

THE WOODVILLE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE'S REGULAR MEETING - April 17, 2019

This regular meeting of the Woodville Township Trustees was held on April 17, 2019. Those in attendance: Trustees: Chairman Paul Runion and Ken Green, Fiscal Officer Lori Kepus, Zoning Inspector Steve Michaelis, Road Supervisor Jim Busdiecker, Fire Chief Bill Andrews, Assistant Fire Chief Dave Miller. Trustee Bill Hammer was on vacation.

Others in attendance: Firefighters (all left at 9 pm) Ben Berfield, Ben Brien, Mike Brzeczec, Mat Depner, Robert Goeller, Paul Heineman, Joe Kopp, Evan Kruse, John Kruse, Shannyn Miller, Matt Reardon, Paul Ward, EMS Personnel Jeff Herman and his wife Theresa, Tim Toflinski, Denny Dendinger, and Mike Tuttamore, Village and Township Residents: Jessica Schumacher, Tom Reineck, Verna Konesky, Karen Schepman, Dan Liskai, Larry Dean, Jan Busdeker, Patrick Dunn, Gail Lutman, Ron Miltz, Bill Rowles and Bob Schroeder.

Other village residents present and stayed until 9:30 pm - Alice Fork, Bonnie Obermyer, Barb Schnitker, Gloria Paul, Linda Andrews, Barb Liskai and her daughter. Blair Caldwell, a reporter from WTOL 11 News was also present to cover the meeting and left at 9 pm.

Chairman Runion called the meeting to order at 7 pm and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those in attendance were given a copy of the final three options up for consideration by the trustees to provide EMS service in Woodville Township.

Option 1: Township-based EMS system

There will be 24/7 two-person EMS coverage based out of the Woodville fire station. Running your own system would require the township to organize the EMS department with a new EMS director, hire the paramedics, pay their salaries and benefits, provide all medical supplies and equipment needed, ambulances, and pay for all repair and maintenance costs, fuel, training and continuing education of the medics. The township would need to hold all necessary medical licenses, provide for a medical director, billing, and scheduling of staff.

All needs of this system would be paid for through the current EMS levy which generates \$430,000 a year. There would also be revenue earned from insurance reimbursements for transports which historically have been around \$89,000 a year. If residents need to use this service, they will be "soft-billed" which means that your insurance will be billed, but you will not be responsible to pay the balance due. In the near future, a back-up squad will need to be purchased and the current ambulance will need to be replaced within the next 3 years. If the squad is out of the area, mutual aid would be provided by the county's Gibsonburg unit, or the closest squad available and vice versa; if they need mutual aid the Woodville squad is available to assist. **The estimated cost of this package is at a minimum \$510,000 per year plus the projected start-up cost of \$48,000.**

Option 2: The Sandusky County EMS system

There will be 24/7 two-person EMS coverage based out of the Woodville fire station. The county will provide for the vehicle, all medical supplies and equipment, all repair and maintenance costs, training and continuing education of the medics. Sandusky County EMS will take full responsibility of all EMS personnel costs and benefits, maintenance of the squad, replacement of the squad when required, fuel, a second backup ambulance, and all living quarter expenses of the EMS personnel at the Woodville station. The county will hold all medical licenses needed, provide for a medical director, billing, and scheduling of staff.

All needs of this system would be paid for through an EMS levy. The current levy would be reduced to collect only the amount of money needed to run the system. Revenue earned from insurance reimbursements for transports would go to the county. If residents need to use this service, they will be "soft-billed" which means that your insurance will be billed, but you will not be responsible to pay the balance due. If the squad is out of the area, mutual aid would be provided by the county's Gibsonburg unit, or the closest squad available and vice versa; if they need mutual aid the Woodville squad is available to assist. **The cost for this package is \$250,000 per year.**

For both options above, Woodville Township will purchase a new 1st responder squad to be housed at the fire station that will be available 24/7 to respond when the main squad is on a run. This vehicle will be fully equipped with advanced life-saving equipment. It will allow for a certified firefighter/EMT to get to the patient quickly to initiate treatment until a paramedic arrives. It will not be a transport unit.

Option 3: Mercy Health LifeStar

There will be 24/7 two-person EMS coverage based out of the Woodville fire station. There would also be an echo unit staffed by a paramedic supervisor 12 hours of each day, so there would be 3 medic coverage during the day. The supervisor would maintain staffing, compliance, and provide extra support when needed. The township would be responsible for all costs of the ambulance, repair and maintenance costs, fuel, and all living quarter expenses for the medics.

All needs of this system would be paid for through an EMS levy. Revenue earned from insurance reimbursements for transports would go to LifeStar. Residents will not be "soft-billed." They will be responsible for the entire costs of using this service. **The cost for this manpower only coverage is \$750,000 per year.**

EMS – Trustee Runion began by stating the trustees are currently weighing the pros and cons of a county-run versus a township-run EMS system. The Trustees agreed that the Mercy LifeStar proposal was way too expensive and would be taken out of consideration. Trustee Runion gave a history of what has transpired since the levy passed in May, 2018. North Central notified the township on October 29, 2018 that they would be leaving Woodville Township this year as they wanted to get back to their core service area that feeds into the Fisher Titus Hospital system in Norwalk. At the next public meeting on November 7, 2018, everyone was informed.

Trustee Runion said that the Trustees have not made any decisions and will not take any action tonight. In an effort to be open and transparent, the Trustees are continuing to seek input from the public. Trustee Hammer is on vacation, but has asked us to record the comments during the EMS section of this meeting so he can listen to all of the questions and concerns from the public on his own time and then be ready to talk about this situation at the next Trustee's meeting.

Trustee Runion said he understands that the biggest concern expressed from those he has spoken with and from what has been said at past Trustee's meetings is people are concerned about the EMS response time if we were

to go with the county program. The trustees promised to take all questions and concerns to the county commissioners and get answers.

Most firemen wanted the county's proposal to be taken out of consideration because they continually stated that that proposal was not in writing. Trustee Green went over the items in the county's proposal again, but those in the audience were not satisfied as the proposal was not on paper, only in a PowerPoint presentation.

The Trustees stated that the county made a proposal on paper to the township two years ago in the form of approximately 40 questions and answers as to what would be offered to the township and the fire department was aware of this document. The county is proposing the same thing they were two years ago: 24/7 two-person coverage based out of the Woodville Township Fire Station at a cost of \$250,000. It was agreed to have copies of this information available to the public at the next trustee's meeting along with answers to their current questions. Trustee Runion again stated that they have done NO formal negotiations with the county.

There were concerns stated that the public knew nothing about this. The trustees apologized for this stating there is not a lot of avenues anymore to get news out. We don't have a regular newsletter nor a newspaper that goes to many of people in Woodville Township. The Trustees are going to have to make a hard decision.

Firefighter Matt Reardon read a letter prepared by Brandon Westerman, Chairman of the township-based EMS proposal committee, stating his frustration with the process of selecting a new EMS provider for the township. His proposal was to provide the same coverage as we are accustomed to utilizing the existing levy, and it covered detailed administrative needs, logistic needs, legal aspects, and other important information. Our goal is to continue to serve the community at the level we have been accustomed to and enhance the services without costing more money to citizens. The trustee's other realistic option is to utilize the county EMS system at a cost of \$250,000 to be reviewed annually. The county EMS is a highly qualified organization and they excel at what they are doing, but I'm concerned as to why this deal is not good for us. "The administration should be working on solutions to ensure the taxpayers are still covered during the outside responses instead of accepting it as a flaw in the system. The letter said the Trustees have been hands-off on the approach of a township system from the beginning"

Trustee Runion stated that the trustees have NEVER disavowed that Brandon has a great deal of knowledge and has done a great job in preparing the proposal. He said that he believes that EVERYONE is here tonight for the right reasons. Brandon acknowledged in his letter that his proposal was an estimate of the costs it will take to run an EMS system, but that number is going to use up every penny of the budget and then some. This is new territory for all us. Woodville has never run their own department. Woodville Township has always had a contract provider to run their EMS program.

Trustee Runion stated that we are all proponents of the fire department. We are paying them for runs and training trying to boost their morale and get new firefighters. Every department he spoke with all started their own service on a volunteer or a part-time basis, but Brandon was against that. Those departments started out that way because they did not have the option of going with their county service, as they don't have county service available in Wood and Ottawa County. Brandon did show Runion a proposal with part-time workers, but those numbers were also very expensive and while you are saving in benefit costs, it becomes a management nightmare staffing your station, and you are paying more on the administrative side. To add another thing on is going to be another hard hurdle for the fire department.

Trustee Runion continued by saying that the EMS is not going to stay the way it is like everyone would like it too. North Central is going away. No matter who we go with it is going to be all new. Woodville Township has never managed an EMS. What is good for the tax-payers? My biggest concern also is that the squad will be pulled out too much, but I don't think mutual aid is going to increase by 50% as was stated by a fireman. Some stated they just don't trust the county. Trustee Runion stated you want to trust everyone and the only way to do this is to hold them accountable.

One resident said I don't know who's coming, I just want to know someone is coming. My concern is the response time. I just want someone to be there quick. Another resident asked if some plan could be worked out to provide services collaboratively with area departments? The Trustees said a Fire / EMS district could be a possibility, but there is no time to explore nor implement any of those options as North Central is leaving this year. Another firefighter stated I think the fire department should run this EMS system. I think it should be subsidized with money by the county as that's only fair.

One of the EMS personnel stated that he has worked for many of the organizations Trustee Runion has contacted and said you've gotten very high recommendations and are well respected by the townships you've contacted. I can verify you've done your homework and you have been around and you've asked all the right questions.

More firemen commented...If you decide to go with the county, just drop our property tax levy and let the county move in and operate under their current budget. They had a \$2 million surplus last year. EMS is only provided in certain areas of the county and that is not fair to any of us.

The Trustees stated this is a deal breaker with the county. The county will not put a squad in Woodville without financial assistance. If Woodville would not contract with any provider for EMS service, the county would provide service to Woodville, but it would possibly be based out of one of their current stations, most likely Gibsonburg.

After listening to comments and concerns from the audience over a two hour period, everyone gave thanks and applause for our firefighters and then moved on to the next item of business. Most in the audience left the meeting at this time.

In other EMS news, Chief Andrews reported that Paramedic Tim Toflinski donated a counter top for the kitchen. They are trying to find someone who can install it.

ZONING – Zoning Inspector Steve Michaelis presented two approved zoning permits: **Marc & Marcy Skirvin**, 517 Port Clinton Road (CR 117), Woodville, for an inground pool (the \$30 permit fee was paid); and **Frank Sirse** (Monroeville) for a 64' x 52' new home and a pole barn to be built at 585 Port Clinton Road (CR 117), Woodville. The permit fee of \$100 for the home and \$50 for the pole barn was paid.

The Zoning Commission held a public hearing on April 10 to hear a request to rezone parcels of land on Lime Road from Agriculture to Quarry owned by David & Maria Linke (165 acres) and Howard Camper, Trustee (123 acres). The Zoning Commission, by motion at their March 13, 2019 meeting, also proposed to make an amendment to the zoning resolution to change five parcels on Lime Road from Agriculture to Quarry, six parcels from Agriculture to Heavy Industrial, and one parcel from Heavy Industrial to Quarry. These parcels are owned by Martin Marietta. The proposed changes would resolve a concern of the creation of spot zoning if the redistricting of the Linke and Camper parcels are approved. The Zoning Commission will discuss these issues at their regular

May 8 meeting and then make their recommendation to the Township Trustees. The Trustees will hold a second public hearing in June to hear further comments and concerns from the public before making a final determination.

A letter of zoning violations will be prepared by Mr. Michaelis and be sent to Mr. Bobby Wilson, 4896 US 20, Woodville, stating he must clean up his property.

It was reported that Karen Powell, 2505 N. TR 42, Gibsonburg, did contact a trailer removal company (Trailer Trash) and they told her they did not remove trailers of the size she had.

Steve also spoke to Scott Gentry, 1238 W. Main Street, Woodville, and explained that he cannot continually have parked cars in the front of his residence from his side business. The variance he obtained stated the vehicles need to be parked behind the barn.

First Energy would like to put a control building at the substation on SR 582. Since it is a utility, they do not need a permit to do this, but Steve suggested that they submit one.

CEMETERY – Sexton Jim Busdiecker stated that the seasonal workers (Wayne Sandrock and Dave Busdiecker) are back and did the first mow of the season at Westwood and some of the footers have been dug. He did order a new port-a-john from Satellite. They also cut down all of the trees that were growing over a storage building at the Woodville Cemetery on Lime Road.

The Trustees signed a cemetery deed for one plot for Mary Beam, Gibsonburg.

ROADS – Supervisor Jim Busdiecker reported that the county engineer's office sized the culvert pipe and catch basins in anticipation of replacing a crossover on Borcharding Road between the Johlin and Churchill properties. He has requested a quote from Spoerr Precast Concrete for the catch basins. He said the county recommended that the landowners hire a contractor to do the work and then bill the township for the township's portion of the project.

Jim stated he took a chain saw into Willie's in Fremont for repair, but they told him there was a lot wrong and it would be less expensive to just purchase a new one. Trustee Green made a motion to purchase a new chain saw up to \$350. Trustee Runion seconded. All present answered yes to roll call. Motion passed.

Busdiecker said Trustee Hammer attended the Village of Woodville council meeting on April 8 and invited them to participate with the township in the ODOT Sign Grant program. Since the village is in the township, the village can also submit a request for signs in this grant along with the township's submission. The grant offers 100% reimbursement for road signs, hardware, posts, etc. excluding labor costs.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – Chief Andrews stated that Finley Fire was out to look at an issue they were having with their new Hurst Jaws unit and Finley suggested purchasing a maintenance plan so he went ahead and signed up to have the tools serviced. They have three Jaws units. The cost was \$795 to cover maintenance on the cutter, spreader, and ram.

- New recruit Ben Berfield will begin the basic firefighting course at Vanguard on April 27.
- The lightbar on the roof of X-5 (the grass truck) is not working and will be taken to WW Williams.
- The winch cable on R-1 (the heavy rescue truck) has kinks in it.
- There is a pipeline emergency response class on April 23 at Castaway Bay in Sandusky presented by Paradigm.
- Benders continues to work on the siren uptown. It needs two new batteries.
- Now that pancake breakfast season is over, the kitchen was professionally cleaned by Cousino Harris.
- Chief Andrews will be on vacation May 4 – 11 and Assistant Chief Dave Miller will be on vacation May 12 – 19.
- The department officers continue to work on the department's employee handbook and Standard Operating Guidelines. The department continues to work on a list of inventory of all firefighting equipment for insurance purposes.

During one of the department's recent trainings, Sergeant Eric Arquette from the Sandusky County Sheriff's Office trained the members on the Project LifeSaver program. The program's motto is "Bringing Loved Ones Home." Currently one person in the township is using this service, and they hope to spread the word and get more involved. Project Lifesaver is a search and rescue program operated by public safety agencies, and is strategically designed for "at risk" individuals who are prone to the life threatening behavior of wandering. The primary mission of Project Lifesaver is to provide timely response to save lives and reduce potential injury for adults and children with the propensity to wander due to a cognitive condition.

Kepus presented an overview of the compensation program for runs and training made by the firefighters for the 1st Quarter, 2019. Trustee Green made a motion to approve the payment of \$8,187.50 to be direct deposited on April 24 for the Firefighters' 1st Quarter, 2019 compensation package for runs and training. Trustee Runion seconded. All present answered yes to roll call. Motion passed.

FISCAL OFFICER – Trustee Green made a motion to allow the following transfers to appropriately allocate funds: \$1,300 from the General Fund, Land Account to be transferred as follows: \$300 to the General Fund, Advertising Account and \$1,000 to the General Fund, Zoning Advertising Account. Trustee Runion seconded. All present answered yes to roll call. Motion passed.

Trustee Green made a motion to approve the warrants. Trustee Runion seconded. All present answered yes to roll call. Motion passed. Trustee Green made a motion to approve the Trustee's April 3, 2019 regular meeting minutes. Trustee Runion seconded. All present answered yes to roll call. Motion passed.

At 9:50 pm, with no further business, Trustee Green moved for adjournment. Trustee Runion seconded. This meeting was held in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code's Sunshine Law.