

Emergency Services Committee Minutes
April 27, 2010

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Boyd.

Present: Boyd, MacLean, Goss, Miller, Blakeslee, Galligan, Kuncaitis, 1 member of the audience.

Absent: Stewart, Emerson.

Minutes of April 14, 2010 were accepted as presented.

Boyd informed the Committee that the Township Board had requested a joint meeting with them to discuss their findings to date as they consider a Fire Board.

Miller stated that an overview of the runs for the last five years including the number of times two ambulances were needed would be helpful information to include. Meyers was directed to collect this information.

Meyers was also directed to secure from the fire chief a definitive cost of a new ambulance.

It was the consensus of the Committee to add to the additional findings section of the report appendix the fact that the Committee doesn't think ALS should be a consideration at this time.

Galligan said that per the agreement with Rural Fire, it appears that Rural serves as the Fire Board and that they have failed in providing a functioning fire board.

It was the consensus of the committee that the Township does not have the ability to create a fire board as one already exists through Rural Fire.

The Committee discussed the possibility of combining our EMS and Battalion 3's oversight to a Emergency Services Committee.

Discussion took place over what may or may not be returned to us if we leave.

Boyd inquired about what other Battalions do to supplement themselves equipment-wise.

Kuncaitis stated that if all Townships are doubling their commitment already (i.e. $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mill plus its equivalent in supplemental equipment) that maybe we should all consider giving 1.5 mills to Rural and stay out of the fire business.

There were concerns amongst the members that the Township Board is approving certain purchases that may have been able to go through Rural.

Blakeslee stated that it might just be easier to get the equipment through the Board than Rural.

Discussion took place that before a fire purchase goes before the Board, it should be accompanied with a denial from Rural.

It was determined that the report to the Board would consist of a one page executive summary plus an addendum (that would include the modified summary presented for discussion tonight) and that Rod Kuncaitis would present on behalf of the Committee.

Motion by MacLean, supported by Blakeslee to recommend to the Township Board that values be placed on Battalion 3 equipment and assets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Motion by Blakeslee, supported by Boyd to recommend that the Township Board establish a complete job description including oversight and expectations for the fire chief. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Motion by Miller, supported by Blakeslee to recommend to the Township Board that the Township Board and Fire Department begin a public relations campaign to improve the image for the community and improve communications. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Executive Summary to be designed as follows:

1) What Services are needed?

Listed in order of importance –

Ambulance

Fire

Police

Motion by Goss, supported by Kuncaitis to recommend that the Township Board purchase a new ambulance and create an 8-year depreciation schedule to purchase a new ambulance at the end of the depreciation schedule. This will allow for the current ambulance to be used as a backup. The intent is to establish a set rotation schedule to maintain two ambulances within the Township. **Motion carried unanimously.**

2) What Affiliations should be utilized?

Plan A – Attempt to patch the holes of Rural

Plan B – Enter into negotiations with the Band

Motion by Kuncaitis, supported by Galligan to recommend to the Township Board that the Emergency Services Committee investigate a joint venture between Whitewater Township and the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. **Motion carried unanimously.**

3) What facilities are needed?

This issue cannot be addressed until affiliation has been determined.

- 4) Based on the research to date, the Committee offers the following:
1. Create a Dispute Resolution Committee per the contract with Rural Fire to address the shortfalls.
 2. Determine Funding Options in conjunction with legal counsel. Motion by Kuncaitus, supported by Blakeslee to recommend to the Township Board that a legal opinion be provided on Emergency Services Funding – both Millage and SAD. **Motion carried unanimously.**
 3. Revive the Fire Auxilliary. Motion by Kuncaitus, supported by MacLean to recommend that the Township Board investigate the viability and usage of the Fire Department Auxiliary. **Motion carried unanimously.**
 4. Determine value of equipment owned by Rural. Motion by MacLean, supported by Blakeslee to recommend to the Township Board that values be placed on Battalion 3 equipment and assets. **Motion carried unanimously.**
 5. Prepare a job description for the fire chief. Motion by Blakeslee, supported by Boyd to recommend that the Township Board establish a complete job description including oversight and expectations for the fire chief. **Motion carried unanimously.**
 6. Set up joint meetings with neighboring municipalities to share assets and discuss mutual aid. Motion by Kuncaitus, supported by MacLean to recommend that the Township Board facilitate a joint meeting/open house of the area emergency services agencies to share the capabilities of each agency with one another. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Next meeting – May 11, 2010 – joint meeting with the Township Board.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.