

**TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA
COUNCIL WORKSHOP
OCTOBER 3, 2023
7:00 P.M.
AGENDA**

I. Opening Procedures

- A. Call to Order
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Roll Call

II. Visitors

- A. MS-4 Training

Representatives from Lennon Smith Souleret Engineers will be in attendance to provide the mandatory training.

- B. Zach Williard, of PFM - Scenarios of Refinancing Bond Debt

Zach Williard of PFM will be in attendance to provide information on potential scenarios if Council decides to refinance the Township's bond debt.

III. Citizen Comments Concerning Non-Agenda Items

IV. Review and Discussion

- A. Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development Fire Study Recommendations Presentation (a)

Staff will present the Department of Community and Economic Development's PowerPoint (attached) on the recommendations at the meeting.

- B. Ratifying a Proposed Clerical Labor Agreement for the Years 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027

The Township and Clerical staff have reached a tentative labor agreement. Details of the agreement may be discussed during Executive Session. If acceptable, the attached proposed ordinance will be included on the October 10th regular meeting agenda for introduction.

- C. National Fire Prevention Week - October 8 – 14, 2023

The Week of October 8, 2023 is National Fire Prevention Week. This year's theme is "Cooking safety starts with YOU!! Pay attention to fire prevention". Council has recognized National Fire Prevention Week for the last several years. If acceptable, the attached Proclamation will be included for consideration on the October 10, 2023 regular meeting agenda.

D. Recognizing and Thanking the Township's Fire and Emergency Services Providers

For the past several years Council has recognized fire and emergency services providers to the Township. It is suggested that Council extend gratitude during National Fire Prevention Week to the selfless volunteers who respond to residents in time of need. The attached resolutions recognize and thank the members of Parkview VFD/EMS, Pleasant Valley VFC, Aspinwall VFD, Blawnox VFC, Fox Chapel VFD and Sharpsburg VFD for their support and dedication to fire safety. If acceptable, the resolutions will be included for consideration on the October 10, 2023 regular meeting agenda.

E. Proposed Reappointments to Various Township Boards and Commissions

Bob Ward – Civil Service Commission
Nancy Snider – Fox Chapel Authority Board
Michael Veltri and Mary Lee Mahon – Parks & Recreation Commission
Chuck Bleil & Ed Crates – Planning Commission
Nancy Neal – UCC Board of Appeals
Richard Lockwood - Zoning Hearing Board
Emily Glick - Zoning Hearing Board

Letters were sent to the above individuals inquiring about their interest in serving an additional term on the respective Boards/Commissions. At the time of preparing this agenda staff has not received any responses. If responses are received by October 5, as requested, a motion reappointing the individuals will be included for consideration on the October 10, 2023 regular meeting agenda.

F. Solicitor's September 9, 2023 Invoice

The subject invoice was provided to Council for review.

G. Proposed October 10, 2023 Regular Meeting Agenda

The proposed October 10, 2023 Regular Meeting Agenda was provided to Council for review and approval.

V. Concerns of Council

VI. Concerns of Staff

VII. Adjournment

VIII. Executive Session – Labor and Legal Matters

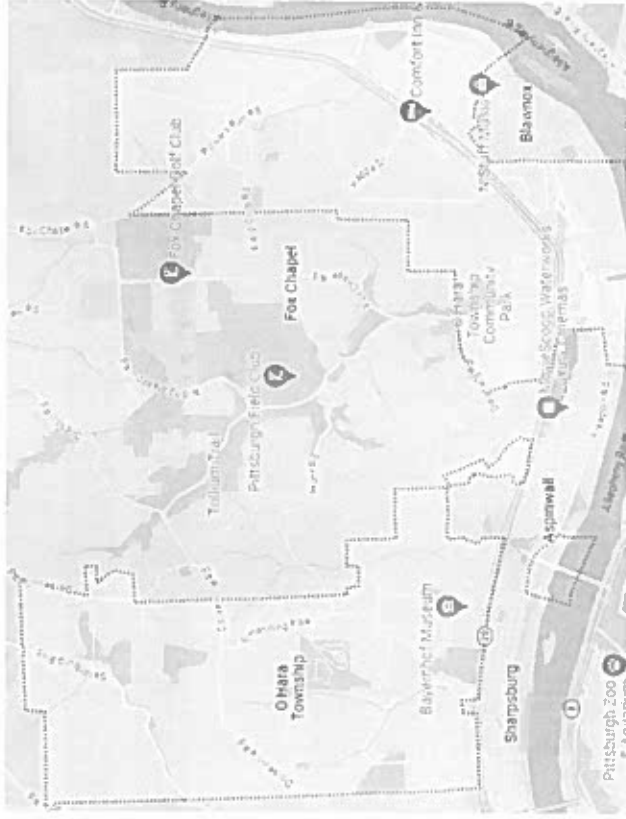
ASPINWALL BOROUGH, BLAWNNOX BOROUGH,
O'HARA TOWNSHIP, AND SHARPSBURG BOROUGH

Fire Regionalization Study

September 6, 2023

Chuck Miller, DCED/GCLGS Fire Peer Consultant

THE REGION



REGION OVERVIEW

- 8.84 square miles
- 16,845 residents
- 4 Fire Department (7 stations)
- 19 pieces of fire apparatus
- Budget:
 - Aspinwall \$209,388
 - Blawnox \$54,000
 - O'Hara \$472,303
 - Sharpsburg \$136,645

REGIONALIZED FIRE SERVICE

- 4 Fire Stations
- 13 Pieces of Fire Apparatus
- Initial Combined Budget \$873,336

Reduced cost in operation

Avoid unnecessary duplication of equipment and resources

Increased purchasing power

Centralized management and administration

WHO IS IN CHARGE

- 5 Member Board of Commissioners
 - Elected official from each community
 - Can be expanded if other communities want to become part of the regional department
- Fulltime Fire Chief
 - Oversee the day to day operations of the department and reports directly to the Board of Commissioners

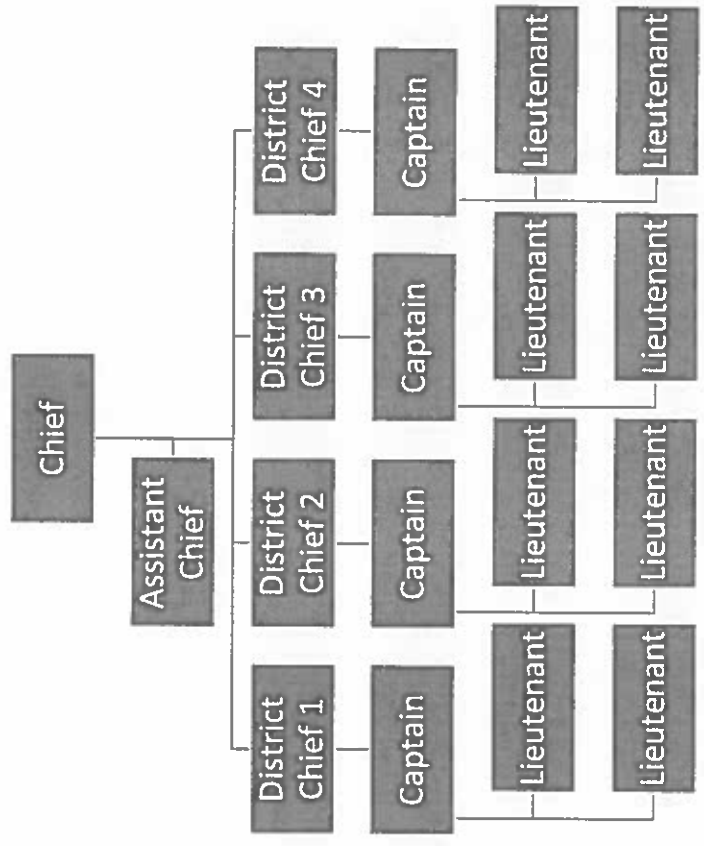
STATIONS

- Close the current Aspinwall Fire Stations and build a new station located at vacant property located centrally to both Aspinwall and Sharpsburg.
- Close an O'Hara Township Station
- Build an O'Hara Township Station in the Northeastern area of O'Hara Township
- Close Sharpsburg Fire Department and consolidate equipment with Aspinwall in a newly built centralized station.
- Keep Blawnox Fire Station at current location. Explore options to consolidate both Blawnox stations into one.

EQUIPMENT

- Front Line
- (4) Engines
- (2) Aerials
- (1) Heavy Rescue
- (4) Squads
- (1) Chief's Unit
- (1) Reserve Engine

COMMAND & CONTROL



FUNDING

- Fire Tax
- Fire Code Enforcement Fees
- Donations
- Board of Commissioners will need to determine best option for cost sharing

QUESTIONS



BILL NO. B- _____

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA
ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, RATIFYING THE CLERICAL LABOR AGREEMENT FOR THE YEARS 2024, 2025, 2026 AND 2027 AND AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL AND TOWNSHIP MANAGER TO SIGN THE CONTRACT FOR THE TOWNSHIP

THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA HEREBY ORDAINS:

1. That the negotiated Clerical Labor Agreement for the years 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027 is hereby ratified, and approval is given to the President of Council and Township Manager to execute the contract for the Township per Article VI, Section 602 (9) of the Home Rule Charter.
2. The final enactment of this ordinance shall be scheduled for November 14, 2023 with the effective date of the contract being January 1, 2024.
3. A copy of the contract shall be appended to this ordinance upon final approval.

ORDAINED AND ENACTED INTO LAW by Council vote of _ to _ on _____, 2023.

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA

Julie A. Jakubec, CPA, CGMA
Township Manager

Robert John Smith
President of Council

First Reading _____
Second Reading _____
& Adoption _____
Advertised _____

Codified _____

Attachment: Contract

OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION
of
FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

WHEREAS, the Township of O'Hara is committed to ensuring public safety; and

WHEREAS, the leading cause of home fires involve cooking equipment and unattended cooking; and

WHEREAS, by educating the public about simple but important steps they can take to reduce the risk of fire when cooking will keep themselves and others that are near, safe; and

WHEREAS, the National Fire Protection Association supports "Cooking safety starts with YOU!! Pay attention to fire prevention" and offers the following Cooking Safety Tips:

- Keep a close eye on what you are cooking; set a timer to help monitor what you are cooking or baking;
- Clear the cooking area of any items that can burn, such as dish towels, oven mitts, paper towels, and food packaging;
- Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove;
- Keep a lid nearby when cooking; if a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn the burner off;
- Create a "Kid and Pet-Free Zone" at least three (3) feet around the cooking area and anywhere hot food or drink is prepared or carried;

WHEREAS, by staying in the kitchen, using a timer, and avoiding distractions from what is on the stove will help prevent cooking fires.

WHEREAS, the 2023 Fire Prevention Week theme, ""Cooking safety starts with YOU!! Pay attention to fire prevention" effectively serves to remind everyone to avoid risky kitchen habits to keep our homes and families safe from fire.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Robert John Smith, President, on behalf of the Township of O'Hara Council, do hereby proclaim October 8 through October 14, 2023 as **Fire Prevention Week**, and urge all people to pay attention when cooking and to support the many activities and efforts of Township Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services.

Robert John Smith
President of Council
Township of O'Hara

BILL NO. _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA
ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA RECOGNIZING THE
SERVICES OF PARKVIEW VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT / EMS**

WHEREAS, the Township of O'Hara is committed to ensuring the safety of all those living in and visiting the Township; and

WHEREAS, Parkview Volunteer Fire Department / EMS has an extensive history responding to various types of emergencies to help those in distress; and

WHEREAS, access to quality emergency services dramatically improves the rate of survival and recovery for those who experience unanticipated emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, Parkview Volunteer Fire Department / EMS is staffed by highly skilled professionals devoted to protecting life and property from many potential hazards.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the Township of O'Hara, on behalf of all Township residents, businesses, and visitors, extend sincere appreciation to Parkview Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Medical Service Personnel for providing critical services that are important to the community.

RESOLVED unanimously by Township of O'Hara Council this 10th day of October, 2023.

TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA

Robert John Smith
President of Council

George H. Stewart
Council Member, Second Ward

Cassandra R. Eccles
Vice-President of Council

Michael F. Hammill
Council Member, Third Ward

Gregory Caprara
Treasurer

Olivia T. Payne
Council Member, Fourth Ward

Julie A. Jakubec, CPA, CGMA
Township Manager

John R. Denny, Jr.
Council Member, At-Large

BILL NO. _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA
ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP O'HARA RECOGNIZING
THE SERVICES OF PLEASANT VALLEY VOLUNTEER FIRE
COMPANY**

WHEREAS, the Township of O'Hara Council recognizes the importance of available emergency services to protect the health, safety and welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Pleasant Valley Volunteer Fire Company unselfishly serves the Township of O'Hara and neighboring communities by providing exceptional fire, rescue and hazardous material services; and

WHEREAS, the Township of O'Hara residents, businesses and visitors are safer as a result of Pleasant Valley Volunteer Fire Company members' commitment and dedication to protect all citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of O'Hara hereby expresses sincere gratitude to the members of Pleasant Valley Volunteer Fire Company.

RESOLVED unanimously this 10th day of October, 2023.

TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA

Robert John Smith
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Council Member, Second Ward

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Vice-President of Council

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Council Member, Third Ward

Gregory Caprara
Treasurer

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John R. Denny, Jr.
Council Member, At-Large

**TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA
ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP O'HARA RECOGNIZING
THE SERVICES OF ASPINWALL VOLUNTEER FIRE
DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, the Township of O'Hara Council acknowledges that volunteerism is increasingly recognized as a vital partner in government; and

WHEREAS, members of the Aspinwall Volunteer Fire Department work together with O'Hara Township volunteer fire service providers to promote safety through education, and provide exceptional emergency fire suppression and rescue services; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of our community benefit from Volunteer Emergency Service Providers working together, sharing their knowledge and skills as they promptly respond to various emergency situations in times of need.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of O'Hara Council, on behalf of all Township citizens, extend sincere gratitude to the volunteer emergency service providers of Aspinwall Volunteer Fire Department who are vital in keeping our communities safe.

RESOLVED unanimously by Council this 10th day of October, 2023.

TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA

Robert John Smith
President of Council

George H. Stewart
Council Member, Second Ward

Cassandra R. Eccles
Vice-President of Council

Michael F. Hammill
Council Member, Third Ward

Gregory Caprara
Treasurer

Olivia T. Payne
Council Member, Fourth Ward

Julie A. Jakubec, CPA, CGMA
Township Manager

John R. Denny, Jr.
Council Member, At-Large

BILL NO. B-

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA
ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP O'HARA RECOGNIZING THE
SERVICES OF BLAWNOX VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY**

WHEREAS, the Township of O'Hara Council recognizes the importance of ensuring emergency services to safeguard its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Blawnox Volunteer Fire Company members dedicate hours of time for training in order to respond to various emergency situations appropriately, including swiftwater rescue; and

WHEREAS, members of Blawnox Volunteer Fire Company have partnered with Township of O'Hara emergency services providers, sharing their skills and expertise to provide exemplary emergency responses to our citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of O'Hara Council recognizes Blawnox Volunteer Fire Company Members as a vital asset to our community and extend eternal gratefulness for their commitment to provide exceptional emergency services to the communities they serve.

RESOLVED, unanimously by the Council of the Township of O'Hara this 10th day of October, 2023.

TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA

Robert John Smith
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Council Member, Second Ward

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Vice-President of Council

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John R. Denny, Jr.
Council Member, At-Large

**TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA
ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP O'HARA RECOGNIZING THE
SERVICES OF FOX CHAPEL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, the Township of O'Hara Council realizes that citizens of the Township benefit from the knowledge, skills and dedication of emergency service providers; and

WHEREAS, members of the Fox Chapel Volunteer Fire Department dedicate their time to further their firefighting skills and life-saving knowledge by undergoing hours of specialized training; and

WHEREAS, the Fox Chapel Volunteer Fire Department members provide reliable, professional, prompt and appropriate emergency service response.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of O'Hara Council, on behalf of all Township citizens, extends genuine gratitude to the members of the Fox Chapel Volunteer Fire Department for their loyalty in safeguarding the communities they serve.

RESOLVED unanimously by the Township of O'Hara Council this 10th day of October, 2023.

TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA

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George H. Stewart
Council Member, Second Ward

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Township Manager

John R. Denny, Jr.
Council Member, At-Large

BILL NO. _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA
ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP O'HARA RECOGNIZING THE
SERVICES OF SHARPSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, the Township of O'Hara Council recognizes the value of volunteer emergency service providers working together as its citizens benefit from the sharing of skills and knowledge; and

WHEREAS, in working with O'Hara Township emergency service providers, Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Department members provide reliable, effective, and professional emergency fire suppression, rescue, and other emergency response services; and

WHEREAS, Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Department Firefighters bravely serve the citizens in their fire jurisdiction and surrounding communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of O'Hara on behalf of all citizens, acknowledge the sacrifices and commitment of the members of Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Department and extends sincere gratitude to those who selflessly serve at great personal risk to protect neighbors and strangers alike.

RESOLVED unanimously this 10th day of October, 2023 by the Township of O'Hara Council.

TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA

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