

**YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Special Informational Meeting with
Dr. Lynn Harvey
Fire/Emergency Services Contract Renewal
Tuesday, July 15, 2014
Yankee Springs Fire Station
1425 South Payne Lake Rd., Wayland, Michigan 49333**

**Circulated 8/8/2014
FINAL MINUTES
Approved 8/14/2014**

MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM by Supervisor Mark Englerth.

Roll Call: Board of Trustees: Present: Jerkatis, J. Lippert, M. Englerth, Rottschafer, Campbell.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Staff: Alice Jansma

TTES: Mike Bremer, David Middleton, Fire Chief

Guest: Dr. Lynn Harvey, of Holt (near Lansing)

Visitors: 6 (not including staff present)

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS:

Dr. Lynn Harvey was introduced and his proposal was distributed and reviewed.

DISCUSSION:

Dr. Harvey commented on the lack of representation of Yankee Springs Township on the Emergency Services Board and he couldn't imagine not recommending this. Also, he commented that a cost-related or weighted formula was being used and that it has been modified from what was originally suggested years ago. SEV needs to be adjusted for farmland and open space and the usage principle is equating every fire run as using the same amount of resources. The other factor involved besides SEV and usage is population.

The components of usage is the number of: vehicles that are dispatched, hours that workers are there (location of emergency/fire) and people that are on the scene. Units of service can be figured from using the cross-product of these three components. This may mean more bookkeeping, but it is standard data that is used by the Chief. This gives some modification to the heavy demand on emergency medical runs that consume usually 80% of most of the activity around the state.

Cost recovery and the ordinance was discussed. It was noted that immediate billing should take place and firm back up/possibly having a lawyer send a letter for payment needs to be used for collection purposes.

Also brought up was Hazardous Material situations: **Structural value** of buildings in Y.S. could be obtained from BS & A software.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS

DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION cont'd:

Two thirds of Yankee Springs is state game land and the DNR has fire service.
Was this land considered in the coverage of the fire contract is in question.

Treasurer Jerkatis asked Dr. Harvey if there was any state publication in pamphlet form to use as a guideline for volunteer firemen or certification. Dr. Harvey commented that he could obtain this information.

6:30 p.m. Fire Chief David Middleton entered the meeting.

There were no further comments or questions from the Board of Trustees at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mary Cook, former Trustee, commented on the exceptionally low ISO rating of Yankee Springs which lowers insurance costs for citizens. M. Cook asked what the approximate cost would be to train a fire fighter and would it be worth it for the board to set a goal to train a certain number of individuals.

Jan Lippert, Clerk commented installation of dry fire hydrants helped with the ISO rating.

David Middleton, Fire Chief, commented that the fire station helps with ISO ratings as well, citing the correlation between ISO ratings and the distance a resident or business is from the fire station. Middleton also commented that he will be having a meeting with an ISO representative this month to help improve ISO ratings. Middleton also mentioned mutual aid agreements with local departments.

Kent Schaeffer, retired YS firefighter, commented that he liked the recommendations of Dr. Harvey.

Mike Wierenga, full-time Grand Rapids police officer and former firefighter, as well as trainer (police, fire, EMS topics), commented of the problem of people not wanting to be a firefighter anymore. Wierenga commented that this is not only a local problem, but a state and national problem as well. Wierenga added that there is no quick, easy, fix for this. "Recruitment will be an uphill battle," added Wierenga. Wierenga commented on always knowing that someone from Middleville would be on call, even if no one else responded, especially during a daytime emergency. Dr. Harvey asked about a cadet program being available. M. Wierenga mentioned education at middle and high school levels. "It is hard to get good people and keep good people," stated M. Wierenga.

David Middleton commented on adding three people and they do not live in Yankee Springs Township. Middleton commented that a lot of people are not interested when they find out the Fire Academy is held every Saturday from October through May.

At 6:47 p.m., Mike Bremer left the meeting to attend a different meeting.

DISCUSSION cont'd

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Englerth, Supervisor summarized the comment time, and added that getting volunteers was a huge issue. Englerth commented that the issue needs to be dealt with, but things still have to move forward. We're looking at response time, budgeting, equipment, and how we think the grievance should be.

PUBLIC COMMENT

cont'd

John Jerkatis, Treasurer, asked if this is something the board will decide, or Thornapple Township. Jerkatis felt that the mutual understandings of each entity's needs and cost-sharing has made for successful fire service to date. Jerkatis doesn't want this to go into an adversarial situation. Jerkatis would welcome an approval for Dr. Harvey's work, but doesn't think the people of Yankee Springs Township should take this on solely by themselves. Jerkatis would like to have further discussion with Thornapple Township to see if they'd be willing to share in that with us (Y.S. Twp.).

J. Lippert, Clerk, commented if a public hearing was needed for representation on the Emergency Services Board with Thornapple Township. Dr. Harvey felt it was an ordinance clause.

D. Middleton, Fire Chief, there was previously opportunity for supervisors of Yankee Springs to be involved.

M. Englerth, Supervisor, commented that he has not been offered an opportunity to come to the meetings.

B. Campbell, Trustee, commented that he would keep listening and move forward.

Dr. Harvey, commented that representation needs to be codified. He felt that the board should talk amongst themselves and that the two supervisors should get together. Harvey is looking at a one month turnaround if he gets going on this project next week.

Roger Rottschafer, Trustee commented that the maintenance of equipment could be added to the third paragraph of Dr. Harvey's proposal.

Dr. Harvey referred to pump testing as an example for clarification. (a YS Twp. responsibility).

Dave Middleton commented that in the past, responsibility for scheduling was with TTES, and the township is responsible for the cost.

John Jerkatis, Treasurer, commented that there has been a partnership a long time between Yankee Springs and Thornapple Township. It has been mutually beneficial and reiterated that he doesn't want this to be confrontational, adversarial or detrimental to the fire protection service of anyone in Yankee Springs or Thornapple Township.

Public Comment Summary and Motion:

Englerth agreed with Jerkatis, put also pointed out that they still wanted to move forward and give Thornapple Township an opportunity to cost share in this. Englerth added that a very big piece of this is fact finding, such as how are the ratios working, how is the math working, how is the response time, etc. Englerth added, "We have an obligation to our community that we serve, to provide safety as we committed. So how do we do that? We are asking a professional."

Motion by Jerkatis with support from Rottschafer to send communication to Thornapple Township inviting them to cost share in Dr. Harvey's proposal for review of the situation, and for investigation of the related issues and recommendation sent out and proceed forward with a response requested within five business days period, to proceed either way. ROLL CALL: Jerkatis: yes, Lippert: yes, Englerth: yes, Rottschafer: yes, Campbell: yes. All yes. MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion occurred on results of a possible delay in waiting for a response for Thornapple Township.

Prior to the Roll Call vote:

Ross DeMaagd, of Thornapple Township, and a board member, commented about the timing of the five business day response period and the scheduled Thornapple Township monthly meeting. R. DeMaagd commented that Thornapple Township previously footed the bill completely for Dr. Harvey's work and that DeMaagd thinks that Thornapple Township was reasonably pleased with the offer for services. DeMaagd commented that it was not their gripe, persay, but there may be some willingness to share in the cost.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:10 p.m., J. Lippert motioned to adjourn with support from Jerkatis. Approved by all.

Respectfully submitted: Approved Date: August 14, 2014

Deb Mousseau
Recording Secretary
7-17-14

Signed: _____
Janice C. Lippert, Clerk

Public Comment Summary and Motion

Motion to contact Thornapple Township regarding cost sharing in Dr. Harvey's proposal, and to proceed either way. MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

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