



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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Clarifying Statement Issued by Township

The Statement is in Response to Recent Board Action Authorizing the Township to Pay Legal Fees for a Former Board Supervisor.

Exeter Township, PA – On Monday, January 13th, 2020 the Exeter Township Board of Supervisors approved the Township paying for a lawyer to represent a former Supervisor in responding to an inquiry concerning one complaint made by one resident. The Township has prepared the following statement to provide Residents' and others with a greater understanding of the action taken at the January 13th Board Meeting.

Statement Issued by Township

We issue this brief statement to eliminate certain misconceptions being proliferated on social media and to clarify that no charges have been filed against anyone and no basis for any charges is known to the Township.

One Township resident submitted one complaint about a prior Board of Supervisors. That one complaint is being reviewed, as is routine when a complaint is submitted. The person reviewing the complaint asked to speak with certain members of that past Board of Supervisors concerning the complaint. A former Supervisor elected to engage a lawyer to represent that former Supervisor individually and help with the response to the inquiry. Pennsylvania law requires the Township to pay the legal fees of this lawyer if the Township is not aware of any facts to substantiate the complaint and no charges are filed against the person engaging the lawyer. This is because the law recognizes that because of the public nature of their roles, Supervisors are often the subject of resident complaints even when the facts do not support the allegations. Those Supervisors should not be forced to pay personal money responding to such allegations.

Here, the Township is not aware of any facts to substantiate the complaint. No charges have been filed against anyone. The Township is not aware of any basis for charges to be filed against anyone. Therefore, the Township is obligated by Pennsylvania law to pay for the lawyer and the Board approved doing just this at Monday night's meeting.

The Township will submit all fees incurred responding to this inquiry to its insurance carrier for reimbursement.

About Exeter Township

Exeter Township supports the growth, development and safe keeping of township's 25 square-mile area of Berks County. The township provides police, fire protection, emergency, infrastructure, and many other services to the more 25,000 residents and hundreds of businesses. It also is home to many parks, recreational areas, trails and greenways with access to the Schuylkill River. The township, which was founded in 1741, also boasts the Daniel Boone Homestead as well as other historic sites. For more information about Exeter Township, please visit exetertownship.com.