

June 7, 2022

Robert A. Ricedorf
206 Colebrook Road
Elizabethtown, Pa. 17022-9790

Pennsylvania Office of Open Records
333 Market Street
16th Floor
Harrisburg, Pa. 17120

Pennsylvania Office of Open Records Appeals Officer Lyle Hartranft and Chief Counsel:

Robert A. Ricedorf, Scott Spinda, James Atkinson, Wayne Keck, Carl Haas, and Robert E. Ricedorf are submitting a Petition of Reconsideration on this day, Tuesday, June 7, 2022, to the Pennsylvania Office of Open Records regarding the determination in the matter of Robert A. Ricedorf versus West Donegal Township Docket Number AP 2022-0711.

The Right to Know Law is to empower citizens by affording them access to information concerning the activities of their government. Further, this important open-government law is, "designed to promote access to government information in order to prohibit secrets, scrutinize the actions of public officials and make public officials accountable for their actions."

Within the attestation of the West Donegal Township Open Records Officer, the Records Officer stated that members of the West Donegal Township Fire and EMS Commission have meetings occasionally with the Rheems Fire Department to discuss operational challenges/matters and funding support. The West Donegal Township Fire and EMS Commission is an essential governmental function that has an extraordinarily poor managerial structure and has zero documentation and records of any type. Merely stating that records do not exist is not enough for an appointed sub-unit to meet its obligations. The Right-to-Know Law's directive applies to all departments, boards, commissions, committees, and councils, within government. Mindful changes are a necessity here.

Using the Right-to-Know Law description, objectives and deliverables, the West Donegal Township Fire and EMS Commission is in violation of not being accountable for proper record keeping. Where is the Records Management Policy for the West Donegal Township Fire and EMS Commission? If they do not have a Records Management Policy, please help them create one for the Right-to-Know Law. The Right-to-Know Request and Appeal does mention specific records that we requested. For example, the meeting agendas and minutes.

The citizens submitting the Petition of Reconsideration have completed dozens of "fact and accuracy checking" regarding the verbal and written interactions with the Rheems Fire Department and West Donegal Township during the last seventeen months leading-up and through the Right-to-Know Request Appeal. The citizens' fact and accuracy checking, unveiled multiple false, incorrect, imprecise, untruthful, and short telling information. The citizens' persistence to acquire information has forced honesty. The recent discovery that the West Donegal Township Fire and EMS Commission have been extremely neglectful regarding proper record keeping is the latest evidence of wrongdoing. I can remember the West Donegal Township Right-to-Know Officer telling me before we decided to submit the Right-to-Know Request that he needed to dig out or dig-up the record keeping of the West Donegal Township Fire and EMS Commission.

This is not about harassing or overburdening West Donegal Township. This Petition of Reconsideration is firmly motivated to enforce the objectives and deliverables of the Right-to-Know Law. We are going to again request a mediator. A mediator is now a necessity because we are now aware of why the West Donegal Township Fire and EMS Commission refused to have a mediator. Please feel free to use a phone as a communication method. My cell phone number is 717-725-2368. Thank you for your reconsideration because what is taking place to be in the wrong!

Respectfully submitted,
Robert A. Ricedorf