

OFFICIAL NOTICE RESERVE TOWNSHIP

Notice is hereby given that Reserve Township intends to consider Ordinance No. 694, "An Ordinance Authorizing the Imposition and Collection of a Special Emergency Ambulance Service Fee", with possible enactment at its regular Board of Commissioners Meeting on Monday February 20, 2023 at 7:00pm. Copies of the Ordinance may be reviewed online at <https://reservetwp.com> and in the Reserve Township Office, 33 Lonsdale Street, Pittsburgh PA 15212, Monday through Friday between 8am and 4pm.

TOWNSHIP OF RESERVE
ORDINANCE NO. 694

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RESERVE, COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE IMPOSITION AND COLLECTION OF A SPECIAL EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE FEE.

WHEREAS, the provision of adequate ambulance services and emergency medical services are necessary for the general health, safety, and welfare of this municipality and its residents; and

WHEREAS, said services are provided by the Ross/West View Emergency Medical Services Authority and funded by a subscription service to residents and businesses, donations, billing to non-subscribers, and third-party billing to insurance providers; and

WHEREAS, funding cutbacks in Medicare and other benefit programs, and a low percentage of subscriptions purchased by residents and businesses within the municipality, coupled with ever rising costs of providing mandated standards of quality ambulance services and emergency medical services have created a fiscal crisis throughout the ambulance and emergency medical services industry, and particularly in our community; and

WHEREAS, the First Class Township Code specifically provides at 53 P.S. Sections 56579.6, 56579.18, 56579.20, and 56501.5, that townships may take all needful means to secure the safety of persons or property within the township; to appropriate and expend monies toward ambulance service and rescue lifesaving services; to regulate as necessary for the health, safety, and general welfare of the township and its residents; and general powers to adopt ordinances, etc., pertaining to the township; and

WHEREAS, the First-Class Township Code, 53 P.S. Section 56579.52 provides as follows: "Emergency Services. (a) the township shall be responsible for ensuring 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; (b) the township shall consult with fire and emergency medical services providers to discuss the emergency services needs of the township; and (c) the township shall require any emergency services organizations receiving township funds to provide to the township an annual itemized listing of all expenditures of these funds before the township may consider budgeting additional funding to the organization”.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it Ordained and Enacted by the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Reserve as follows:

1. Premises are defined as the property or area, including the improvements thereon, to which service is or will be furnished, and as used herein, shall be taken to designate (1) a building under one roof, owned or leased by one customer, and occupied as one residence or one place of business; or (2) a group or combination of buildings owned by one customer, in one common enclosure, occupied by one family, or one organization, corporation or firm, as a residence or place of business or for manufacturing or industrial purposes, or as a hotel, hospital, church, parochial school, or similar institution, except as otherwise noted herein; or (3) the one side of a double house having a solid vertical partition wall; or (4) each side or each part of a house or building occupied by one family even though the closet and/or other fixtures be used in common; or (5) each apartment, office of suite of offices, and/or place of business located in a building or group of buildings, even though such buildings in a group are interconnected by a tunnel or passageway, covered areaway or patio, or by some similar means or structure; or (6) a public building devoted entirely to public use, such as a town hall, school house, or fire engine house; or (7) a single lot or park or playground; or (8) each house in a row of houses; or (9) each dwelling unit in a house or building, a dwelling unit being defined as a building or portion thereof, regardless of exclusive or common culinary facilities, designed for occupancy and use by one person or one family (household); or (10) each individual and separate place of business and/or occupancy located in one building or group of buildings commonly designated as shopping centers, supermarket areas, and by such other terms; or (11) each dwelling unit in a public housing development.
2. Special Emergency Ambulance Services Fee is defined as a specified uniform fee charged to each premises to which ambulance service and/or emergency medical services is made available, and entitles occupants of said premises to necessary 911 emergency transport, including the provision of basic life support and advanced life support. It does not include the cost of routine non-emergency medical transport, or secondary emergency transport. Any premises paying said

fee will not be billed for the provision of service to said premises or any occupants therein, but the ambulance service may bill any applicable third party provider for said service.

3. Any premises, or occupants therein, that are not current on said fee shall be responsible for any and all costs associated with the provision of said services as set forth herein, including the amount of any invoices not paid by an applicable third party providers.
4. Each Special Emergency Ambulance Service Fee imposed under this Ordinance shall be for ambulance service and emergency medical services provided during the fiscal year of the ambulance provider of January 1st to December 31st. The Special Emergency Ambulance Services Fee is initially established by this Ordinance as follows:

FEE SCHEDULE

Residence/Business	Occupancy	Cost	Discount Price	Discount Date	Pay by date
Residential Premises	N/A	\$55.00	\$49.50	June 1 st	August 31 st
Small Business	1-25	\$55.00	\$49.50	June 1 st	August 31 st
Medium Small Business	25-100	\$100.00	\$90.00	June 1 st	August 31 st
Medium Large Business	100-300	\$200.00	\$180.00	June 1 st	August 31 st
Large Business	Over 300	\$500.00	\$450.00	June 1 st	August 31 st

Said fee shall be paid at the discount rate prior to June 1st, and at the regular rate from June 1st through August 31st. Late fees and fines will begin to accrue after August 31st.

Any modification of this fee shall be subject to prior approval of all communities who have adopted this Ordinance and are receiving services from the Authority and any modifications to said fee shall be made via resolution of the Township Commissioners.

5. Each Premises is defined herein, for which there is an occupancy permit granted, and is in use, shall pay said Special Emergency Ambulance Service Fee. Said fee shall be paid in full no later than August 31st for the year in which billed.
6. The Special Emergency Ambulance Service Fee shall be collected directly by the Ross/West View Emergency Medical Service Authority, or its agents, successors, or assigns. The actual title owner of an occupied premises on which the fee is due shall be responsible to pay said fee within 30 days of the date due and owing.

Otherwise, the title owner of the premises, as well as the actual occupant, shall be liable for legal interest, as well as subject to a lien on real property for municipal services, and/or enforcement of this Ordinance before the Magisterial District Judge. It shall be the responsibility of a landlord to distribute the fee to all of its tenants.

The failure to pay said fee on or before August 31st constitutes an offense punishable by a civil penalty of up to \$50.00 for each day of violation, plus costs, including attorney's fees necessary to enforce said Ordinance. This shall be enforced directly by the Ross/West View Emergency Medical Services Authority, or its agents, successors, or assigns. Any civil penalties, interest, costs, or attorney's fees collected as a result thereof, shall be paid to the Ross/West View Emergency Medical Services Authority.

ORDAINED AND ENACTED this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Secretary

President
Board of Commissioners



Ross/West View

Emergency Medical Services Authority

5325 Perrysville Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15229-2198
Phone: (412) 931-8200
Fax: (412) 931-6708
www.rwvems.org

"Proudly serving the communities of Ross Township, West View Borough, Millvale Borough, Reserve Township, and Ohio Township"

Frequently asked questions:

1. What happens to the existing subscription revenue
 - a. 300,000 in subscription revenue goes away from the budget
2. What happens to the existing municipal funding
 - a. Once the fee is established and collection is flowing, the municipalities can eliminate the EMS Funding line item from their general fund and repurpose that money how they decide best.
3. Are all residents who are current on their fee, "Subscribers"
 - a. Yes – It improves from a 50% discount for out of pocket to 100% Discount and residents who are already subscribing would be saving money and increasing benefits
4. Can we legally do this – EMS Authority implementing a fee
 - a. Yes – Municipal Authorities are permitted to collect fees for services.
5. What do we take away if somebody doesn't pay or what is the penalty
 - a. Residents or businesses who do not pay would be sanctioned with a late fee, would be responsible for 100% of their ambulance bill if they use EMS, and eventually liens on property if required.
6. How do we figure out who to bill in the case of multifamily dwellings or apartment buildings
 - a. It would be the responsibility of the landlord to collect and distribute the fee to their tenants at \$55.00 per unit as defined by the ordinance.
7. How did we decide on \$55.00/household and what impact does that have on our budget
 - a. After the loss of subscription revenue, municipal funding and changes to our contractual allowance, our net positive would be around \$850,000.00. We plan to increase staff wages and benefits, make capital improvements to facilities and purchase new additions to our fleet.
8. Does the authority have the ability to raise the fee
 - a. Only with the approval of all 5 municipalities by resolution.
9. Who manages collection – Township or EMS Authority
 - a. Ross/West View EMS Authority through a collection service.