SUPERVISORS ADAM BILLS DENNIS R. GROFF MARLIN G. GROFF CRAIG S. KEENAN RAYMOND L. RICE



2 TOWNSHIP DRIVE BOX 40 PARADISE, PA 17562

> 717-768-8222 Fax 768-8221

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JANUARY 6, 2022

**CONTACT**: ADAM BILLS, CHAIRMAN

**PHONE**: 717-768-8222

EMAIL: ABILLSPARADISE@COMCAST.NET

## PARADISE TOWNSHIP REVISED FIRST DUE RESPONSE FIRE TERRITORIES ASSIGNED TO OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES

Exercising the powers granted to it by the State's General Assembly in the Second Class Township Code, the Board of Supervisors of Paradise Township, Lancaster County on Monday, January 3, 2022, at its advertised public meeting, adopted Resolution No. 3-2022 Revising First Due Response Territories Assigned To Officially Recognized Volunteer Fire Companies within the Township.

The Township began a process to look into the possibility of consolidating emergency services within the municipality several years ago. Numerous discussions have taken place with our emergency service providers, community members, and individuals who have been involved in consolidations. Through these discussions, it is clear to the Board of Supervisors that a consolidation of emergency services is in the best interest of the long-term sustainability for fire and EMS services.

One of the main purposes of consolidation is ensuring sustainability of emergency services for decades to come. What may be working today, may not work in 10 or 20 years and it is the Township's objective to look forward in order to ensure that these services do not encounter problems that could have been addressed today. By consolidating emergency services, the Township can plan for long term sustainability, location of facilities, the make-up of the fleet/apparatus, staffing and volunteers to ensure all apparatus responds in a timely manner, standardization of operations and training, and an opportunity to combine fundraising efforts in order to be more efficient with community resources.

While, it became clear to the Board of Supervisors that two organizations, Kinzer Fire Company and Gordonville Fire & EMS, share the Township's vision of consolidating emergency services, the Paradise-Leaman Place Fire Company made it clear that it did not share that vision and openly opposed consolidation. By reason of the resolution adopted, the Kinzer and Gordonville companies will provide the majority of first due fire services to Paradise Township. Bart Fire Company and Gap Fire Company will continue to provide first due fire services to certain portions of Paradise Township.

Moreover, it is the intention of the Board of Supervisors that the Paradise-Leaman Place Fire Company will continue to operate as a mutual aid fire station as an important piece of the Township's emergency services.

This has been a challenging process for many involved. Removing Paradise-Leaman Place Fire Company's first due territory was a difficult decision. On multiple occasions, Gordonville Fire & EMS withdrew its organization from discussions due to the animosity directed towards their members and organization. However, each time, the Board of Supervisors maintained that the Gordonville Fire & EMS is an integral part of our community and, in a consolidation, it will be part of the discussion.

In conclusion, the Board of Supervisors are excited to work with our emergency service providers towards a consolidated fire & EMS operation. Our community can continue to count on excellent fire and EMS service when they are in need of emergency assistance. The Board would like to thank all of our fire and EMS volunteers who give their time to serve our community.

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Enclosures (2)

Resolution No. 3-2022

Exhibit A

## RESOLUTION NO. 3 - 2022

## TOWNSHIP OF PARADISE Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

## REVISING FIRST DUE RESPONSE TERRITORIES ASSIGNED TO OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES

WHEREAS, Township has previously identified the volunteer fire companies serving as the officially recognized volunteer fire companies providing first due responses to portions of Paradise Township;

WHEREAS, Township desires to revise the first due response territories assigned to the volunteer fire companies;

WHEREAS, Section 1801 of the Second Class Township Code, 53 PS §65101 et seq, and Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Code, empower the Township to assign first due response territories to its officially recognized volunteer fire companies and to revise those assignments from time to time by resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Paradise Township desires to adopt such a resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Paradise Township hereby assigns first due response territories to the officially recognized fire companies on the map attached hereto and made part hereof as Exhibit A.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that these assignments of first due response territories may be revised in the future by resolution of the Board of Supervisors.

DULY ADOPTED this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2022, by the Board of Supervisors of Paradise Township, Lancaster County, PA, in lawful session duly assembled, to go into effect on Thursday, January 6, 2022.

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP OF PARADISE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By: Jann & Lana Secretary

By:

(Vice) Chairman





EXHIBIT A