

**TOWNSHIP OF SEWICKLEY**  
**Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania**  
**Amending Ordinance No.6-2021**

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE OPERATIONS CRITERIA OF  
VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES WITHIN SEWICKLEY TOWNSHIP**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors may adopt ordinances to secure the safety of persons or properties within the Township; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors may by ordinance make rules and regulations for the government of fire companies which are located within the Township and their officers; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township shall be responsible for insuring that fire and emergency medical services are provided within the Township by the means and to the extent determined by the Township, including the appropriate financial and administrative assistance for these services; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township has consulted with fire and emergency medical service providers to discuss the emergency services needs of the Township; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Sewickley is currently serviced by four (4) volunteer fire companies known as Herminie, Hutchinson, Lowber and Rillton; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors has completed an exhaustive review of the operations and performance of said fire companies; and,

**WHEREAS**, the fire departments shall consist of separate Fire Chiefs and volunteers for each company, all of whom shall be governed by federal, state, and local laws, rules and regulations, and, where not inconsistent, by the Fire Department Code of Laws and the rules and regulations of the respective volunteer companies.

**WHEREAS**, to be formally recognized as fire companies each company shall comply with mandatory firefighting training of all of its volunteers so as to qualify as a fireman within the respective company to which he/she belongs. Each company shall also require each member to be properly trained in the type of equipment that may be used in public safety.

**WHEREAS**, It shall be the duty of each company to see that the apparatus, equipment and building of such company shall be kept in good order and condition and ready for immediate use. It shall be the duty of each company to maintain proper order and discipline among members of the company at all times, and, at no

time shall a company call off responding companies before any officer has arrived on scene.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors has established guidelines, protocols and reporting requirements for the fire companies which address but are not limited to: standard operating guidelines, training updates, membership rosters, by-laws, budgets, background checks and clearances; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township appropriates monies to its volunteer fire companies for the costs of operation, maintenance and purchases and, in addition, assumes the costs of Liability and Workers' Compensation Insurance coverage; and,

**WHEREAS**, the fire companies are expected to operate in a coordinated manner with each other and in accordance with accepted fire industry standards and protocols so as to not compromise or pose a risk to the health, safety and general welfare of the residents of Sewickley Township.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, it be enacted and ordained by the Board of Supervisors of Sewickley Township:

SECTION 1. For the purposes of promoting the health, safety and general welfare of the Township of Sewickley, the Board of Supervisors may, by resolution, take appropriate action against any fire company that has failed to comply with the Township's reporting requirements, established protocols and/or has otherwise failed to perform within accepted fire industry standards and protocols.

SECTION 2. The Township of Sewickley may, by resolution, suspend or revoke any and all authorizations granted to any volunteer fire company to operate as a fire company and/or emergency service provider for the Township of Sewickley and may withhold and/or reallocate funds until such time as said fire company comes into compliance with the requirements for operations as set forth by the Township Supervisors.

SECTION 3. The Township of Sewickley Board of Supervisors shall review any proper request for reinstatement made to the Board of Supervisors by any fire company whose operating privileges have been suspended or revoked under Section 2 of this ordinance. Any request for reconsideration must be accompanied by a certification from the fire company's chief that all requirements imposed by the Board of Supervisors in its suspension/revocation resolution have been met and all documents, if any, requested by the Board of Supervisors have been submitted to the Township for review and consideration.

SECTION 4. In the event that any company shall fail to take proper care of all apparatus, equipment and buildings in

its possession, however acquired, or fail to properly perform the services at fires or emergencies required by the Fire Chief or assistants, the Supervisors may, if it deems it expedient, take possession of said apparatus, equipment, buildings, ect., and discharge said company and its officers from the service of Sewickley Township.

**ORDAINED AND ENACTED INTO LAW,** this day of , 2021.

**ATTEST:**

**TOWNSHIP OF SEWICKLEY**

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**Susan Leukhardt, Secretary**

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**Mark Petros - Chairman**

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Bill Dull - Vice-Chairman**

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**Linda Harvey - Supervisor**