

Milton Township  
Meeting Minutes  
Synopsis  
October 13, 2014

Members present: Bargy, S. Ball, Atkinson, Cole and Pharo

Also present: Attorneys Derman, Weinzapfel, Stilson, Ball, and 16 audience members

Bargy called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and the Pledge was recited

Agenda Approval  
Agenda approved by consent

Approval of meeting minutes of Sept 8, 2014 Board meeting  
Correction: Motion to go into closed session to discuss **the purchase of real estate.**  
Correction: Motion **to proceed as discussed in closed session.**

Motion to approve the minutes as corrected by Atkinson. Seconded by S. Ball. Motion carried.

Approve meeting minutes of Sept 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Special meeting  
Motion to approve by Atkinson. Seconded by S. Ball. Motion carried.

Approve minutes from Oct. 7, 2014 Special Tri-Township Meeting  
Motion to approve by Pharo. Seconded by Atkinson. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:**

Bob Kingon: shared his concerns on current EMS contract presented. List of concerns provided. Said he recommends that the contract be strengthened to protect the township. I get the impression that MMR provided an agreement and no one negotiated the agreement. We shouldn't rush into it without trying to negotiate.

Jim McKimmy: said he is concerned with the contract with MMR as well. Milton Township should have a voice in the management. We should have representation in the agreement. I'd like your consideration to be delayed and negotiate joint overview into the management. Also, we believed that when we approved the millage that we will not have less than the service we already have.

Pam Ware: seconded Jim McKimmy's comments. Also, The Tri-Township committee recommended not rushing into anything.

Barbara Enders of Cherry Ave: She is concerned that we are agreeing to more than our fair share. Why should we pay half when we aren't using half? The board should vote to at least not pay half, but rather our fair share.

Pharo voiced his concerns. We have equal population with ER Township. Our fair share would be based on population.

**A.** One big selling point is being able to lock in the rate for five years.

**B.** MMR has a good reputation for good care.

**C.** MMR does EMS and they do it fairly well.

**D.** Liability will be lessened. They will be involved in community training and classes such as working with the fire departments and CPR classes. My conversations with administration's surveying MMR, all expressed satisfaction with the service and the level at which they are kept informed. MMR can produce reports on whatever you want.

**E.** Response times: whether the service is run by MMR, Allied, or ER, it's the same vehicle leaving the same place going to the same places. The response times shouldn't change.

**F.** My understanding is MMR does not do basic or limited, only ALS. They will have a backup ALS rig probably during the daytime, we will look outside of that. If the backup isn't available, TL or Kalkaska or North Flight will come out. This is what Mutual Aid is for. MMR will participate with mutual aid.

Bottom line, we lock in for five years. We get service that has a good reputation.

Bargy stated with regards to aforementioned comments. We went over the contract word by word and we've made a lot of changes. Today I spoke with Bill White, if this comes about, instead of both townships boards running this, he would like a subcommittee from both boards to work with MMR and report back to the Township Boards.

Derman said we have reviewed the contract word for word and it was a give and take. You have good suggestions. The contract itself is designed to let Torch Lake Township or Alden or Williamsburg join in and we can renegotiate cost at that time. We tried to keep in mind the long term goal and we tried to keep it as flexible as possible with the objective of locking in some costs because those have been going out of control. The issue of NW Control Authority will have to be resolved. The opinion of both boards is they want to get out of the ambulance business. They don't want to be involved in the day to day operations. It was beyond their expertise. The laws are changing so quickly that we just can't keep up. We have mainly part timers. Regarding performance standards, the townships will be watching this closely. Same equipment running to the same places with hopefully the same people.

Matt Holkamp from MMR: He gave a presentation and answered questions. He also discussed the backup ambulance policy. There are contingency plans in place. We have an obligation to provide one 24/7 and we want to have a backup coverage. I can't get a firm grasp of our call volume, but it does move around a lot. All those MMR ambulance folks that are out there are available to come here. The more data that we can collect and review, the more we can fine tune our service to be most efficient. If we have to look at an on call system to make this work, then we will. Sandy Ball asked if they have mutual aid agreements. We do and they should be updated. If this is approved, they will be in place by the time everything is up and running. Is there some sort of regional formula that

calculates how many rigs should be in place for our population? If you go to an ambulance management class. One call represents one unit hour. We don't work on a typical one hour unit. Ours calls are about 90 minutes. It gets harder when you reduce volume. We are a business and calls produce revenue. The volume of calls in this area wouldn't support an ALS. Do you get performance reports from NW Medical Control Authority? Not sure. Tom Cole asked if their company is a nonprofit. Cole warned not to confuse private with for profit.

T. Cole said he liked the idea regarding replacement on trucks and equipment. Because of compatibility issues, it won't cost us money to comply. We will be leasing the trucks to MMR.

Pam Weir: Early on, the emergency room physician from Munson and had a lot to say about MMR and it wasn't good for several reasons. She'd like us to pay attention to that.

A resident asked regarding what happened to Torch Lake Township in the tri township agreement. If Torch Lake comes in, will it lower our costs?

Bargy answered yes. The tri township committee worked diligently and I praise them for their work. ER Township was getting vibrations that TL didn't want to join. Torch will either join or they will run their own service or they will do their own for a couple years and then join us. The pricing we had was for three townships. Then, we got pricing for just the two townships. The more you have a regional system, the more it would benefit everyone. I don't think they are there yet. Our contract is written so we can bring other people in.

Jim McKimmy asked in regards to the timing of the bids and if the two townships needed to put out for new bids? Derman said he doesn't know how to answer this. North Flight was like Allied and they were just going to take over management. Allied was going to be cut to half because of lost contracts. We tried to make it as open as possible. This alternative was requested subsequently at the townships discretion.

Matt said there was a request for three townships. We answer and submitted a bid about 6 or 8 months ago. Since that time, there has been no movement. More recently, he was asked to put a bid together for Milton and Elk Rapids. We provided the secondary proposal that included Milton and Elk Rapids. McKimmy said you should have solicited bids being that this was over \$20K.

Public comment is closed for now.

Motion to accept the contract from MMR by Pharo Second by Cole contingent on the following.

- A. Elk Rapids township's approval of MMR's contract and the following contingencies.
- B. Ad Hoc committee formed of representatives from Milton and Elk Rapids townships to oversee services.

- C. Mutual Aid agreements must be updated and in place before MMR's service begins.
- D. Attorney Derman's report of the timing and legality for the second bid submitted by MMR for the two townships.

Discussion: Cole asked regarding the legality of the bids. The original bid was the lowest from MMR, and it was the company everyone was leaning toward, so it was a revision of the bid. Is there something that would require them to go out and request bids? The bid process was contingent on the bids presented?

Derman will check on the legalities of the bid process. Atkinson said that provided that we create an ad hoc committee to monitor the situation would be in the best interest of the township. Cole said we are always getting comments or questions. I've not seen anything factual regarding MMR having a lack of service or that we are rushing to a conclusion. This has been a two year process. There are no guarantees, but after two years we are doing what we feel is the right thing to do.

Motion carried. 5-0

Tom Vranich: Milton 150 Year History Book

Vranich discussed his proposal. S. Ball said if we don't get enough money for the pre-sale, it could die there because we can't spend township money on this. Bary said there are many township families that are really looking forward to this. The only commitment you will have is to file the registrations and Jackie's time.

MCL 399.161, historical interest: Historical interest permits the township board to raise and appropriate the money for the purpose of historical interest of the township. S. Ball will call Tobin to verify.

### **Sheriff's Report**

As presented by Bary:

Many 911 checks this month. 9 traffic stops. 97 total calls for service.

### **Fire Report**

As presented by Ball

Seven runs for September.

Updates on the following:

- a. The Nox Box program
- b. Truck repairs
- c. Truck committee
- d. Open House for Halloween
- e. Update on training.

### **Zoning Report**

As presented by Weinzapfel

No meeting this month. Working with Tip of the Mitt for road end access improvements. Also received a letter from Weathertop regarding our back up septic system lot. They are having issues with people using dirt bikes up there on our property. No trespassing signs will be erected.

Bargy discussed a paving issue at Indian where the homeowner paved into the access. Weinzapfel said he is aware of this.

**Ambulance Report**

As presented by Weinzapfel  
No report

**Planning Commission Report**

As presented by Weinzapfel  
Will meet tomorrow discussing master plan review and maps.

**Attorney's Report**

As presented by Derman:  
A. Update on Farmland Preservation.  
B. Update on cell tower on township property. It's been requested to extend this 20 years.

Cole asked regarding if that road end accesses in our township were turned over to us from the county? We need to document our ownership.

**Supervisor's Report**

As presented by Bargy  
Nothing to report

**Public Comment**

Tricia Pearlman of Elk Rapids Township  
Could you share with me the four contingencies for the MMR contract?

**Approval of Bills**

Motion to approve the bills by Atkinson. Seconded by S. Ball. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned by order of the chair at 9:05 pm.

These minutes are subject to Township Board approval at the November 10, 2014 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Ball  
Milton Township Clerk

