

Elk Rapids Township
Regular Meeting Minutes, October 14, 2014

The regular meeting of the Elk Rapids Township Board was held at the Elk Rapids Government Center located at 315 Bridge St. Elk Rapids. The meeting was called order by Supervisor White at 7:30 pm. The meeting was recorded to provide accuracy.

Present: Supervisor, Bill White; Clerk, Shelley Boisvert; Treasurer, Mike Szymanski; Trustee, Aaron Isenhart; Trustee, Dorance Amos

Also Present: B. Derman, L. Harrett, P. VanDenBerge, E. Hedin and approximately 64 other people

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Public Comment: The following citizens all commented on the Ambulance outsourcing issue, which is number 9 on the agenda. D. Reynolds, D. Leghorn, C. Keenan, P. Brady, B. Holland, I. Gotts, C. Thiel, L. Nemshick, C. Brady, T. Pressman, A. Eagleton, J. Thiel, T. Pearlman Public comment ended at 8:48 pm.

3. Approval of Meeting Agenda: MOTION/S Amos/Szymanski to approve the meeting agenda. Motion APPROVED.

4. Consent Agenda

- A. September 9, 2014 minutes
- B. October 7, 2014 special meeting minutes
- C. October 8, 2014 special meeting minutes
- D. Zoning Administrators Report
- E. Treasurers Report
- F. Paying of the bills

During Public comment, there was a request to move items A. B. and C. from the consent agenda until a later time. MOTION/S: Amos/Isenhart to approve items D. E. and F. on the consent agenda.

Roll call vote: White, Amos, Isenhart, Szymanski, Boisvert all voting Yes, 0 no. Motion APPROVED.

Items that were removed from the Consent Agenda:

- A. September 9, 2014 minutes. There was a question raised by P. Brady regarding moving the MMR addendum to a separate agenda item. After some board discussion, it was decided that board did not feel policy was violated. MOTION/ Amos/Isenhart to approve the meeting minutes from September 9, 2014. Motion APPROVED
- B. MOTION/ Boisvert/Szymanski to Table item (B) October 7, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes and item (C) October 8, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes, until the November 2014 meeting. Motion APPROVED

5. Sheriff / Commissioner reports: Nothing to report at this time

6. Ambulance Report: Chief Heiden: as presented

- A. Hand gun policy #406: MOTION /S: Boisvert/Isenhart to approve the policy. Motion APPROVED. Chief Heiden submitted a list of equipment that is kept on the ambulance to add to the Ambulance Report. She also reminded the room of the Halloween Open House to be held on October 31st.

7. Fire Report: Chief VanDenBerge: as presented

- A. Asking for Board approval to hire a Steve Gildersleeve as a Fire Fighter. MOTION /S Amos/Boisvert with appropriate background checks. Motion APPROVED.

8. Village Road Work Payment:

The Township could budget \$60,000 toward the road projects listed by the village.

MOTION /S Amos/Szymanski to advance \$60,000 toward road work. Roll Call Vote: White, Amos, Szymanski, Boisvert, Isenhardt all voting yes. 0 No. Motion APPROVED.

9. Ambulance Contract with MMR: Matt Holtcamp, representing MMR was present. He addressed questions brought up during public comment regarding ALS staffing, the fact that there will be two (2) ambulances stationed at the Elk Rapids station, mutual aid with other ambulance services, and response times. Isenhardt asked him about equipment: Holtcamp responded that all equipment is put on a capital replacement schedule of 5 years.

Chief Hedin provided a list of existing equipment. She stated that everything on the first page of this list is required to be on every ALS ambulance. Other expensive equipment was also listed. She felt that this list should be attached to the pending contract.

Szymanski asked if there would be an inventory taken at the time of change over. The answer was yes.

Isenhardt asked if the stipulations that Milton Township put on their approval should be addressed by us. Yes, the stipulations were:

- Elk Rapids Twp approve the contract
- MMR was to secure mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities
- That the bidding was done legally
- That an oversight committee composed of representatives from the Milton and Elk Rapids Township Boards be formed to oversee the contract.

White stated that these stipulations would be addressed. We do need to have an oversight committee, mutual aid agreements would be in place before they start and that MMR Paramedics are to be certified by Med Control. We knew the Medical Control approval may take some time. The process followed during bidding was discussed with the Township Attorney. MMR was the low bid and we started negotiating with them. Attorney Derman stated that basically there was a Request for Proposal (RFP) sent out and we received three (3) bids, two of them only appeared to be for management. MMR complied with everything and as consideration went on there were negotiations with MMR to say we want to look at the scope of work, it will be shrunk and the price would be lowered. So within their bid, we were negotiating with them as part of the overall, before the contract came out and we wanted the scope of work changed. So it would appear that the Township Board followed its procedures on this. We didn't have to go back and rebid everything when you change or negotiate the scope of work within a contract. Everything he has seen so far was that the bids were received and thereafter the Twp negotiated.

MOTION /S Amos to approve the ambulance service agreement with Mobile Medical Response Inc. (MMR) conditioned upon Northwest Medical Control Authority's approval of MMR to operate in the Elk Rapids Service Area, and that per the "Township's request for proposal: Ambulance Service" The Township Board hereby waives any irregularities, inconsistencies and bidding provisions that conflict and determines that approval of the MMR Ambulance Service. The Agreement is for the best interest of the Township. The Motion was seconded by Szymanski. Discussion: Amos added to the motion the Milton Township contingencies that we heard tonight that MMR secure the mutual aid agreements, proper procedures followed, and that an oversight committee be formed. Szymanski still supports.

More discussion: Boisvert would like to hear the final report from the Tri-Township Committee after their upcoming meeting on the 19th of October even though she feels the conclusion will be the same. White read the recommendation to the Tri-Township Committee from the consultant that recommended MMR as the best option. White stated that to him it was pretty clear what the recommendation is. No further discussion.

The amendment to the motion added the three contingencies stated by Milton Township. MOTION /S Amos/Szymanski to approve that amendment to the primary motion first. Motion Approved 4 yes and 1 no.

Further discussion on the motion to approve the contract: Boisvert asked the effective date if approved: White stated when MMR becomes certified with MedControl for service in the Elk Rapids area. No further discussion. The above primary motion was originally moved by Amos and supported by Szymanski. Roll Call Vote: Amos-yes: and for the record it will reduce liability for the Township, its best in class and care giving, it also fixed the rate and costs for the next five (5) years for both Elk Rapids and Milton Townships, it will allow us to have full time employees and benefits, we'll have training and long term sustainability, Isenhart-yes, Szymanski-yes, White-yes, Boisvert-no clarifying that she has nothing against MMR or the process but she really wanted to allow the committee to bring back their final report. Motion APPROVED 4 Yes, 1 No.

MOTION /S Amos/Szymanski to have a representative from MMR manage the current ambulance department during the transition process and start employee interviews with both present and new employees while the Township is working through the permit change. This would eliminate the current officer positions. Roll Call Vote: Isenhart-yes, Szymanski-yes, White-yes, Boisvert-yes, Amos-yes. Motion APPROVED.

10. Attorneys report: Bill Derman, Verbal

11. Township Board announcements and comments:

- White has not heard anything yet regarding the time frame for Phragmites treatment for our area
- Boisvert let the room know that she will be out of town for the next week and will not be able to get the minutes posted or on line until she returns in the middle of next week.

12. Public Comment: J. Matthews: Thanked the Board for going through the process. C. Boals: Thanked the ambulance department, upset with other public comment demeaning the competence of Board members. D. Dymora: Time frame that the existing ambulance crew may be working. T. Pressman: Transition package for existing personnel. D. Reynolds: Liability question, and Twp should appoint a buffer to help with the transition. He would like to be that person. B. Holland: Bid question-time period before negotiations with MMR and he would like the Board to wait until after the election to sign the contract with MMR. C. Keenan: Original MMR bid was for 2 ALS ambulances, also Twp did not utilize the Fire Board as it could have. S. Castronova: Liability. C. Thiel: submitted written questions, also wanted the Board to wait until after the election to sign the contract.

Meeting Adjourned : 10:20 pm.

