

Emergency Services Committee
Minutes
July 12, 2010

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

Present: Blakeslee, Kuncaitis, MacLean, Galligan, Emerson and 3 members of the public.

Absent: Miller, Stewart and Goss.

Boyd stated that the Township has purchased a new ambulance. There will now be too many vehicles for the existing facility. The purpose of this meeting is to look at options. The Board is considering a storage facility of some type. The questions then become how big, where to locate and what type – strictly storage or the starting point for a new station.

Boyd added that he has been in contact with Armstrong General Steel, Morton Buildings and Peninsula Construction, representing Butler Buildings. The only commonality between the contacts for pricing is that a 40 x 60 foot building was considered.

The current building is 80 x 40.

Considerations for storage include brush truck, snowmobile trailer, Kubota trailer and the ladder truck.

Emerson stated that the Township needs the ladder truck located here. The ladder truck is 42' long, the snowmobile trailer is 30', brush truck is 20' and the Kubota trailer is 22'.

Blakeslee asked that if a separate off-site storage facility is constructed, what would happen to the function of emergency services. Can they operate out of two facilities?

Emerson responded that the original plan was to have a emergency services building and a storage building.

Boyd stated that he is struggling with the fact that a storage building will cost about \$150K. He feels that constructing an expandable building for emergency services for now and into the future makes more economical sense.

Galligan agrees it can be done efficiently, architecturally and not look like an afterthought.

Halstead, from the audience, asked if the Township had considered renting space in the interim.

Boyd said that yes the Board had. Most of the buildings researched were either inadequate based on condition or size, or too expensive.

Kuncaitis understands that we need additional space due to the new ambulance being delivered soon. He added that now the ladder truck appears to be an issue. Since it hasn't been in the past, what is the pressure now to house it within the Township?

Galligan asked if we really needed a ladder truck.

Emerson responded that at this immediate time, no. We do however, need a place for the brush truck, Kubota and snowmobile trailer. EMS would like to keep the two ambulances together. Adequate storage is needed.

Boyd explained the figures that had been secured:

- Morton Building - \$52,718 is for a pole structure with laminated wood beams. This type of structure has a shelf life of about 30 years. While the price includes setup, many items are not included such as a suitable floor system.
- Armstrong US Steel - \$16,322 is of a steel package: four walls and roof delivered to the site – no doors, floor or assembly.
- Butler sells the finished product through Peninsula Construction - \$145,858. This includes 2 - 12' overhead doors, an entry door, floor, site prep, permits, etc.

It must be noted that the costs cannot be used for comparison sake as they do not compare apples to apples. The only commonality is that all three buildings are 40 x 60.

Kuncaitis stated that the public perception of this is that the Township purchased an ambulance so we could force feed the public on a new emergency services building.

Boyd added that this is something that the Board and Committee will have to deal with as it was the unanimous decision of the Emergency Services Committee to buy a new ambulance as it was needed.

MacLean said that the Committee is "stuck" as we cannot deal with the Tribe, Rural Fire and the like.

Galligan stated that the timeframe to build a 40 x 60 building would take at least 90 days for permitting and staging and another 90 days for construction as this structure, whether storage or not will be considered "commercial" in the eyes of the construction codes office. Therefore, we need a temporary solution for the present.

Kuncaitis asked if it might be appropriate to build a small storage building on the park property.

Boyd added that if we are looking strictly at a storage building then a wood pole structure wouldn't be out of consideration.

Halstead, from the audience, asked if a standard three-car garage would work. Boyd responded that 12' overhead doors would be needed.

Blakeslee stated that it is difficult to come up with an answer as there are still too many unanswered questions – How can the tribe help? Are we staying with Rural? What is the budget?

Several members of the Committee feel that the Burleson site could be a great location for a storage facility.

Kuncaitis asked for an update on the previous recommendations given to the Township Board in May.

Galligan stressed that if a building is to be placed on the Cram Road site, it should be done correctly.

The Committee concurred and further stated that we need to bide some time until answers to as many questions as possible can be compiled.

Emerson suggested that bids should be secured for removal of the Burleson house.

The Site Visit to the Elk Lake/Cram Road site was removed from the agenda.

Boyd stated that he would like to request to the Township Board that the Emergency Services Committee be converted into a Steering Committee for the future plans for Emergency Services. He is asking that members consider staying through the conversion.

Kuncaitis feels that the Committee actually accomplished a lot, including an education into Emergency Services. Maybe it would be appropriate for the Supervisor to update the Committee at their next meeting as to what has been accomplished thus far and a better direction for what is next.

It was the consensus of the Committee that the Township Board look into a short term rental for the minimum amount of equipment and begin a more formalized approach for the long-term.

Next meeting - TBD.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Leslie Meyers