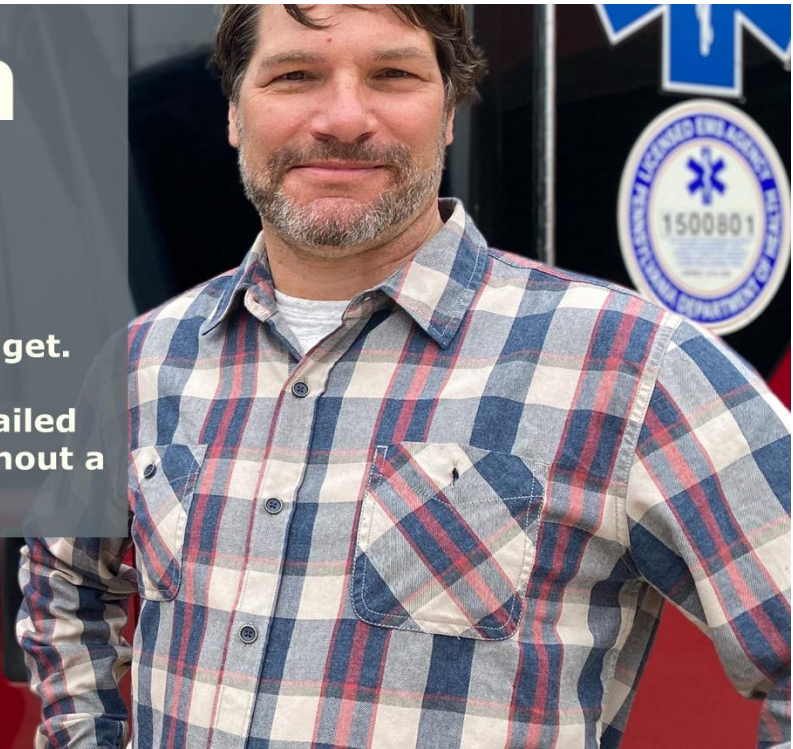


Is this Election Interference?

I questioned changes to emergency services that Hoffman rushed through, with no plan and no budget. One month later - one week before the election - Kennett Township and Longwood Fire put out detailed letters to try to discredit my position, but still without a clear plan or budget. *Click to read more!*



Are the letters from Longwood Fire and Kennett Township, released within 24 hours of one another and just one week before an election, an attempt to influence your vote?

Consider that both seek to justify significant decisions rushed through in a special township meeting on April 15th, after an extraordinary weekend of back-room dealmaking that left Kennett Fire Company no choice then but to fold, and no choice now but to say that they are behind the deal.

What is at stake? A vote confirming my nomination brings me one step closer to being able to ask important questions and to refuse to support back-room deals. A vote confirming Whitney Hoffman as the nominee ensures her political survival and the credibility of the other supervisor who supported this deal. A vote confirming Whitney Hoffman as the nominee also benefits Longwood Fire Company, to the extent that she supports their expansion.

Claim

Why should we be concerned about the process if some degree of consolidation was inevitable? Because this was an important decision provided with no meaningful public input and questionable data. **No one would have learned the details behind the deal if I had not asked questions.** We do not know if this was the right solution. We have also learned from the alleged embezzlement to question whether these supervisors provide the right financial oversight. And we have learned from the series of unexpected tax increases following the creation of the police department that these supervisors can fail to accurately project the long-term costs of essential services.

Contrast this process – a meeting with 24 hours notice and no public input - with the efforts to develop options for the Greenway. In that case, community surveys were followed by meetings with stakeholders to understand the results together. This resulted in additional community meetings to discuss results and reconsider plans, a process that unfolded over three months, costing tens of thousands of dollars.

Why is the timing suspicious? Kennett Township and Longwood Fire are free to make their case but could have simply waited until May 19th to send their letters.... So why didn't they?

Why are the letters themselves suspicious? Consider that Kennett Township never sent out a letter **before** the meeting at which the decision to re-organize fire services was discussed. This is a remarkable “oversight” given how positively the decision is now being portrayed.

The letter from Longwood? It is extremely unusual for a non-profit to write such a letter that specifically targets a political candidate one week before voting takes place, because the non-profit status of an organization can be revoked if it appears to be partisan (i.e., actively supporting one party/candidate over another).

I have bolded some text for emphasis. Read [my response](#) to a letter sent by Longwood Fire Company, and [my response](#) to the special bulletin issued by Kennett Township. You can also read my fact checkers on [All Emergency Services](#), or specific to [Fire Services](#) or to [Emergency Medical Services](#), for additional background.

Counter

Claim

Counter

LETTER FROM KENNETT TOWNSHIP (5/11/2021)

Claim

Counter

KENNETT CLAIMED “The future of the fire service is regional cooperation and a shared vision. With the persistence of Kennett Township and the Kennett Fire and EMS Regional Commission, Kennett Fire Company No. 1 and Longwood Fire Company reached an agreement to deliver regional fire service ending decades of inefficiency. “The proposal enacted by the regional fire commission, Kennett Township, Kennett and Longwood Fire Companies is a historic and new beginning to emergency services delivery in our region,” said Chair of the Kennett Township Board of Supervisors Dr. Richard Leff.”⁸

I COUNTER I have never questioned whether Kennett Township would benefit from greater coordination of Emergency Services. In my letter, I stated “Nobody disputes that our Fire and EMS system has been long overdue for some significant restructuring, just like many other such systems across Pennsylvania and the country. ” I question, however, why the public was not afforded the chance to review and discuss the plan and budget. Can we be assured that the transition will be implemented smoothly? And can we be confident that budgets are taking into account additional expenses down the road?

KENNETT CLAIMED “Kennett Township and the Kennett Fire and EMS Regional Commission have been working diligently to find efficiencies in fire service delivery for the region as costs continue to increase”.⁸

I COUNTER Figures justifying the apparent cost-saving have never been provided.

KENNETT CLAIMED “Kennett Fire Company relies on about 20 active volunteers, most who

I COUNTER As I have stated repeatedly, change was likely needed... but was this the best solution,

Claim

work during the day, to run our station. Being solely volunteer was not a viable model long term, and we knew something needed to change,” said Kennett Fire Chief Tom Brady.’ ”⁸

KENNETT CLAIMED “The proposal is for the companies to unify under a regional command structure while **maintaining their individual identities**. The proposal went into effect on May 3rd.”.⁸

KENNETT CLAIMED “This is a regional response model that benefits everyone as both fire companies will be bringing their resources to the table working together instead of competing against each other.” ⁸

KENNETT CLAIMED “The proposal reduces response times, shares resources including manpower, unifies response strategy, and reduces regional costs.”.⁸

Counter

and how much will it cost us? We will never know, because **detailed options were never presented to the public before a decision was made.**

I COUNTER This simply illustrates that the players saw no need to present a plan to the public. The vote in Kennett Township was taken on April 15th. And the changes implemented less than three weeks later.

Claims that the companies will remain independent must be doubted given how rapidly Kennett Fire’s EMS was disbanded. I predict that this is Longwood Fire’s first step towards effectively assuming control all of the assets of Kennett Fire within 1-2 years.

I COUNTER No evidence has ever been presented that suggests that “competition” has ever been a problem. And if it was, was it a problem for Kennett Fire or for Longwood Fire?

I COUNTER Evidence supporting these claims is questionable.

Claim

Counter

KENNETT CLAIMED “The Command structure of the proposal is to be administered by Longwood Fire Company with Kennett Fire Company serving as a regional component. For the resident having an emergency, they will receive a swift response from both companies who are deploying a unified strategy ensuring the timely arrival and appropriately staffed apparatus regardless of the day or hour.”⁸

KENNETT CLAIMED “Hockessin Fire Company will also be jointly responding in the southern part of Kennett Township, reducing response times by an average of 6 minutes.”⁸

Response times: **Claims were supported by one map.** How can response times be improved for a house in Kennett Township immediately east of the border with the Borough, just several hundred yards from Kennett Fire, when Longwood Fire is 2 1/2 miles away?

Regional costs: No budgets have ever been presented. Indeed, we have pointed out ways that **costs WILL increase**, and that Kennett Fire’s original counter-proposal would have cost less money.

I COUNTER Residents were already getting responses from both companies. There is no reason why this could not have been accomplished with better coordination, and without Kennett Fire being forced to abandon its EMS service and come under the control of Longwood.

I COUNTER It strains credulity to believe that Hockessin will provide this service for free forever.

Claim

KENNETT CLAIMED “To make the proposal possible, the Kennett Regional Fire and EMS Commission made funding changes to address daytime response challenges. Kennett Fire Company is retiring its ambulance to allow for funding to be reallocated to paid firefighters to serve during the weekdays”.⁸

KENNETT CLAIMED “The Kennett Ambulance will be retiring over the next 90 days with Longwood stationing a 24/7 MICU (ambulance) in Kennett Fire Company after the change”.⁸

KENNETT CLAIMED “The Commission also increased Kennett Fire’s annual funding by \$254,720 to cover funding shortfalls. Additionally, \$74,100 per year was allocated to Longwood Fire Company to provide for one additional firefighter to makeup a full daytime crew”.⁸

KENNETT CLAIMED “These funding changes address an inadequate response performance of

Counter

I COUNTER Kennett Fire was given an ultimatum: if you want the paid firefighters needed to address the gaps in service and remain viable as a fire company, you have to give up your EMS. It is still unclear how this results in overall cost saving, unless overall EMS services are to be reduced. But no evidence has been presented indicating that Longwood could maintain the same level of service at a cost-savings. Indeed, we know already that some of Longwood’s EMS services and salaries are higher than Kennett’s.

I COUNTER If this change had not gone through, Longwood would have had to incur more costs to station an ambulance at Kennett Fire. This change conveniently saved Longwood Fire money.

I COUNTER It is still unclear why Kennett had to abandon its EMS service entirely to get the funds it needed. And if Longwood Fire’s services were adequate, why was there a need to increase staff?

I COUNTER As described elsewhere, the “inadequate response performance” was

Claim

Counter

Kennett Fire Company during the weekdays in 2020 and builds out a dual response plan for the region.”⁸

calculated by applying the most rigorous standard to a fraction of Kennett Fire’s responses, and a standard applied to a volunteer fire company during a pandemic. The “solution” ignored a cheaper alternative that had already begun to close the gaps.

KENNETT CLAIMED “The proposal was unanimously approved by both Longwood Fire Company and Kennett Fire Company and the changes were effective May 3, 2021.”⁸

I COUNTER By that point, Kennett Fire knew that the EMS commission had voted on the plan, and Kennett Township had voted on the plan. Kennett Fire was left with no choice.

KENNETT CLAIMED ““The goal of the regional commission since its inception in 2017 has been to foster collaboration among the fire companies as a means of maximizing public safety and efficient use of taxpayer funds, ””⁸

I COUNTER Greater collaboration would certainly have improved services, but Kennett Fire was forced into a corner. And there is still neither a plan OR budget to support claims that this will be more efficient, especially given the new monopoly created.

Claim

Counter

LONGWOOD LETTER (5/10/2021)

Claim

LONGWOOD CLAIMED “Mr. Doehring disingenuously cites only a select part of our publicly filed Forms 990s.”⁷

Counter

I COUNTER 990s are intended to capture the entirety of revenues, expenses, and assets. It is true that 990s provide a snapshot, which can be misleading if the categories are not clear, and that is why **I focused on specific elements that appear unambiguous and that are commonly considered to be indicators of fiscal health in other organizations**, like total operating losses, general overhead (not including salaries and benefits), and unclassified expenses. That is also why I contrasted the 990s of Longwood and Kennett Fire Companies. Any other information that might qualify these figures is welcome!

LONGWOOD CLAIMED “... while we are only required to provide to the Board of Supervisors accounting for our expenditure of tax contributions, we have - for decades - provided our annual third-party audits to the entire Board of Supervisors, in order to provide transparency”⁷

I COUNTER While audits can help to identify questionable accounting practices, I was not raising concerns about these. **My letter focused on overall sustainability and long-term costs, which an audit is not intended to comment upon.**

Claim

LONGWOOD CLAIMED “in 2020, Kennett Fire Company primarily covered about 10.1 square miles and responded to a combined 1,407 emergencies. Longwood Fire Company primarily covered about 56.5 square miles and responded to a combined 2,912 emergencies. Considering that we are responding to over 200% more emergencies that Kennett Fire and cover 550% more territory, common sense would dictate that that our operations would be more expensive to administer”.⁷

LONGWOOD CLAIMED “Mr. Doehring suggests that our organization would possibly be “jacking up rates and taxes” and then selling [ourselves] to private equity firms”. This is preposterous. The fact is that our bylaws prevent any member from financially benefitting from a dissolution.”⁷

Counter

I COUNTER This is a misreading of my letter... I said: “Longwood’s **operating losses** (adjusted for size) **are 50% greater than Kennett’s. Longwood’s general overhead** (not including the Chief’s salary) **is almost ten times greater than Kennett’s**. Longwood lists ‘Other Expenses’ of **\$500K**, compared to Kennett’s **\$42K.**”

The figures I presented for operating losses were adjusted for size – e.g., expressed relative to total revenue (note that Longwood responded to 100% - not 200% - more emergencies). I would be interested to know how the amount of territory covered translates into exponentially increased costs related to general overhead or other expenses?

I COUNTER This is another misreading of my letter... I said: “As a result of its new virtual monopoly, Longwood’s leverage to demand **additional taxpayer cash infusions, increased fees and reduced services** is now enormous. Perhaps Longwood will ultimately join the swelling ranks of **monopoly Emergency Services providers** across the country that are **jacking up rates and taxes and then selling**

Claim

Counter

LONGWOOD CLAIMED “Simply stating that “I love our first responders” at the end of a three-page political flyer that falsely criticizes them is as empty as the misinformation that was provided”.⁷

LONGWOOD CLAIMED “I am always open to having a conversation with any resident (including Mr. Doehring) which is something that did not occur before candidate Doehring’s flyer was disseminated”.⁷

LONGWOOD CLAIMED “I am always open to having a conversation with any resident (including Mr. Doehring) which is something that did not occur before candidate Doehring’s flyer was disseminated”.⁷

themselves to private equity firms, who then increase them even more.”

I did not state that the goal was form any individual at Longwood Fire to profit from a dissolution. I was outlining a scenario for taxpayers in which a non-profit Fire Company becomes unsustainable despite ever-increasing taxes. In the process of being dissolved, the remaining assets of the non-profit are sold and personnel transferred to a for-profit company that takes over services, with the potential to increase costs even more. I acknowledge that it would have been more accurate to describe this as a process of dissolution and transfer than a sale.

I COUNTER My letter did not criticize the volunteer fire fighters.

I COUNTER Consider the context of my letter, captured in the closing line of the first section. “But why did the Board’s two other Supervisors **rush through this ‘deal’ with inadequate research, no written plan, no formal budget, little public scrutiny, and in the middle of a pandemic?**”.

Claim

Counter

My main question is why the two supervisors who supported this “deal” did not see a need to undertake the due diligence necessary for such a major decision. **The supervisors should be having this kind of “conversation” with Longwood and then presenting their finding before making a recommendation, not waiting for me to do the supervisors’ work!** And while the supervisors ultimately bear the responsibility for making the case to the taxpayers, it is reasonable to expect that **Longwood Fire should have prepared a written plan that presents projected costs and sustainability**, before advancing a proposal to take over part or all of Kennett Fire’s operations.

I CLAIMED I believe that some of these other concerns I have raised (and listed below) are also important. Longwood did not see the need, however, to comment on these other claims in their response.

“At the April 15 meeting, **Ratliff publicly admitted that he, his wife, and his brother have become members of the Longwood Fire Company organization**, something that Leff and Hoffman were already well aware of. This

LONGWOOD COUNTERED “It has been brought to our attention that Pete Doehring, a candidate for supervisor in Kennett Township, has been distributing false and misleading written statements about our volunteer fire company. I am writing to provide some clarity, at least to some of the “whoppers” conveyed in that flyer.”

Claim

a clear conflict of interest for both Ratliff and Longwood”.

“(Longwood’s) Chief takes in a **base salary of \$104,506** for a job nearly all other chiefs in similar jurisdictions **perform as a volunteer”.**

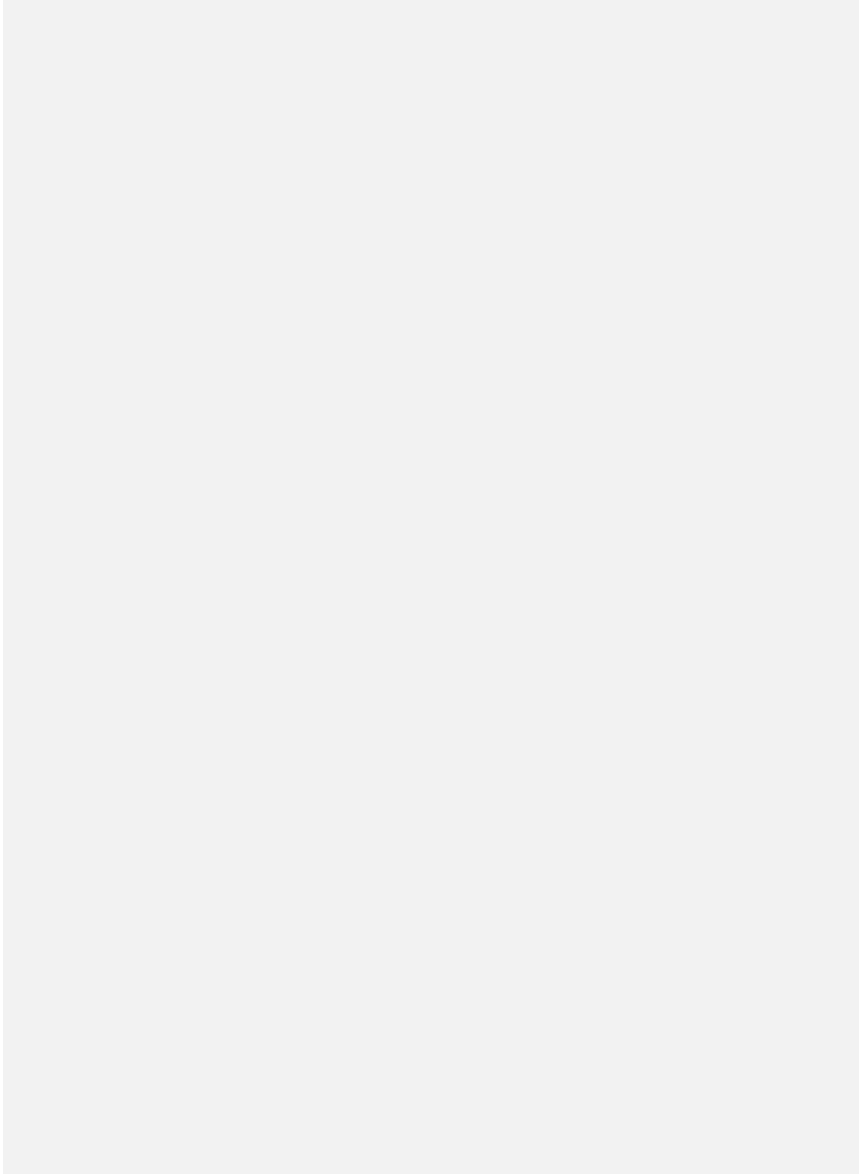
“Longwood’s total **operating losses were \$192K for 2018 and \$430K for 2019**, the last two years for which these figures are available - **very high** compared to its local peers.”

“**Longwood’s requests for more money have far outstripped the requests of its regional peers**, even adjusting for size.”

“The resulting funding increases have been **falling disproportionately on Kennett Township and Kennett Square taxpayers**, even before the recent changes. For example, in 2021, Kennett Township’s share rose **25% (\$121,564)** and Kennett Square’s **40% (\$98,626)**, while the share of each of the other four municipalities rose **5% or less**. Most of **those increases go directly to Longwood.**”

“Longwood’s ability to pass on their high costs to taxpayers was still constrained by the ‘inconvenient truth’ that **Kennett Fire**

Counter

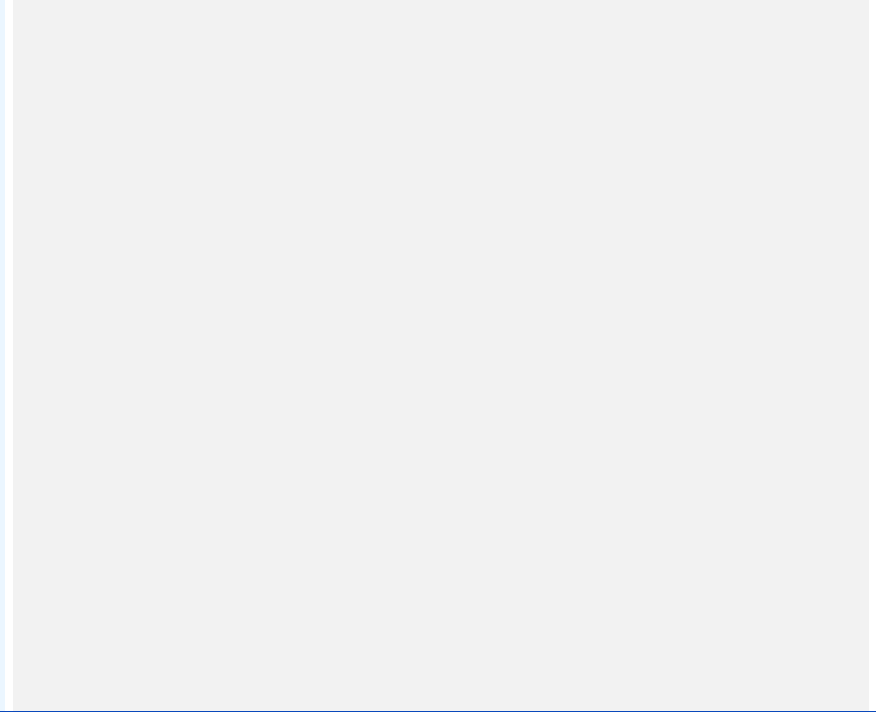


Claim

Company was able to provide most of the same services for much less.”

“The recent ‘deal’ effectively **eliminates that competition**. That **virtually guarantees future costs will go up**, and service coverage will go down. This is already happening as part of the ‘deal’ that Leff and Hoffman have approved, including...**an additional \$200K from our taxpayers** to implement the March 1 changes (and) **an additional \$328,820 annually** to implement the April 15 changes. And that’s in addition to the fact that Longwood already charges **\$270 more for Basic Medical Services (BMS) than Kennett Fire did**, and has **reduced our overall EMS coverage by 25%.**”

Counter



Claim

Counter

ALL EMERGENCY SERVICES

Claim

Counter

HOFFMAN CLAIMED (4/9) “This is a letter I sent out to Township residents by email on April 9, 2021.”³ The letter primarily summarizes her claims about fire service, not EMS

I COUNTERED I never received a letter – did you? Who was this letter sent to? Just to Kennett Democrats on her campaign mailing list? If so, why shouldn’t ALL residents not have received this letter.

HOFFMAN CLAIMED (4/9) “Kennett Fire was taking the Emergency Service Technicians during the day to help cover their fire calls, meaning that they were leaving their ambulance calls uncovered during the day- just when the utilization reports showed that was the time when the most calls came in.”³

I COUNTERED Given the extremely biased manner in which the “analysis” of Kennett Fire was conducted, the earlier analysis of EMS services must now be re-examined.

HOFFMAN CLAIMED (4/9) “Kennett Fire was concerned if we took away their “first call” territory, it would have a negative effect on the company and essentially **put it out of business- which certainly has never been our intent.**”

³

I COUNTERED The day after this was posted, the township manager met with Kennett Fire, presumably with Hoffman’s backing, to tell them that the only way Kennett Fire would get the paid firefighters that the manager had recommended, was if Kennett Fire turned over its remaining EMS business to Longwood Fire Company. Hoffman voted to finalize this Thursday night. Read

Claim

Counter

HOFFMAN CLAIMED (4/9) “...That led to the hard look at all aspects of emergency services, and the need to make changes once we discovered the serious nature of the **response failures**”.³

elsewhere about the manipulated analyses behind the recommendations supporting this take-over.

I COUNTER This is a misleading statement variations of which Hoffman went on to repeat at almost every opportunity. Hoffman implies that there were broad response failures across the board, with respect to both Fire and EMS services, whereas instead there are specific concerns about a small subset of responses to Fire calls that were already being addressed.

It is also noteworthy that **Hoffman chose to dramatically reveal these concerns in a campaign letter to her putative Democratic supporters before any public discussion of these specific findings had occurred.**

HOFFMAN CLAIMED “Why is (Peter) continuing to try to use your Emergency Services as a pawn?... A fire doubles in size every three minutes... Your chances of survival without adequate life support diminish 15% for every minute that you are without help..”⁶

I COUNTER Hoffman dramatically repeats these statistics about the risks of a slow response at every opportunity, conveniently without context. For example, while focusing on one specific statistic for Fire (Turn out time for the biggest vehicle requiring the greatest number of staff with the most training), she forgets that more centralized fire services will ALWAYS increase response time somewhere, perhaps by a matter of minutes. And the EMS statistic likely applies to a subset of calls

Claim

Counter

| | |
|---|--|
| | involving the most extreme emergencies (where resuscitation is required). |
| <p>I CLAIMED (4/27) “... on Thursday, April 15, our BOS again voted 2-1 to rush through another sweeping change that... places our entire Fire and Rescue Service firmly under the sole control of Longwood Fire Company.</p> <p>Taken together, these two actions effectively upended a very successful decades-long arrangement in which the two companies shared KT’s EMS and Fire/Rescue responsibilities as peers. Instead, all Emergency Services in KT will now be controlled by a Township-sanctioned monopoly, with all that implies. And that monopoly effectively extends to the residents of Kennett Square as well, who are already understandably furious that they had little say in this matter. “⁵</p> | HOFFMAN COUNTERED Hoffman has not countered these claims. |
| <p>I CLAIMED (4/27) “The April 15 meeting was announced barely 24 hours in advance with only a Township email and a single innocuous notice on the Township website referencing “a special meeting to discuss Fire & Rescue Territory.”⁵</p> | HOFFMAN COUNTERED Hoffman offered no other reason for the rush, though the Township’s lawyer asserted that this met the minimum standards under CoVid. |
| <p>I CLAIMED (4/27) “At that meeting, Supervisor Scudder Stevens, a long-time advocate of improving Emergency Services, condemned</p> | HOFFMAN COUNTERED Hoffman did not counter Steven’s assertions. |

Claim

Counter

this rush to dismantle Kennett Fire Company before casting his dissenting vote, (noting) *Fires are being successfully addressed in a timely manner. The depth of regional resources adequately covers the needs of the Township. Kennett Fire won't vote on accepting the Commission proposal for nearly a month. Nothing changes until May.*"⁵

I CLAIMED (4/27) "why did the Board's two other Supervisors **rush through this 'deal' with inadequate research, no written plan, no formal budget, little public scrutiny, and in the middle of a pandemic?**"⁵

I CLAIMED (4/27) "At the April 15 meeting, Longwood's Chief freely acknowledged that reaching this 'deal' had required substantial support from Kennett Township Manager Eden Ratliff and Supervisors Richard Leff and Whitney Hoffman"⁵

I CLAIMED (4/27) "**Ratliff, Hoffman, and Leff clearly favored Longwood from the start.** They took every opportunity to **attack**

HOFFMAN COUNTERED "For 5 years, the joint Regional Emergency Services Commission has been trying to broker an arrangement that would provide responsive, professional and necessary fire and ambulance services to Kennett Township and the region including Kennett Square Borough, Pennsbury, Pocopson, Newlin, East Marlborough."⁶ So if they have working on this for 5 years, why the rush to push this through over one weekend??

HOFFMAN COUNTERED

HOFFMAN COUNTERED

Claim

Kennett Fire’s performance...⁵ This includes the overgeneralizations noted earlier about very specific gaps in Kennett Fire’s response.

I CLAIMED (4/27) “As Supervisor Stevens described it at the April 15 BOS meeting:

[T]he one thing Kennett Township did not do during this past year is to sit down with Kennett Fire and EMS administration and offer to address their shortcomings in a transactional and incremental way. What this Township did, instead, was to define those shortcomings and then, in a systematic and intentional way, set out to dismantle and destroy, first Kennett EMS, and then Kennett Fire. The Township has bulldozed and bullied its way to this evening.”⁵

I CLAIMED (4/27) “At the April 15 meeting, **Ratliff publicly admitted that he, his wife, and his brother have become members of the Longwood Fire Company organization**, something that Leff and Hoffman were already well aware of. This **a clear conflict of interest for both Ratliff and Longwood**. At a bare minimum, this should have been publicly announced prior to Ratliff taking any role in negotiating such a ‘deal’.”⁵

Counter

HOFFMAN COUNTERED Hoffman has claimed that she participated in negotiations with both companies prior to the recommendations regarding EMS, although the fact cited at that time have yet to be re-examined.

HOFFMAN COUNTERED Hoffman expressed no concern about this conflict of interest, or any expectation that it should have been. disclosed

Claim

Counter

I CLAIMED (4/27) “**Longwood has some of the highest costs for Fire and EMS in Chester County... its Chief takes in a base salary of \$104,506 for a job nearly all other chiefs in similar jurisdictions perform as a volunteer.**”⁵

HOFFMAN COUNTERED Hoffman said nothing.

I CLAIMED (4/27) “Longwood’s total **operating losses were \$192K for 2018 and \$430K for 2019**, the last two years for which these figures are available - **very high** compared to its local peers”⁵

HOFFMAN COUNTERED Hoffman did not offer any explanation for Longwood’s recent and very significant shortfalls.

I CLAIMED (4/27) “Longwood’s **operating losses** (adjusted for size) are **50% greater than Kennett’s. Longwood’s general overhead** (not including the Chief’s salary) is almost **ten times greater than Kennett’s**. Longwood lists ‘Other Expenses’ of **\$500K**, compared to Kennett’s **\$42K**”⁵

HOFFMAN COUNTERED Hoffman offered no explanations for Longwood’s significantly higher overhead.

I CLAIMED (4/27) “resulting funding increases have been **falling disproportionately on Kennett Township and Kennett Square taxpayers**, even before the recent changes. For example, in 2021, Kennett Township’s share rose **25% (\$121,564)** and Kennett Square’s **40% (\$98,626)**, while the share of each of the other

HOFFMAN COUNTERED Hoffman offered no estimates of how this would affect payments made by Kennett Township.

Claim

Counter

four municipalities rose **5% or less**. Most of **those increases go directly to Longwood.**"⁵

I CLAIMED (4/27) "That **virtually guarantees future costs will go up...** This is already happening as part of the 'deal' that Leff and Hoffman have approved, including: **an additional \$328,820 annually** to implement the April 15 changes"⁵

I CLAIMED (4/27) "Despite all these financial red flags, the recent 'deal' imposes **no cost-containment requirements** on Longwood, and **no assessment of Longwood's long-term financial and operational sustainability was ever conducted**. This is simply irresponsible and smacks of the kind of **financial myopia** that led to Lisa Moore's infamous **\$3.2M embezzlement.**"⁵

HOFFMAN CLAIMED (5/1) "What this Means in Practical Terms for You... We have a professional - responsive - competent Emergency Services Response Team that consists of Kennett Fire and Longwood Fire Company ...".⁶

HOFFMAN CLAIMED (5/1) "... and additional coverage from Hockessin Fire as well- **at no additional cost to taxpayers...**"⁶

HOFFMAN COUNTERED Hoffman did not summarize the cost increases already identified .

HOFFMAN COUNTERED Hoffman described no analysis of sustainability.

I COUNTER The additional paid firefighters sought by Kennett Fire would have achieved the same ends.

I COUNTER The assertion that Hockessin would provide services at no change makes

Claim

Counter

no sense... why not just have them cover more territory then?

It is also worth noting that a major justification for centralizing EMS under Longwood was to group services under one provider, presumably to reduce confusion. Yet **they now support ed a solution that divides Kennett Township coverage among three providers.**

HOFFMAN CLAIMED (5/1) “... Every inch of Kennett Township has Fire and Ambulance coverage with no duplication in response but with back up coverage should that be needed...”⁶

I COUNTER There was never duplication of Fire Service, and there has always been back-up coverage.

HOFFMAN CLAIMED (5/1) “... Response times will decrease and the quality of the response team will improve...With improved response times, the odds of a better outcome increase.”⁶

I COUNTER In fact, township properties just east of the border with Kennett Square will now have a **longer response time** with Longwood now designated as the first Fire responder.

HOFFMAN CLAIMED (5/1) “If you want any additional information, there was a great segment on the problems facing volunteer fire companies in Chester County on Fox 29 news just this week on April 29th- you can view it [here](#) This segment shows the challenges being faced here in Kennett

I COUNTER This news segmaney does not talk abut Kennett specifically. Moreover, this is not a cooperative deal, as it shifts services and control to Longwood.

Claim

Township and throughout Southern Chester County, which is why the cooperative agreement is such a big deal..”⁶

HOFFMAN CLAIMED (5/1) “Needing to go to a blend of volunteer and paid firefighters is something municipalities across the Commonwealth are facing. **We’re not unusual at all- except that we’re facing the issue head on rather than waiting for someone to get hurt first..**”⁶

Counter

I COUNTER Kennett Fire had proposed adding paid firefighters at Lower costs than Longwood. **“Waiting for someone to get hurt first” is misleading and dramatic.** Hoffman has presented no evidence regarding specific costs or injuries resulting from the previous arrangement. Kennett Fire reported to me that there were only two calls that they never responded across all of 2020, and both were adequately covered by others.

Claim

Counter

FIRE SERVICES

Claim

Counter

HOFFMAN CLAIMED (4/27) “Mr. Doehring would have you believe that both companies were somehow forced to come to this agreement. But at a public meeting at the Fire Commission on April 13th and before the Board of Supervisors on April 15th, both fire chiefs applauded the agreement and said that they looked forward to many years of working together for the safety of Kennett and the entire region.”⁴

I COUNTER As part of negotiations over the weekend of April 10th, **Kennett Fire was told that the only way they would get the paid firefighters who could improve their stats would be if they turned their EMS over to Longwood.** By the time this backroom deal was done, Kennett Fire knew that there was little they could do, and got behind the deal to get past the politics, so that they could continue the work of fighting fires.

HOFFMAN CLAIMED “(This is) an arrangement that would provide responsive, professional and necessary fire and ambulance services to Kennett Township and the region including Kennett Square Borough, Pennsbury, Pocopson, Newlin, East Marlborough... A mix of volunteer and professional staff is imperative to mount a rapid response to an emergency. This new agreement allows for additional paid EMS responders.”⁶

I COUNTER All this could have been accomplished by providing Kennett Fire with the paid staff they requested, at a lower cost than subsequently occurred. **There was no need to make Kennett subservient to Longwood or force them to give up their EMS services**

HOFFMAN CLAIMED “The number of Volunteer FireFighters is at a critical junction. As of 2018

I COUNTER These statewide figures do not necessarily translate to Kennett. Kennett Fire had

Claim

there are only 38,000 volunteers in the entire state, down from a high of 300,000.”⁶

Counter

already proposed a number of ways to engage more volunteers.

Claim

Counter

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Claim

I CLAIMED (4/8) The following facts and impacts of the changes to EMS that Hoffman voted for¹

- EMS response time will be **longer**, especially for those farthest from Longwood.
- The total hours of EMS coverage have dropped by **25%**.
- Fees for many residents have gone up **\$270** for Basic Medical Services (BMS).
- Longwood has already requested almost **\$200,000** annually to implement this change.
- This decision was made without any support from our Regional Fire and EMS Commission, over strong objections raised by neighboring Kennett Square, and opposition from Supervisor Scudder Stevens.

Hoffman voted FOR the change, claiming it reduces KT's annual EMS budget by a whopping **\$27,000!**

Counter

HOFFMAN COUNTERED (4/9) Hoffman wrote a long blog in response, focused on **Fire Services**, not EMS². She has never countered my specific claims about EMS

HOFFMAN CLAIMED (4/9) "As we have worked hard to rebuild Kennett Township after the fraud

I COUNTER **None of the information presented by Hoffman addressed potential**

Claim

allegations against our former manager were discovered, that's meant we have been looking, systematically, at every aspect of operations, and **whether there are opportunities to save money**".³

Counter

cost savings related to EMS. In fact, we have shown that, once the proposal to shift the Township's EMS services were accepted, Longwood asked for \$200,000 more¹. These and other new costs associated with Longwood's services passed on directly to consumers has been ignored. We do not know how much the decision to force Kennett Fire to get out of the EMS business will cost us, as no budget was presented at the meeting of 4/15/21 where Hoffman voted to strip Kennett Fire of its EMS business

Claim

Counter

1. Doehring, [Why is Kennett Township Meddling With Our EMS?](#). Postcard mailed to Kennett Township Democrats (4/8/2021)
2. Hoffman, personal FB Post 4/10.
3. Hoffman [What You need to Know about Fire and EMS](#). Blog and emailed to all Kennett Township Residents (4/9/2021)
4. Hoffman, [Responding to My Opposition](#)” Blog (4/27/2021)
5. Doehring, [Fire and EMS update](#), Letter to Kennett Township Democrats (4/27/2021)
6. Hoffman, [Response to Peter Doehring's EMS mailer](#) Blog (5/1/2021)
7. Longwood Fire Company. [Dear Neighbor/Resident](#). Letter mailed to (?) all Kennett Township Residents. (5/10/2021)
8. Kennett Township. Let’s Work Together; Fire Service Edition. Email to Kennett Township residents (5/11/2021)