

***Springettsbury
Spring Garden
Joint Fire Service
Options***



Does it make sense to start preparing or developing a draft proposal for Joint Service?

Yes or No



**Which Joint Service option
would be best for
Springettsbury/Spring
Garden?**



Four Different Options

1. Council of Governments (COG)
2. Joint Service with a Lead Agency
3. Authority
4. Fire District

(All information for this presentation
was sent from Dean Fernsler
on June 2, 2005)



Council of Governments (COG)

- A COG is a formal organization of multiple governments that is created to provide services to their members.
- COG's are structured on a regional scale, using many local governments, to realize certain economies of scale.



(COG continued)

- There is only one COG that provides regional fire services to three townships.
- A COG operating under Act 180 intergovernmental agreement would not be anymore beneficial than a joint service agreement between governments.
- Normally a COG would be more appropriate if there were four or more governmental agencies involved.

Joint Service with a Lead Agency

- A joint service would be two governments that could utilize an emergency services board as the medium to oversee and provide service.
 - Provides as many options as a COG, as well as allowing for other types of arrangements or structures.
 - Agreements can be written to address any situation that arises.
 - Responsibilities are spread evenly
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(Joint Service continued)

- Provides flexibility without being formal
- Minimizes additional management, staffing and ancillary costs.

(Joint Service Continued)

- This would be the most efficient and practical way to start the Joint Service.
- Allows for future growth, to include other local governments into a type of COG.
- Mr. Fernsler has recommended that with two cooperating governments this would be the preferred option.

Authority

- No legislative authority under the Municipal Authorities Act to provide emergency services
 - No avenue provided to assess fees for services
 - Cost for services will continue to be tax-based

(Authority continued)

- The state representative has made us aware that this was contemplated previously but never acted on.
 - There are some in the legal profession who believe that this can be done and fees can be assessed for service, but the statute has never been tested.
 - This would require amendment of the state statutes.
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Fire District

- Establishment of fire districts is not an option in Pennsylvania.
- Other states (mostly west of the Mississippi or New Jersey) have essentially regional boundaries established for command and have authority to tax assessments.
 - These are specific to that district and for the support of emergency services.
- This would require special legislative authority from the state.

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option would be best for
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Four Different Options

Joint Service with a Lead Agency

Allows for future growth, to include other local governments into a type of COG.

Council of Governments (COG)

COG's are structured on a regional scale, using many local governments.

Authority

This has been contemplated previously but never acted on.

Fire District

Not an option in PA, requires special legislative authority from the state.

Which option should we concentrate on?

Interim Joint Service with a Lead Agency

Council of Governments

Authority

Fire District

COG

Authority

Fire District

