TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP

ANTRIM COUNTY, MICHIGAN

APPROVED MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING WITH CORRECTIONS 3 YES, 1 NAY(Schultz)

MAY 15, 2014

COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING

TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP

Present: Martel, Schultz, Goossen and Windiate

Absent: Amos

Audience: +/- 29

THE PURPOSE OF THIS SPECIAL MEETING IS TO DISCUSS ITEMS 2 AND 3 ONLY. OTHER ISSUES WHICH WOULD NORMALLY COME BEFORE A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD WILL ONLY BE ACTED UPON IF THE FULL BOARD IS PRESENT AND THERE IS A NEED FOR URGENCY.

1. Meeting convened at 7:00 PM followed by the pledge to the flag. There was no Citizen Commentary.
2. Presentation of EMS Budget and Projected Cost for ALS: Martel presented the 2014-2015 budget information for the EMS department, including employee wages, salary and benefits, external and fixed expenses minus projected reimbursements, for a total of $324,887. Helso presented, the estimated cost of $ 47,678 to add an ALS (Paramedic) to the Township 24/7/365. This number represents the difference in pay to upgrade from EMT to paramedic. It also includes equipment and supplies that would be needed minus expected reimbursements. The projected costs to privatize were also presented. The total of $52,675 represents both additional wages for cross-trained employees and continued fixed costs such as vehicle insurance and building expenses that would no longer be paid by the EMS budget. It does not include ambulance values or EMS facilities values provided for the private company’s use. From the audience, Char Lundy spoke regarding the tri-township team and their goals to respect each other, remain open minded, unbiased and look at the best service for our townships. Accurate information will be given, with the final goal for the township to be transparent and to show due-diligence in making their decision. She requested that questions be submitted directly to the committee.
3. General Study of ambulance run-times: Distances between Elk Rapids, Milton and Torch Lake Townships were discussed. Numbers of addresses in each as well as numbers of runs for each Township were shown. These are numbers perhaps the committee could analyze.
4. Citizen Commentary: Jerry Kulka mentioned in regard to seniors, that the critical response time goes up with age. Nancy Ellison had questions about a consortium, having our ambulance out and the need to protect our own. Later she asked that we talk to other townships that have used these companies and what problems there might have been. Donna Klinefelter hopes the consortium is exploratory for information and to remember that what’s best for all 3 together may not be the best for our own township. Wally Juall asked what would happen if we went private and something happened to that company, such as bankruptcy. Jerry Klinefelter presumes the results of the study will be presented to the public and public comment allowed. Dan Magennis admitted he has his own biases about outsourcing, such as costs and keeping our own staff. He felt it important to check if those that are bidding are members of the American Ambulance Association (AAA) and to look at the different standards used to evaluate run times. Jim Nothoff appreciates the transparency of the Board and Char Lundy taking this to the next level. His concerns are costs and quality.
5. Board Commentary: Goossen mentioned our efforts toward transparency. Also, no matter which scenario we choose, it’s important our second Torch Lake Township ambulance be based in Torch Lake Township.
6. With no other business the meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.