

SPECIAL MEETING – THURSDAY AT 5:00 P.M.

The Switzerland County Board of Commissioners met in special session pursuant to law and by being duly advertised.

Those present: commissioners: Mark Lohide, Steve Lyons, and Josh South, the sheriff, Nathan Hughes, the county attorney, Wil Goering, the auditor, Gayle Rayles, and the commissioners' assistant, Bruce Williams.

The meeting was opened by Nathan who also led the pledge of allegiance.

#1 Reorganization

Steve explained that at the January 4th meeting 2 items were overlooked. He asked for nominees for vice-president and Mark nominated Josh which was seconded by Steve; the nomination passed. (Josh abstained.)

Steve asked if Wil would be willing to serve as the commissioners' attorney and if so would there be any changes to the 2015 agreement. Wil said he is willing to serve and there would be no changes. Josh made a motion to retain Wil, seconded by Mark and all agreed.

#2 County EMS Advisory Board

Josh gave an overview of the make-up of the board: a commissioner, a council member, the EMA director, the sheriff, chief deputy or 911 director, trustees, fire chiefs from the departments that have first responders, a Town of Vevay appointee, a Town of Patriot appointee, and an appointee from the non-incorporated areas.

Steve said the purpose of this meeting is to discuss emergency medical services for the county and to form an advisory board to determine the needs and review applications for providers. The board's suggestions would then be brought to the commissioners for any final decision making. Josh said his vision of the meeting is to brainstorm about the process, needs, etc.

Mark said the big question to be addressed is if we want to be county owned or go with an outside provider. He explained what got the county to this point:

1. Previous excellent service
2. Last summer problems which put the SCEMS on a 2-year probation
3. Possible use of the property next to the jail for construction of a new county EMS facility
4. Would like to see us have our own service; we had good service in the past

Steve reiterated the fact that he would like to form the board at this meeting.

Josh had a power point that pointed out the following things that need considered:

1. Location
2. Communication
3. Contract with an outside provider versus privatization
4. ALS versus BLS
 - A. BLS – Phase I

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County EMS Advisory Board cont'd

There was a map showing the run locations for 2013, 2014, and through October of 2015. There was a discussion on the 4 fire departments that proved first responders. The following items were discussed:

1. None are equipped at this time
2. There are no ambulances at this time
3. Moorefield currently has EMT's available
4. Who will be responsible for the cost of the insurance
5. All of the departments are interested in providing BLS except Posey and they have to check with their board.

There was a discussion on the cost of equipment for a county owned/operated emergency Medical service:

1. The equipment would cost between \$40,000.00 to \$50,000.00 per fire department
2. Used ambulances would cost between \$30,000.00 to \$40,000.00 per fire department
3. The total cost per fire department would be between \$70,000.00 and \$110,000.00

There was a discussion on billing as to whether or not to hire a part-time person or compensate the fire departments at a flat rate or a percentage of the billing.

Other topics of consideration were: the insurance, hire a consultant/director, the location (the sheriff is letting KDH park at the jail currently), to locate at the East Enterprise Fire Department or the tech building. Josh has been contacted by 3 providers who are interested in putting in a proposal. Two of these should be here next week.

Steve opened the floor for public comments: James Thompson wanted to know how the county council felt about this issue. Larry Monjar thought county emergency medical services is the way to go. Mike Bear wanted to know if the trustees would have to pay for the additional insurance costs. Glenn Scott said that if the units are county owned then the county will have to insure them. Wil said the county can lease the equipment to the fire departments. Billy Leap wanted to know if the county could afford any more debt. The cost of getting a consultant could be \$100,000.00. Josh said he would not agree to pay anyone \$100,000.00 to give us "advice". Billy Leap wanted to know if the county could afford to pay employees at all of the fire departments for 24/7 coverage. Glenn Scott said they would be BLS only. Chris See said Ripley County has a BLS in each township and the county provides the ALS. Josh reminded everyone that we are just sharing ideas; this could go either way. Steve said the advisory board is to give input to the commissioners on what the right way is to go. Bert Allen wanted to know how many employees would be needed. Josh said that is yet to be determined. He has heard different numbers but doesn't know what's behind them. Chris See said that SCEMS had 12 full-time employees and about 30 part-time employees/volunteers.

Steve asked if people are willing to serve on the board. Jim Wingate asked if all of the trustees are expected to be present. Josh said that all of them should be active at meetings (side bar when vote is coming up) then they would have 1 vote as a unit and the fire departments would be the same way.

Steve said the advisory board will need to appoint a chair. Josh said the board will have things to study and look into; for example: licensing, equipment/ambulances. He visualizes that they will do their research and come back and report to the full board. Jeff Darling said, "We don't have weeks or months. We need to move quickly. We don't have that much time."

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County EMS Advisory Board cont'd

Steve made a motion to form the committee, seconded by Mark and all agreed. Josh said the Towns can make their appointees at their next meetings. Mark recommended Josh as the commissioners' representative and was appointed by consensus. Glenn Scott asked to be the council representative.

Rose Leap asked about the "golden hour"; will they be able to call for a helicopter. Zach Brogan said yes. Josh said medical decisions are made at the scene just like in the past.

Steve said there has to be at least 48 hours' notice prior to a public meeting.

Bobby Gabbard said that Moorefield has discussed buying an ambulance and Josh said don't let us slow you down.

There was a discussion on dispatch and communications now and in the future. Josh and Larry Monjar both have radios that can be used.

Rose Leap said that volunteers out of any organization will only do it for so long; then what will happen.

With no further business to come before the board, Josh made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mark and all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Attest: _____
Gayle A. Rayles, Auditor
Switzerland County, Indiana