

**For Immediate Release – County of Berks**

***Public Asked to Urge State Legislators to Support 9-1-1 Funding***

**Reading, PA— 09/14/2023** — The Berks County Commissioners are asking the public to contact their state lawmakers in Harrisburg to support a new legislation to fund the 9-1-1 system.

A 2015 law that funds 9-1-1 systems throughout the Commonwealth is set to expire in January, 2024. If that law expires without new legislation in place, counties would be forced to increase taxes to cover \$8.7 million in lost state funding.

No legislator is suggesting that the 9-1-1 system funding expire on the state level, but there is great disparity between lawmakers about how much that funding should be, any automatic increases based on the consumer price index, the formula that PEMA uses to distribute the funding, and more. If no progress is made and nothing is done, costs will fall completely onto the counties.

Director of the Berks County Department of Emergency Services, Brian Gottschall, prepared and presented a thorough look at the 9-1-1 funding legislation at the Berks County Board of Commissioners meeting on September 14. Links to the slide show and the video presentation are below.

[To download the PowerPoint presentation on the 9-1-1 funding, please click here.](#)

[To view the Board of Commissioners meeting and see Director Gottschall present to the board, please click here.](#) The funding presentation begins at the 37:35 time mark.

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