

MILLVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY-\$35.00 DISCOUNTED FEE

GUIDANCE & QUESTIONS

Dear Ocean View Property Owner:

Early in 2016 the Millville Volunteer Fire Company requested the Town of Ocean View to assess a fee of \$35.00 per taxpayer to assist in providing financial support in order to maintain the existing ambulance service and to incorporate a permanent second shift so as to have 24 hour ambulance service availability seven days a week. After much consideration and discussion at public meetings, the Town Council agreed in November 2016 to institute an annual fee of \$35.00 per improved property and businesses within the Town of Ocean View starting with this year's tax billing.

This is an annual fee on improved properties and businesses located within the Town of Ocean View. There will be no refunds or pro-rata billings for any property sold or purchased mid-year. Any property whose status changes from unimproved to improved during the fiscal year will be included in this program with the next annual property tax billing.

Included in this year's property tax bill is a separate line item for \$35.00 which represents a discount from the MVFC's usual \$50.00 donation request. This service covers the property owners, occupants, renters, visitors or employees of a business entity on the property identified on the tax bill. This is for **AMBULANCE SERVICE ONLY**. If you have paid the \$35.00 fee and you receive a solicitation from MVFC for Ambulance Service you may disregard that solicitation. **If you have any questions about this program please contact MVFC EMS Chief John Watson at 302-539-7557.**

Listed below are a number of often asked questions about the program.

Who is covered / not covered for this ambulance service?

Property owners who pay the \$35.00 fee are covered anywhere in the jurisdiction of the MVFC ambulance service.

Residents, visitors or guests staying with the property owner who pay the \$35.00 fee are covered when the ambulance call is made to the property address.

Business owners and employees of those businesses who pay the \$35.00 fee are covered when the ambulance call is made to the business property address.

Patrons of businesses are **NOT** covered.

What does the discounted fee provide?

The discounted fee provides full coverage for ambulance service provided. MVFC always bills your insurance carrier first. Most insurance companies pay only a portion of the fee. If you have paid the ambulance fee, the MVFC will NOT bill you for any differential in cost vs. payment from your insurance company.

What percentage of the Ambulance Service's annual budget will the Town be contributing?

The annual budget for the Ambulance Service is \$1,200,000 dollars. The estimated annual amount given by the Town of Ocean View will be approximately \$78,000 dollars. This equates to 6.5% of the annual ambulance service budget.

Why should Ocean View charge this fee when the MVFC ambulance service covers Millville and unincorporated areas of the county?

The Town Council has studied the statistics of ambulance service calls made per month and the geographic areas covered. Typically the calls in Ocean View are 20% of the total calls made. That percentage rises in the busy summer months. In addition, the response to the annual solicitation for ambulance service from the Millville Volunteer Fire Company is only 30%.

If I sell my home, will I receive a refund?

No. All funds received will be turned over to the MVFC no later than October 1, 2017. At that time a list of paid property addresses will be turned over and coverage will be in place for the period July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018.

When is the fee due and what period of time does it cover?

The fee is due August 31, 2017 and covers the period July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018. Payments received after the due date will be returned and there will be no coverage for the current period. Taxpayers will have the opportunity to participate in the discounted program next year.

What if my tax bill is paid by my mortgage company?

If you escrow your taxes, the mortgage company will remit payment for the fee.