

PROPOSED MINUTES

Woodhull Township Board

October 5, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

Township Hall, 7315 W. Beard Road, Perry MI 4887

HEARING ON RENEWAL OF AMBULANCE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT

This hearing was to consider reaffirming the Special Ambulance Assessment District, which encompasses all of Woodhull Township, and to approve and accept the Ambulance Special Assessment of \$184 each year against each residential household within Woodhull Township, and to distribute the Special Assessment Levy so as to defray the expenses of providing such ambulance service, by Special Assessment on the properties to be especially benefitted. This Hearing was to consider objections to the distribution of the Special Assessment Levy and to approve the Assessment Roll. The assessment is in the total amount of \$287,040.

The Deputy Chief of the L.S.W. described some of the issues with running the ambulance service which covers Woodhull Township, the City of Laingsburg, and Sciota Township. The pay rate for L.S.W. paramedics and EMTs was significantly lower than the rate for surrounding communities. Applicants for those positions must undergo significant training and testing, incurring costs of approximately \$15,000. Only seven paramedic schools are affiliated with appropriate colleges, and fewer applicants are choosing this career path. Lansing Community College, for example, is having only twelve graduates in 2022. This results in a greatly reduced pool of trained medical first responders, and they are choosing where they work largely based on pay.

Aside from pay rates, expenses of running an ambulance service are soaring. New ambulances cost upwards of \$150,000, and each piece of medical equipment therein is extremely expensive. Other expenses include maintenance, vehicle replacement, gas, insurance and workers compensation. To maintain coverage, paramedics and EMTs received an increase in pay beginning July 1, 2022, so the ambulance service is now fully staffed. However, this Special Assessment is critical to maintaining that level of service.

Supervisor Slee gave an excellent description of the millage issue and stressed that it didn't matter the price of one's residence, that all Township citizens must have access to ambulance, fire, and rescue services when the need arises. The total amount was wrongly stated on the postcard mailing due to clerical error, and was corrected to \$287,040. Members of the community spoke eloquently of the hardships inflicted on those residents who are on fixed incomes, but they also realized the importance of maintaining the L.S.W. ambulance and rescue services.

The hearing was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

(All meetings are recorded for Clerk's use only)