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Forks offers fire call fill-ins

Stockertown's calls to be handled by township.

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By COURTNEY LOMAX
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FORKS TWP. | The township Fire Department will temporarily serve as Stockertown's Fire Department while borough council develops an alternate plan.

Supervisors voted 5-0 Thursday to serve as Stockertown's fire responders for 120 days and form a committee to work with the borough to come up with a permanent arrangement.

The Community Fire Company of Forks Township Inc. provides the volunteer personnel for the Forks Township Fire Department. Forks Fire is a combination of a municipal fire department and volunteer fire company, according to the township Web site.

The township's agreement comes a week after Stockertown Borough Council voted unanimously to terminate Liberty Hose Fire Co. No. 1.

Council Vice President Paul Zaboy said last week the volunteer fire company was not meeting the expectation of council. He listed problems with finances, communication and organization.

Township Solicitor Karl Kline on Thursday suggested supervisors ask for compensation for their services to the borough. Kline said he and Stockertown's Solicitor Gary Asteak were surprised with Stockertown's unanimous vote to rescind the fire company.

"They didn't have a plan B in place," Kline said.

The borough might decide to resurrect the fire company, Kline said.

Stockertown allocated \$27,116 to the fire company in 2005 and 2006.

Forks fire Chief Tim Weis said the township had a mutual aid agreement with the borough and the additional coverage won't be any strain on the township's Fire Department.

Getting to the fires won't be a problem either because the township's Fire Department has about twice as many members, Weis said.

"(We) got there before they did," Weis said of the Stockertown department.

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