

## Supervisors ignore request for more money

The Amity Township supervisors have chosen to take no action on a request from Southern Berks Regional EMS to help fund the radios the organization must buy because of the county's impending switch to a new emergency communications system.

The supervisors previously OK'd a promissory note committing the township to pay about \$300 a year for seven years to help pay for radios bought with a grant.

Township Manager Charles E. Lyon said he received another request from Southern Berks two weeks ago, this one asking for the board to approve a second note, committing the township to pay about \$2,700 a year for seven years for additional radios bought without a grant.

The deadline to buy the radios through the county was Wednesday at 5 p.m. The first the supervisors heard about the promissory note was during their 7 p.m. meeting that same night.

"Here's somebody outside of us making a mistake and now we're supposed to pick it up and have extra costs involved and extra money laid out," supervisors Chairman Robert R. Yanos said. "This isn't fair to the rest of the people in the township."

He also noted that the supervisors already worked out their preliminary budget and that the deadline had passed.

The promissory note in question would cover a portion of the cost of the 23 radios Southern Berks will need when the county switches to a new emergency communications system.

Since the organization serves several municipalities, it determined what percentage of its calls came from each and then asked each municipality to cover a portion of the costs based on the percentage.

Amity's share is between 17 and 21 percent and the township is being asked to cover about \$2,100 of the grant radios and about \$19,000 of the nongrant radios.

"How did it become our responsibility to buy this, period?" Yanos said.

The supervisors agreed to ignore the request since they had received it late and without any warning.

In other business, the board voted 4-0 to seek state funding for two township redevelopment projects: a 120-acre commercial development area near the intersection of Tollgate Road and Route 662 owned by Reading Health System and a 600-acre planned business office industrial park by Limekiln Road and Route 422.

Qualifying projects must have a total redevelopment assistance cost of at least \$1 million and a 50 percent local match. Traffic impact fees and community development block grants can be spent for the match.

- By Stephanie Weaver