

Special Meeting
April 23, 2014
6:00 p.m.

Present; Bargy, Pharo, Cole, Atkinson Absent; Ball
Also Present; Elk Rapid Township Board Members; Amos, Boisvert, Isenhart, Szymanski, White
Torch Lake Township Board Members; Goossen, Martel, Shultz, Windiate.
Township Attorney, Derman, Weinzapfel and approx. 50 in the audience.

Bargy discussed the increased costs for providing EMS. Bargy stated that Milton Township is dedicated in working with Elk Rapids Township in providing EMS services. The question is whether Torch Lake Township will join Elk Rapids & Milton Township in working together to provide the services to all three townships.

Shultz of Torch Lake Township stated Mancelona/Central Lake area currently combines 9 townships for their service area with cost sharing equal to the projected costs for Torch Lake, Milton & Elk Rapids Townships.

Bargy stated that the cost for Torch Lake Township would be cheaper for them to cost share with Elk Rapids and Milton, also noting that the level of service would increase to an ALS unit rather than their current BLS unit.

Shultz also read excerpts from a 2008 Torch Lake Township Executive Summary Report, authored by various Torch Lake residents that are very knowledgeable in EMS, that stated the future goal should be to combine services with neighboring communities.

Bargy stated Milton Township will be asking voters to levy up to 1 mill this year in order to meet the increased costs.

Windiate of Torch Lake Township questioned whether Torch Lake should combine services.

Pharo stated Milton will stay with Elk Rapids Township even though it will cost Milton more than past years, but will still be more affordable than going alone to provide the same level of service. Torch Lake stands to gain the most with increased service at less cost.

Goossen of Torch Lake Township stated it would benefit the Township to combine services and asked if there is any additional information regarding the bids that should be discussed.

Amos of Torch Lake Township mentioned his findings of Ambulance/Medical Personnel need to have 8-10 runs per day in order to stay up to date.

Boisvert of Elk Rapids Township stated that current EMS staff receive no benefits.

Bargy discussed the possibility of combining Fire Departments due to increasing costs and the dwindling volunteer base.

Pharo stated when that day comes, preference is for separate authorities in order to keep completely separate records and not commingle the two with regard to financial statements.

Boisvert stated in doing 2 authorities, it would require creating 2 separate boards and meetings.

Pharo stated that would be a good thing.

Discussions around forming a committee with each township appointing a board member and 1 citizen to review, in depth, the various bids for providing services to all three townships, and bring back to the Boards a firm recommendation, with the expected results; Q & A's with graphs to use by Township Boards and the public. Szymanski suggested using an outside consultant with the committee.

Motion by Shultz that all 3 Townships work together in providing Emergency Medical Services to residents. Seconded by D. Amos

Motion by Bargy to form committee's made up of 2 people from each township, with committee's reporting back to the Township Boards by May 27th, 2014 with a recommendation.

Seconded by Goossen.

Milton Township will request Sandy Ball and Mary Hoadley to sit on committee.
Torch Lake Township appointed Sharon Shultz and Char Lundy. Both agreed.
Elk Rapids Township undecided.

Meeting Adjourned 8:00 p.m.

Minutes by Liz Atkinson