

SUMMARY of process regarding the dissolution of NWEMS, the formation of MESA, and the Borough's decision to select PSHLL as the Borough's designated EMS provider.

In April of 2022, the municipalities served by NWEMS, including Manheim Borough, were informed that NWEMS was intending to discontinue providing service at the end of 2023, with the intention of this service being replaced with a multi-municipal Authority (Municipal Emergency Services Authority of Lancaster County, or MESA). Based on this, the only options for the municipalities were to be a member municipality of MESA (which would operate similarly to water and sewer authorities in that all residents, businesses, and institutions would receive bills that would be required to be paid for the Authority's services), or to contract with MESA for their services, or to find another EMS provider since NWEMS would no longer exist.

In 2022, the multi-municipal committee leading the process for the formation of the Authority was preliminarily recommending mandated fees to be approximately \$80 per residential unit, plus fees for commercial, industrial, and institutional facilities, which would be billed directly by MESA to the property owners. It was noted that the Authority, which would be formed and begin meeting in 2023, would be the entity making final determinations on what the fees would actually be. The committee also noted that what level of service would be provided and what the financial responsibilities would be for those who would use MESA's services would be determined by the Authority, and that all of these final determinations would not be made until late summer or early fall of 2023. Borough council decided not to join MESA in the fall of 2022 after a number of public meetings and hearings were held (see above links). The borough also had the option to contract with MESA, and the preliminary estimate for contracting with MESA was \$230,000 per year.

Council reviewed proposals from LEMSA, JET, FASP, and Life Lion. At the July 25, 2023 Manheim Borough Council meeting, council voted unanimously to designate Penn State Life Lion LLC as the borough's EMS agency beginning January 1, 2024, with the official Resolution adopted at the August 8, 2023 Council meeting. Prior to this meeting, Life Lion was also selected by Penn and Rapho Townships to serve their communities (Life Lion already serves the southern half of Rapho Township). The borough will be charged \$5 per capita (slightly over \$25,000) for each of the first 3 years of the agreement, and \$7 per capita for years 4 and 5. The borough will be paying Life Lion the per capita charge, it will not be charged directly to the individual residents – this is essentially an obligated municipal contribution rather than a voluntary contribution which had been in place in the past. Also, as was the case in the past, voluntary memberships will be offered by Life Lion (please see additional information below). Life Lion will be adding a 24/7 station at the Manheim Fire Company on S Main St. This will add to the six other EMS units they current staff throughout central and northern Lancaster County.

Per agreement with Life Lion and the Fire Company, Manheim, Penn, and Rapho will be contributing \$2,000 each to the fire company specifically for this purpose in 2024.

[EMS Authority- Borough Website Posts](#)

Links for above Manheim Borough Website Posts are found below:

<https://manheimboro.org/proposed-ems-authority-information/>

<https://manheimboro.org/public-meeting-for-proposed-ems-authority-formation/>

<https://manheimboro.org/public-hearing-northwest-ems-service-area/>

<https://manheimboro.org/events/public-meeting-for-proposed-ems-authority-formation/>

<https://manheimboro.org/events/public-hearing-for-regional-ems-authority/>

[Face Book EMS related posts/notices](#)

[Fall 2022 Borough Newsletter](#) which includes EMS services information

In addition to the above, Borough Council discussed EMS provider options at numerous council meetings:

[2022 Agendas with EMS on the Agenda](#)

[2022 Minutes which include EMS](#)

[2023 Agendas with EMS on the Agenda](#)

[2023 Minutes which include EMS](#)

[All borough minutes and agendas can be found here](#)

[Municipal Emergency Services Authority of Lancaster County](#)

EXECUTED-Ground-Ambulance-agreement-Manheim-Borough-Sept-2023

<https://manheimboro.org/wp-content/uploads/EXECUTED-Ground-Ambulance-agreement-Manheim-Borough-Sept-2023.pdf>