

<p style="text-align: center;"> YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES <u>Special Meeting</u> Dr. Lynn Harvey Fire/Emergency Services Contract Review & Recommendations Tuesday, October 7, 2014 At 8:30 a.m. Yankee Springs Township Hall 284 North Briggs Road, Middleville, Michigan 49333 MINUTES </p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> FINAL MINUTES <i>Attach Review & Recommendations</i> </p>
<p>Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Supervisor Mark Englerth.</p> <p>Roll Call: <u>Board of Trustees</u>: Present: Jerkatis, J. Lippert, M. Englerth, Rottschafer, Campbell. <u>All present.</u></p> <p>Staff: Alice Jansma</p> <p>Guest: Dr. Lynn Harvey</p> <p>Visitors: 3: Jerry Niles, Paid on call Fireman TTES; Connie Cheeseman (reporter); Shane Vandenberg</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> CALL TO ORDER ROLL CALL </p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS:</p> <p>Dr. Harvey was introduced. M. Englerth commented that there would not be any decisions made today. The purpose of the meeting was for the board to listen to Dr. Harvey and ask any questions they may have from his recommendations. All five members of the Board were in attendance and were in agreement with the purpose of the meeting. <u>Roll Call vote:</u> Jerkatis, J. Lippert, M. Englerth, Rottschafer, Campbell (All YES votes).</p> <p><u>PUBLIC COMMENT:</u> None.</p> <p>Dr. Lynn Harvey's report: <u>Thornapple Township and Yankee Springs Township Intergovernmental Fire and Emergency Services Review and Recommendations</u> had been received and distributed to board members prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Dr. Harvey commented at the start that he had added a clause under the issue of the disposition of equipment recommendations. Since the ice sled was a key issue that M. Englerth had mentioned, a clause was added under Item 5 on page 13, after the end of the first sentence. The following was added: "with the exception that the ice rescue sled purchased by YS Township will be housed at the YS Fire Station." Discussion occurred regarding lack of communication, logistics and history of the sled placement/storage, and amount of personnel on hand (at the fire station). The YS Township's "Mule" (ATV) was mentioned by Dr. Harvey as well.</p> <p>Dr. Harvey commented about a need of negotiations regarding the Chief as manager of the resources. Micro-management was brought up. Jerkatis commented about two representatives from Yankee Springs to be on the TTES Board for the purpose of communication enhancement. Dr. Harvey commented that normally protocol issues are not included in the contract. Rottschafer commented about a recent fire in his neighborhood being responded to with an ambulance, not a fire truck. Further discussion took place regarding response procedures.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS <u>PUBLIC COMMENT:</u> None. </p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Page 1 of 4 YST Bd. Of Trustees – Dr. Harvey 10-7-14 </p>

Jerkatis inquired about voting rights of members on the TTES Board. Discussion occurred regarding previous invitations to YS Township board members to attend meetings and the plausibility of actual membership of some Yankee Springs Board members on the TTES Board.

It was noted by a fire fighter in attendance that there is an "internal board" among the fire fighters and the Chief.

Englerth commented on the cost allocation of fire and ambulance service. Dr. Harvey commented on his understanding of the breakdown of costs. Cost-weighted formula vs. usage factor was mentioned. Keeping data for the coming year was mentioned. Community safety and fairness were key issues mentioned by M. Englerth. Englerth also mentioned recruitment of personnel as being a top priority. Dr. Harvey commented on the local demographics not supporting recruitment (dispersed population set). Dr. Harvey mentioned the "Explorer Scouts" fire program at Newaygo High School being a successful program. Englerth mentioned the volunteer personnel of Orangeville being 21 people. Dr. Harvey mentioned that when he spoke with the Fire Chief from Orangeville, not all 21 volunteers are active. Many Townships have the same problems with lack of volunteers. Dr. Harvey mentioned that Cascade Township had a fire cadet program. Dr. Harvey also mentioned the local community college and possibly an incentive/tuition program could be instituted. Dr. Harvey commented that he would talk to TTES about segmenting the cost with a different measure. Harvey commented on his observations of cost sharing in regards to the current budget. Jerkatis questioned fixed costs/equipment investments being involved. Dr. Harvey commented that operational costs were observed. Dr. Harvey recommended exploring a fire authority in the long run. Privatization of ambulance services was mentioned as a means of saving funds. TTES call reports, 911 reports and other forms of data was discussed. Cost recovery fund reports were mentioned as well. Dr. Harvey mentioned the need for a cost recovery ordinance. Jerkatis commented that he requested a breakdown of TTES runs at a previous board meeting. Jerkatis commented that he received the response that the information could not be given due to rights of privacy laws. Dr. Harvey wasn't aware of these. Incidence recording reports were further discussed.

The question was posed regarding a possible rift that should be resolved before going forward with the nuts and bolts of the contract. Dr. Harvey commented on that first, at the joint meetings, there's a need to agree on some standard concepts and principles for this contract. Harvey added that he has somewhat outlined those for YS Twp.

Secondly, the next step would be the formation of the Fire Board (constitute the Fire Board) and to start addressing these issues. Harvey commented on other ways that these items could be accomplished and still keep the resolution in place. Harvey also commented that the key issue on operating Fire Boards is that once the two representatives are sitting there, and an agreement is hammered out, and they bring it back for approval, not approving their recommendations is a death knell for a fire Board.

Harvey commented on a "trust factor and repairability".

DISCUSSION with Dr. Harvey

**DISCUSSION with Dr.
Harvey continued**

A vehicle to resolve issues is needed according to Englerth. Discussion took place on response times, contracting for coverage of several sections of the township and separating ambulance service from fire service. 911 was mentioned and the role it plays in emergency service coverage/dispatching. Dr. Harvey commented that he will stop and talk with Phyllis Fuller of 911 Central Dispatch of Barry County.

Bruce Campbell apologized to Dr. Harvey and the board as he needed to leave the meeting for an appointment at approximately 9:30 a.m.

B. Campbell leaves meeting at
9:30 a.m.

Referring back to the discussion of coverage from Wayland and Hastings, Dr. Harvey commented that a solution, organizationally, is having a large fire authority in which every fire station is a substation and so it doesn't matter where the fire's at. "If that's your driving force, the only way to do it is to enlarge the service area so that Orangeville, Hastings, Middleville, Yankee Springs and Wayland are all together as one production unit and you dispatch the closest thing. That's the long term.

If that was your ultimate goal, that's the way you would organize. But we have this high degree of independence in townships of wanting to have our own. So we only go to the fire authority concept when we have our backs up against the wall for costs or services that aren't being provided," commented Dr. Harvey. Harvey also commented on the possibility of organizing differently citing Grand Traverse Area Fire Department of Grand Traverse County. Harvey mentioned that all the small fire departments of that county, with the exception of the City of Traverse City, are managed by one chief.

Englerth commented about progress so far on moving forward and improving communications, and continuing down this path. Englerth also commented on that a year from now, there's a need to sit back and reflect and revisit because it is really something that hasn't happened in the past. Dr. Harvey asked when the YS Board would like to sit down with the Thornapple Board.

Jan Lippert commented on available dates and the MTA class on Emergency Services in Frankenmuth on October 14. The last week that Dr. Harvey will be in Michigan is November 4th. October 28, or 29th was mentioned as available dates that Dr. Harvey will hold.

J. Lippert commented that she will contact Susan of Thornapple Township. Jerkatis addressed the amount of work and time to formulate the fire board. Dr. Harvey commented that he can be accessed via email and that he has quite a few examples of fire board articles regarding by-laws, lists of roles and responsibilities. Jerkatis asked how troublesome Dr. Harvey views the current agreement with Thornapple Township to the citizens and this board it would be to continue the contract for another six to eight months.

Dr. Harvey didn't think continuation would be problematic, but thought that it might be a good thing to pass a continued resolution to: A) Adopt a concept of a fire board and then B) Adopt a continued resolution to continue this for six or eight months (or whatever time amount) while the fire board starts hammering items out and then agree to reconvene next spring.

Dr. Harvey also commented that he can work with the YS Board long distance as on fire board composition and issues via phone conversations, etc. Jerkatis asked when the termination was for the existing contract of Dr. Harvey's services with YS Twp.

Dr. Harvey commented that he can continue on and bill the township thus far and start over if they (the township) wants to do that. Dr. Harvey feels this is something that can be resolved over the phone or by email.

J. Lippert inquired about the Wayland ambulance and her residence zip code being in Wayland and her phone number being a Wayland number and being a resident of Yankee Springs. Lippert commented that she called 911 for her father-in-law, and Wayland ambulance responded. Dr. Harvey commented on the procedures of 911.

Discussion occurred on 911 Dispatch and mutual aid. Dr. Harvey asked for the contact information of Phyllis Fuller of 911 Central Dispatch, Barry County. Dr. Harvey commented that he will contact Thornapple Township and Phyllis Fuller.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Alice Jansma, of Payne Lake Road, called the ambulance for her house. A. Jansma commented that Thornapple came and also Wayland came. Mr. Jansma was taken in the Wayland ambulance. A. Jansma mentioned that both ambulances came, one stood on stand by and the other took him. A. Jansma commented, "It's not just one or the other...It's a mutual thing, they do that all the time." The billing for this service and cost recovery billing and a cost recovery ordinance was discussed. Dr. Harvey commented that he will ask D. Middleton regarding cost recovery, billing and the ordinance for it. Dr. Harvey commented that in his report's introduction, he will have a paragraph regarding cost recovery. Dr. Harvey also commented that a state legislator introduced a bill that will prohibit local governments from cost recovery of any kind from citizens. MTA has asked Dr. Harvey to write a letter to the legislator explaining why this was originally done conceptually and what an impact financially it would be to locals if it were prohibited. Dr. Harvey doubted if it would come out this year, but there is talk about it. Further discussion occurred regarding high traffic areas and locals covering the cost of emergency services for visitors. Discussion also occurred regarding the State Park and local camps drawing on the township's emergency services.

ADJOURNMENT: At approximately 9:55 a.m., Englerth motioned to adjourn with support from Rottschafer. All ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved Date: jcl draft 10-9-14

Deb Mousseau
Recording Secretary

Signed: _____
Janice C. Lippert, Clerk

Final Approval Nov 13, 2014

**DISCUSSION with Dr.
Harvey continued**

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

Page 4 of 4
YST Bd. Mtg. with Dr. Harvey
10-7-14