

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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JOINT PRESS RELEASE

Springettsbury Township Volunteer Fire Company and Springettsbury Township Future Fire Station Property Purchased

York, PA – Springettsbury Township Volunteer Fire Company has purchased Lot 17 at Market Street Commons from Market Street Commons, LP, near the new Holiday Inn Express, which will be the future home of the new Springettsbury Fire Station. The volunteer association purchased the land and Springettsbury Township is funding the preliminary engineering costs. The construction project would be a cooperative effort between the Springettsbury Township Volunteer Association and Springettsbury Township.

Mr. Don Eckert, President of the Volunteer Fire Association, stated that the Springettsbury Volunteer Fire Company has entered into a sales agreement for the old Springetts Fire Building located at 3013 East Market Street. The proceeds from this sale will be utilized to offset a portion of the costs associated with the new building to be constructed on Commons Drive.

Springettsbury Township has been evaluating its municipal infrastructure for many years, planning for future needs and improvements. Included in these evaluations have been the needs and long term goals of its fire infrastructure. Since its merger with Spring Garden Township Fire Department in September of 2007 to form York Area United Fire and Rescue (YAUFR), the municipalities, Springettsbury Township Volunteer Fire Company, YAUFR have been evaluating existing equipment and facilities, and determining how best to proceed with necessary upgrades. One determination made, was that all fire station buildings are the responsibility of the municipality in which they are located. Therefore, when deficiencies arise, it is that municipality's responsibility to address them. In Springettsbury's case, it would be a joint effort between the Springettsbury Township Volunteer Fire Company and the municipality. However, all operating costs of a fire station are shared throughout the regional department.

Evaluations conducted before, during and after the merger have shown deficiencies in many facilities currently used by YAUFR. Springettsbury Township is home to two fire stations,

Springetts station 89-1 and Commonwealth station 89-3. Station 89-1, on Market Street, has been determined to be deficient to the point where it is no longer cost effective to renovate the structure.

Springetts fire station, having been built in 1958, lacks the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, does not meet Uniform Construction Code requirements, is not equipped to properly house new equipment, and was not designed to have separate male/female living quarters. Over 50 years ago, women were not in the fire service, now Springettsbury has four full time female Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and YAUFRR has one full time female firefighter. When evaluating how best to correct these issues, consideration was first given to remodeling the existing structure. However, after further analysis, it was discovered that the updates necessary, including a new HVAC system and substantial reconstruction, would not be cost effective. It would merely be putting a band-aid on a facility that has already surpassed its expected useable life.

Consideration was then given to demolishing the existing Springetts station and reconstructing a new station at its same location at 3013 East Market Street. After all, the current economy has brought down construction and material costs, lowered interest rates, and the project would generate new jobs. However, this evaluation proved to have issues of its own. The current site is located on Market Street, a state road and major thoroughfare. This presents a major safety issue to vehicular traffic, pedestrians, and firefighters. Also, rebuilding in its existing location does not correct a gap in coverage that exists on the far eastern side of Springettsbury Township. This gap was determined throughout the studies conducted by Buracker and Associates, and consists of areas within the Township that are outside of the recommended response time.

This realization led the Township, Springettsbury Township Volunteer Fire Company and YAUFRR to look east of its current location to best close the gap in coverage. Strategically relocating Springetts station 89-1 in this area would address current and anticipated growth in the eastern parts of the municipality, and would improve service to existing Springettsbury residents. While the specifics of the new station are still under review and consideration, it has been determined that a new station would also contain administrative offices for use by YAUFRR's administrative staff. This consolidation would allow YAUFRR to reduce its facilities from five to four, thus also reducing its annual overhead and operating costs. Currently, Springetts station and

YAUFR's administrative office make up 38% of YAUFR's annual utility costs. A new facility would be much more energy efficient, as the Township and Springettsbury Township Volunteer Fire Company would look at including geothermal and solar panels into its construction. This would then lower the operating costs shared throughout the regional department.

Springettsbury Township Volunteer Fire Company has an agreement with Springettsbury Township that ensures adequate fire service delivery. Proceeds of the sale of its existing property/station will help to offset the cost to purchase and construct a new property/facility. The result being, residents of Springettsbury will be better served by a new, more cost efficient fire station.

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