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To: Mayor David Scapicchio; Tobey, Phil; Greenbaum, Rob; Perkins, Ray; Labow, Coleen; Pat Walsh; Roman, Alex; John Mania; Lashway, Lisa

Subject: ***MOT Possible SPAM*** Mt Olive Township EMS.docx

I feel the need to voice my views and opinions

THE MOUNT OLIVE TOWNSHIP SQUAD MEMBERS ARE VERY PROUD OF WHAT THEY DO AND THE LIVES THAT THEY SAVE! (AND THEY SHOULD BE). THAT IS WHAT MAKES WHAT THEY DO REWARDING AND WORTH IT! My husband has been on the Budd Lake First Aid and Rescue Squad for a total of 20 years. My daughter has been on for about 3 ½ years, since she was 16. They are both EMT's as well and for my daughter's love of what she did and continues to do with the squad, she has since decided she wanted to go for her Registered Nurse through CCM and also works for St Clare's Hospital full-time with their transport units when she's not at school. Between the 2 of them, they have many years of training, long hours in classes to be certified in what they do.

I could tell you many stories of the past. Like when I dad, who had a heart attack history, used to live in Mount Olive Township and would be out somewhere, whether it be Roxbury (where he was a lifetime resident) or Hackettstown, if he wasn't feeling well, how he'd make whoever was driving get him back into our township, whether it was Flanders or Budd Lake because he knew the response and knew that he'd get the care that he needed. I know that there are many stories out there like this.

In Sunday's Daily Record, the Mayor commented about "the hospital based service will provide the same community services that our volunteer squads do, at NO COST TO THE TAXPAYER. " That is a crock . . . Please see the outline below about the "No Cost" issue. He also stated "I have also learned that several Mount Olive EMS volunteers work for the hospital based service (Atlantic Healthcare), so some of the faces will remain the same." Again, a crock as only 2 people from Flanders/Budd Lake work for Atlantic Healthcare, ONE BEING FULL-TIME AND THE OTHER PER DIEM. There are many other faces that are well known and don't work for the contracted hospital based service that he is talking about.

There are many things to consider in regards to the squad going paid full-time. Right now between the two squads there are 6 rigs that can be used for calls and accidents in which 3-4 have been used in the past at the same time. With the paid service, there will only be two. The neighboring towns will not lend their help to a township who has PAID SERVICES. This is a fact! The reason being because the neighboring towns would then not get any help in return if they needed it so why would they respond?!?

First . . . it would be a shame for you to do away with something that has been around for over 50 years. These well trained "volunteers" spend many, many hours away from home between training, meetings, clean ups, drills, first aid calls, accidents and striving to be the best that they can be. And it's not a job to them; it's something that they love to do and is "in their blood".

Second . . .

1. With the paid services will come a big headache and heartache for people who don't have health insurance and are on a strict budget and couldn't afford health insurance because they didn't have the money to do so.
2. Also, my concern is for the Elderly, which Mount Olive Township has a lot of. For someone like them who is on a fixed income from Social Security and only has Medicare Coverage, there is a yearly deductible for Medicare that has to be met before any monies will be paid and then only 80 percent of such services get covered through Medicare. What is someone like them suppose to do who is already strapped by the costs of daily living in today's society?!?
3. Then, you have the people on Medicaid, which most of the time will not cover ambulance costs either. THE HEALTH INSURANCE ISSUE IS ALSO A MAJOR CONCERN FOR THE ELDERLY & UNINSURED WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT GOING FULL-TIME PAID AND WHEN THE SERVICES AREN'T COVERED AT 100%!!!!!!!

There are many things that need to be weighed before a decision is made. I feel (as many people do) that the community of Mount Olive's VOLUNTEER EMS is way more better staffed and equipped to handle the needs of the township when it comes to the First Aid Calls and also handling the accidents, whether it be on Route 80 or Route 206 or anywhere in between.

Brenda Acquisto