%	Weekday	43	Weekday	19	Weekday	1
Weeknight	53	25.36%	Weeknight	32	Weeknight	7	Weeknight	1
Weekend	79	37.80%	Weekend	38	Weekend	20	Weekend	3
TOTAL	209		Total	113	Total	46	Total	5

The “ALL Shift” break down shows that Kennett Fire Company turns out on time most often during the day with 81.82% success and less often on weeknights with a success rate of 75.47%.

Qualified 1st Due Turn Out Time Shift Breakdown		Q% ALL Shift	UQ% ALL Shift
Weekday	63	81.82%	18.18%
Weeknight	40	75.47%	24.53%
Weekend	61	77.22%	22.78%
Sum	164		
TOTAL	209		

Minimal Staffing Results

Out of the 164 times the first due apparatus turned out timely, 87 were at least minimally staffed. This translates to a successful annual response rate of 41.63% with Kennett Fire Company having a failed response rate of 53.59%.

First Due + Turn Out Time + Minimum Staffing		Filters Applied	% of total
	Qualified	87	41.63%
	Unqualified	16	7.66%
	Sum	103	
	Out of Total	209	

Qualified 1st Due Rig Turn Out Time Minimum Staffing	
ENG24	71
RES24	14
TRK24	2
TOTAL	87
Q% / 209	41.63%
UQ% / 209	53.59%

The response breakdown based on Turn Out Time and Minimal Staffing can be viewed by apparatus and shift below. The table in dark gray is the total annual dispatches outlined above.

ALL First Due Shift Breakdown Q and UQ Turn Out Time		% of total	ENG24 Qual by Turn Out Time & Minimum Staffing		RES24 Qual by Turn Out Time & Minimum Staffing		TRK24 Qual by Turn Out Time & Minimum Staffing	
Weekday	77	36.84%	Weekday	18	Weekday	2	Weekday	0
Weeknight	53	25.36%	Weeknight	24	Weeknight	4	Weeknight	1
Weekend	79	37.80%	Weekend	29	Weekend	8	Weekend	1
TOTAL	209		Total	71	Total	14	Total	2

The total qualified response ratio for first due dispatches by shift with the two standards (Turn Out Time and Minimal Staffing) is broken down below. Kennett Fire Company has a total Weekday success rate of 25.07% or fail rate of 74.03%. The Weeknight and Weekend success rate is 54.72% and 48.10% respectively.

Qualified 1st Due Turn Out Time & Minimum Staffing Shift Breakdown		Q% ALL Shift	UQ% ALL Shift
Weekday	20	25.97%	74.03%
Weeknight	29	54.72%	45.28%
Weekend	38	48.10%	51.90%
Sum	87		
TOTAL	209		

Comparisons for Context

While this analysis can provide valuable information to aid decision making processes, it is also helpful to understand the performance of Kennett Fire Company within the region it serves especially as it considers budgetary options. To assist, Kennett Township performed the same analysis on Longwood Fire Company with the same assumptions and standards to add context to the analysis of Kennett Fire Company response performance.

Longwood Fire Company has an overall failed response rate of 5.38% when applying the same standards of Turn Out Time and Minimal Staffing with 520 total first due dispatches. With paid staff on during the day the failed response rate

drops to 2.26%. On Weeknights and Weekends, when they are solely volunteer, their failed response rates are 7.91% and 6.56% respectively.

Qualified 1st Due Turn Out Time 3 or More Staff		ALL First Due Shift Breakdown Q and UQ		Qualified 1st Due Turn Out Time Minimum Staffing Shift Breakdown		Q% ALL Shift	UQ% ALL Shift	
E251	117	Weekday	221	42.50%	Weekday	216	97.74%	2.26%
E252	238	Weeknight	177	34.04%	Weeknight	163	92.09%	7.91%
LAD25	34	Weekend	122	23.46%	Weekend	114	93.44%	6.56%
RES25	104	TOTAL	520		Sum	493		
TOTAL	493				TOTAL	520		
Q% / 520	94.81%							
UQ% / 520	5.38%							

Conclusion

In conclusion, the data provided by Kennett Fire Company that was analyzed shows an annual failed response rate of 53.59% when dispatched to fire calls when considering Turn Out Time and Minimal Staffing when looking at qualified first due dispatches. Because the Company turns out their apparatus within the county standard time frame 78.47% of the time, the challenge appears to be with volunteer performance or availability. Kennett Fire Company frequently responds to incidents with less than the required minimum staffing using volunteers who are either inadequately trained, are minors, or with an apparatus that has less than three responders.

-End of Briefing-