

Town-Wide Ambulance Subscription

MILLVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY-\$50.00 DISCOUNTED AMBULANCE SUBSCRIPTION

GUIDANCE & FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Dear Ocean View Property Owner:

Early in 2016 the Millville Volunteer Fire Company (MVFC) requested the Town of Ocean View to assess \$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 subscription of \$35.00 per improved property and businesses within the Town of Ocean View starting with fiscal year 2018 tax billing.

In March of 2023, MVFC came before the Town Council requesting consideration to raise the annual amount per household from \$35.00 to \$50.00. At the April 2023 meeting, the Council approved the increase and the extension of the agreement for another three (3) years expiring April 30, 2026.

This is an annual subscription 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 an improved during the fiscal year will be included in this program with the next annual property tax billing.

Included on the property tax bill is a separate line item for \$50.00 which represents a discount from the MVFC's usual \$75.00 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 \$50.00 subscription 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 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 \$50.00 subscription are covered anywhere in the jurisdiction of the MVFC ambulance service.

Residents, visitors, or guests staying with the property owner who pay the \$50.00 subscription are covered when the ambulance call is made to the property address.

Business owners and employees of those businesses who pay the \$50.00 subscription are covered when the ambulance call is made to the business property address. Patrons of businesses are **NOT** covered.

What does the discounted subscription provide?

The discounted subscription 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 for the ambulance subscription, 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 \$107,975 dollars. This equates to 8% of the annual ambulance service budget and is designated for the Ambulance Service operating expenses.

Why should Ocean View charge for the subscription 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 14% of the total calls made. That percentage rises in the busy summer months.

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 1st of each year. At that time a list of paid property addresses will be turned over and coverage will be in place for the period October 1st– September 30th of the next year.

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

The subscription is due August 31st each year and covers the period October 1st to September 30th of the next year. 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 Ambulance Subscription.