TOWNSHIP OF NEW SEWICKLEY BEAVER COUNTY, PA

ORDINANCE NO. 216

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND THE EMERGENCY SERVICES ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING THE TOWNSHIP TO SEEK INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE TIME. COSTS. AND **EXPENSES** OF FIREFIGHTING. **PROVIDING EMERGENCY** SERVICES AND RESPONDING TO TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS AND OTHER INCIDENTS WHERE THEY PROVIDE SERVICES. THE ORDINANCE ALSO PROVIDES FOR IMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES THROUGH FEES AND PENALTIES ASSOCIATED WITH REPEATED FALSE ALARM CALLS FOR FIRE. SECURITY, OR MEDICAL ALARMS.

Whereas the Board of Supervisors of the Township of New Sewickley desires to provide for reimbursement to the Big Knob Volunteer Fire Department, Pine Run Volunteer Fire Department, and Emergency Services for any and all costs and/or expenses incurred, which may be obtainable by submitting claims only to the individual property or vehicle owners' insurance carriers.

Whereas it is the finding of the Board of Supervisors that individual property and vehicle owners may maintain insurance coverage within their own casualty insurance policies, homeowners' policies, automobile policies, and/or other applicable policies that would provide reimbursement for firefighting, emergency services, traffic accidents, and other services rendered to individual property owners' properties and/or individuals' vehicles in response to fire and emergency service requests.

Whereas repeated false alarm calls for fire, security, or medical alarms is a drain on the resources of the Township and it is therefore appropriate for the Township to seek reimbursement for some of the expenses of responding to such repeated false alarms.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the New Sewickley Township Board of Supervisors and it is hereby ordained and enacted by the authority of the same, as follows:

- 1. The Big Knob Fire Department, Pine Run Volunteer Fire Department, and Emergency Services are hereby authorized and directed, by and through its officers and authorized representatives, to ascertain what insurance coverage may be applicable and available under any given circumstance, and to take all necessary and affirmative steps to apply for and receive reimbursement from any insurance carriers where a property or vehicle owner is or may be insured to reimburse the fire departments for any cost and/or expense incurred for services, supplies and/or equipment used for or provided to the property or vehicle owner by the fire department.
- 2. Under no circumstances shall any property or vehicle owner ever receive a bill from the fire department for fire protection or other services provided by the fire department or emergency services except in cases of false alarms and fires intentionally set by the property owner.
- 3. The Board of Supervisors, by annual resolution, shall set the fees and costs for reimbursement of fire department and emergency services.
- 4. After a Township resident or commercial property owner has subjected the Township to three false alarms per year for fire, security, or medical alarms, then the Township may seek reimbursement for any additional such false alarms. A reimbursement schedule for such false alarms shall be set annually by resolution.
- 5. The Township may enforce the provisions of this Ordinance by civil action before a District Justice or any court of competent jurisdiction for the collection of any amounts due hereunder, plus attorney fees, and any other costs.

This Ordinance amendment shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

Duly presented and adopted at a regular meeting of the New Sewickley Township Board of Supervisors, Beaver County, Pennsylvania, held on the <u>3rd</u> day of <u>September</u>, 2019.

ATTEST:

NEW SEWICKLEY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS