

THE WOODVILLE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE'S REGULAR MEETING - October 18, 2017

This regular meeting of the Woodville Township Trustees was held on October 18, 2017. Those in attendance: Trustees: Chairman Bill Hammer, Paul Heineman, Ken Green, Fiscal Officer Lori Kepus, Road Supervisor Jim Busdiecker, Zoning Inspector Steve Michaelis, Fire Chief Bill Andrews, Fire Captain Joe Kopp, Assistant Fire Chief Dave Miller, EMS Paramedics Mike Tuttamore, Don Richuti, and Tim Toflinski (left at 8:40 pm) and Village Resident and Candidate for Township Trustee Paul Runion, Firemen: John Kruse, Matt Reardon, Tim Schnitker, Paul Ward, Village Council Member Patrick Dunn, Village and Township Residents Karen Schepman, Jim Simpson, Katie Crowell, Tim Crowell, Toni Mock, Kelly O'Connor, and Wilma Obermyer. Ben Meyer arrived at 7:45 pm.

Trustee Hammer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Trustee Green made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 4, 2017 regular meeting. Trustee Heineman seconded. All answered yes to roll call. Motion passed. Trustee Heineman made a motion to approve the warrants. Trustee Green seconded. All answered yes to roll call. Motion passed.

EMS – Paramedic Mike Tuttamore reported that WW Williams is coming to our station to install a back door handle on LS91 as soon as the part arrives from the manufacturer. He stated that LS91 has had 317 runs to date which is an increase from last year's totals and payables are up 152 this year. There were 140 ALS runs, 51 BLS, 25 fire calls, 1 Lifeflight assist, and 100 runs where no treatment was needed.

Trustee Hammer opened the discussion on the current status of the township's EMS situation by first clarifying a recent comment that was made on Facebook regarding the status of the Woodville Township EMS.

"In April of this year, North Central approached the trustees and stated that they would need an additional \$50,000 per year from the Township as their wages and benefits for paramedics has risen and net patient revenue was down mostly due to healthcare reimbursements.

The Trustees immediately began to search for solutions as the current EMS levy will not support an increase in the contract price. On the other hand, someone on social media stated that North Central pulled their contract with Woodville Township. This is absolutely false. North Central EMS has been very good to Woodville Township. North Central EMS did not, nor will, leave Woodville without EMS coverage, and they have been in talks with the township to work together to come up with a solution that is suitable to both parties. Professional EMS companies like North Central will never pull out and leave an area uncovered. These people are in the business for only one purpose, to save lives, and this is exactly what they have done for Woodville Township over the past 21 years, and the trustees could not be happier with the service they have provided to us. Your EMS service is not in jeopardy. Neither the trustees, nor the ambulance companies, will leave you without service, and the trustees have no intention of greatly reducing the availability of EMS service.

And yes, this matter is a public matter and we want to keep the public informed. Over the past few months, we have investigated the matter and now have three options that may work for Woodville Township. No decisions will be made in private. The Trustees have also kept in contact with the Village of Woodville council to apprise them of how the investigating is going.

Due to a scheduling conflict, the Sandusky County Commissioners could not attend our meeting tonight, but they invited the trustees to attend their public meeting yesterday to answer questions regarding a potential arrangement with the Sandusky County EMS, and tonight we are happy to share those results with the public. The trustees presented the commissioners with a list of 30 questions regarding a potential agreement, which were answered by the commissioners and then reviewed by both parties."

Trustee Hammer stated that the levy in place for the EMS services currently collects \$288,000 per year. This levy is collected through the end of 2018. The trustees cannot renew the current levy until the best, most cost-effective solution is negotiated, and the trustees definitely know how much the EMS service is going to cost the tax-payers of the Village of Woodville and Woodville Township for the next five years.

The options are listed below, and the trustee's welcome the public's input.

Option 1: Keep the same EMS coverage with North Central EMS

The service will remain the same as we are currently receiving. The estimated annual cost for our current EMS service has risen to approximately \$400,000 per year. This option would require additional millage to be placed on the current EMS levy. The pros to this option are keeping the same EMS personnel currently provided by North Central EMS. The township currently has a membership agreement with North Central that states any resident transported by the Woodville squad will not be charged. North Central accepts payment from the insurance company as paid in full. The cons to this are the need for more tax-payer money to continue funding the squad, and the possibility of rising costs in the future. The township would also be responsible for the maintenance of the life squad, and there is currently a need to purchase a new squad in the near future. There is also a possibility that the "membership program" may be eliminated during this agreement.

Option 2: A single EMS Paramedic Responder from North Central EMS

This single North Central EMS paramedic will be housed at the EMS quarters in the Woodville fire station. This person will be a 24/7 coverage responder for Woodville Township only. A new responder unit will have to be purchased and equipped. The paramedic would be responsible for responding to any EMS call and providing the immediate care required. The county EMS would be responsible for the transport of any patient to the hospital. The annual cost for these services is approximately \$230,000 per year, plus the expense of the vehicle, repair and maintenance costs, and EMS personnel living quarter expenses. The pro to this service is the EMS paramedic should never have to leave Woodville Township. The cons to this service is that only one trained EMS paramedic would respond to the call with the possibility of being supported by a first responder from the fire department, transport to the hospital may not be immediately available, and the possibility of rising costs in the future.

Option 3: Service provided by the Sandusky County EMS system

This option is very similar to option 1 for EMS service. The Woodville station will have 24/7, two-person paramedic coverage by the Sandusky County EMS who will be housed at the Woodville fire station with the exception that the county would also provide for the vehicle, all equipment needed, and all repair and maintenance costs. Sandusky County EMS will take full responsibility of all EMS personnel, maintenance of the squad, replacement of the squad when required, and all living quarter expenses of the EMS personnel at the Woodville station. The estimated cost for this service is \$250,000 per year. The pros for this option is that Woodville Township tax-payers will have basically the same coverage as they are accustomed to. The cons to this option are that Woodville Township would now be part of the county EMS system, the Woodville unit could get pulled more often for county coverage, and the possibility of rising costs in the future.

Some comments from the audience:

- Why do we have to pay for service from the county, that's extortion. If we didn't have a levy they would cover us.
- Members of the fire department expressed their concern that since the county EMS is currently short three paramedics, how are they going to staff our station also? How do we trust that the county EMS squad will be here for us? When they get called to assist another county unit outside of Woodville, Woodville is going to be left unprotected.
- Someone thought Woodville Township should run their own EMS unit and use their fire department's EMTs. But a fireman stated that on current day runs only 3-5 firemen are available during the day, everyone else works. Woodville does not have the manpower to run their own EMS squad.
- For \$250,000 it seems like we are getting a part-time squad. What guarantee do we have that they will be here all the time?

After discussion, it was agreed to send out a survey to the public. The Trustees unanimously agreed that Option 2 – a single EMS paramedic responder was not a viable option at this time for Woodville Township. The other two options will be listed on the survey. Village residents will receive their survey via their November utility bills. Trustee Hammer will attend the next council meeting and ask permission to use this method. Township residents will receive their survey via the township newsletter which will be mailed out shortly. Regardless of the outcome of the survey, the Trustees will need to put a new EMS levy on the ballot in either May, August, or November, 2018.

ZONING – Zoning Inspector Steve Michaelis presented two approved zoning permits:

- Tim Overly, 7555 SR 582, Woodville for a 30' x 32' pole barn. The \$50 permit fee was paid.
- Ken & Jennifer Millerschone, 7593 SR 582, Woodville for a 30' x 60' pole barn. The \$50 permit fee was paid.

The Township Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing at 7 p.m. November 8 at the fire station to discuss implementing changes to the Township Zoning Resolution including zoning requirements for the creation of flag lots, an addition to the resolution to allow "light commercial" businesses as a permitted use in an "agriculture district," and other minor clarifications to several sections of the resolution, but these minor changes will not change the substance of the resolution.

CEMETERY – Workers continue mowing. Cemetery clean-up is done for the season. Workers also changed the locks on the cemetery maintenance building.

ROADS – Road Supervisor Jim Busdiecker reported that he has started road mowing and berming.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – Chief Bill Andrews reported on the following:

- The Troy Township Fire Department replenished the 15 buckets of foam they recently borrowed.
- Motorola no longer supports our Minitor V pagers and the department needs to order five batteries. Batteries from P&R Communications are \$50 each, but he found some on Amazon for \$22 each and will be ordering those.
- Rescue I went to WW Williams for its annual preventative maintenance check and an oil change.
- X-2 also received an oil change from WW Williams and the back-up alarm was fixed, a coolant hose that was leaking was replaced, a low beam head light was replaced, the exhaust pipe and muffler was replaced and the brakes were adjusted.
- The county will be getting their new radio frequency in February, 2018, so he will wait until then before new pagers are purchased.
- Breathing Air Systems was out to certify the department's air compressor which is required to be done twice a year. They gave the fire department a kit that they can use to take a second yearly sample six month after their sample was taken.
- This week, the fire station parking lot received two coats of SealMaster by Morlock Asphalt for improved surface toughness and enhanced resistance to oils, fuels, and grease. Parking lines and markings were also painted back on.
- The fire department has held one meeting to discuss implementing a compensation program for the volunteer fire-fighters. They will hold another meeting in a few weeks.
- The department was invited to a special event that will take place during halftime of Woodmore's football game on October 21. The school has invited local police and fire departments to show their support and appreciation for their service. The school will paint the 20-yard lines, one will be red for fire, and one will be blue for police.
- On November 18-19, Dave Miller will take the second of a three-part series of leadership classes at Owens Community College. This is part of the consortium class agreement with the college.

Fire Department's upcoming events:

- October 23 – The department will visit the Gibsonburg fire station to use the State Fire Marshal's Search & Rescue Smoke Trailer.
- October 28 – Two trucks (X-2, X-4) will have their pumps tested in Gibsonburg.
- October 31 – Members of the department will be assisting Woodville's trick-or-treaters at the road crossings on Main Street.
- November 1 – The department will participate in a table top evacuation drill at Woodmore High School to teach students how to respond in an active shooter situation.

FISCAL OFFICER – Lori Kepus stated that the township's Delta Dental insurance premium rates are guaranteed through 2018 so rate remain unchanged. Vision Service Plan eye insurance rates are guaranteed through 2020 as well, so they remain unchanged next year.

Trustee Green made a motion to adopt Resolution 2017-07 to allow the township to participate in the State of Ohio's Cooperative Purchasing Program for 2018. Trustee Heineman seconded. All answered yes to roll call. Motion passed. The \$100 fee was paid at tonight's meeting.

The American Red Cross collected 19 pints of blood at their last blood mobile at the station on October 13.

At 10:26 p.m., with no further business, Trustee Heineman moved for adjournment. Trustee Green seconded. This meeting was held in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code's Sunshine Law.