

Boyne Valley Township Special Meeting

December 10, 2019 – 6:30 p.m.

This meeting is a meeting of the Boyne Valley Township Board in public for the purpose of conducting the township's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated on the agenda.

Minutes

I. Call to Order	The meeting was called to order by Hobbs at 6:30 p.m.
II. Roll Call	Members Present: Matelski, Kondrat, Sparks, Hobbs
	Members Absent: Kelenske
	Others Present: Bill Cousineau, Russ Koeman, David Matelski, Geneva Towne, Bruce Giem, Cathy Hausler, Mary Giem, Bill & Terri Mauchmar, Joe Hill, John LaMont, Mike Cain, Cindy Grice, Andy Reynolds
III. Recognition of Audience	<p>Sue introduced Jane Millar, Northern Community Mediation. Jane will be mediating the meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to allow the Boyne Valley Township residents the opportunity to give feedback. Time limits will be imposed. Jane will recognize each person.</p> <p>Sue Hobbs: The board is not prepared to talk about proposals from the Jordan Valley Authority or from the City of Boyne City. The options we have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Stay under contract with the City of Boyne CityLook at a contract with the Jordan Valley Ambulance AuthorityForm an authority with other surrounding townshipsForm a county-wide authority <p>Ambulance services primarily operated with volunteers. Most cannot get volunteers any longer. This is a statewide problem. No longer able to run without a full-time service.</p> <p>Jim Cusenza, Township Auditor, has been involved with the audit of the township for many years. The first millage passed to begin the ambulance service was one mill. The cost to run the ambulance has steadily increased. Jim explained that there have been many issues with the accounting for the past two audits, due to the transfer of money between the City and Township. The 2019 ems audit will be in the negative.</p> <p>Bruce Giem: Managed the ambulance for ten years and he inquired how \$300,000 was spent since he left in 2014.</p> <p>Sue Hobbs: A \$200,000 ambulance was purchased, along with many other equipment updates. Bruce Giem: The ambulance is mismanaged. The new ambulance was an unnecessary expense. Sue Hobbs: The fund balance began declining as expenses increased due to the change to a 24/7 operation.</p>

Bruce Giem: I received an annual stipend but not a salary.

Russ Koeman: There is a \$147,000 fund balance as of today. After purchasing a new truck, the Lucas machine, etc. that isn't a very large decline.

Andy Reynolds: Has the run volume changed?

John Lamont: Run volume has increased every single year. In 2014, we had 240 runs. The cost of staffing has increased significantly due to operating as a 24/7 operation. Volume has increased, but so have the costs.

Bruce Giem: The first millages to pass were for 1 mill, now you are only levying .5 mill.

Lynn Sparks: Bruce presented the budget to the board and suggested that we propose a .5 mill and that is what was approved for the ballot. The board is looking for input, so that we know how much needs to be proposed on the 2020 ballot.

Jim Cusenza: The run volume increased but that is not keeping pace with the labor costs.

Russ Koeman: 1 mill would be \$147,000 if placed on the ballot today. It will cost the township 1.5 mills to stay with the City of Boyne City. The Jordan Valley Authority has proposed a contract that would cost the township .75 mills, which is \$112, 000 per year.

Bruce Giem: The city has presented a couple of proposals over the past year and they have not had any feedback from the Township.

Sue Hobbs: The township has been looking at all of the options. We have met several times with Boyne City. We've also met with other townships. The township board stated that there would be a public hearing for the public after the audit was completed. That is why we are here tonight.

Jane Millar: The township board is looking for feedback and opinions from the audience.

Geneva Towne: Are you happy with the audit?

Randy Matelski: We are spending too much money. We are satisfied with the audit. Simply put, no decision has been made.

Jane Millar: What criteria is the board going to use to make a decision?

Russ Koeman: I attend these meetings regularly. Township board has been talking about this for many meetings.

Barb Loper: I am a resident and EMT. The quality of care is standard and will be good care. The board needs to negotiate the contracts and decide on who will care for Boyne Valley.

John Lamont: The days of volunteering have changed. And the training requirements have changed tremendously. 12000 hours are required and \$10,000 investment. It is no longer volunteer positions.

Bruce Giem: Is there quality of care issues?

Sue Hobbs: The Quality of care is excellent.

Lynn Sparks: No

Russ Koeman: The quality of care is great. Financial issues are the concern.

Bernie Kondrat: We like the idea of authority because we have a say on what's going on. Right now, Boyne City is running the whole show. Nothing is changing. The ambulance is not being staffed. Several times there is not personnel in our building.

Jane Millar: Can you explain?

John Lamont: Trucks have to go over to Boyne City to exchange drug boxes. Drugs expire, so both stations are not stocked. We have a paid volunteer staff. Some personnel are 5 houses from the station, they do not need to stay in the building, they can respond from home. We try hard to keep the station manned.

Bernie Kondrat: Does our ambulance go over and back up Boyne City when their truck is out or does it stay here in our garage?

Bob Ferrell: Boyne City backs up Boyne Falls often.

Lynn Sparks: Questioned why the ambulance was in Boyne City on 12/4/19 the ambulance was gone for 2.5 hours.

Jane Millar: Summarizing that quality of care is not an issue. There are concerns on all sides regarding the financial processes and procedures. Manning the Boyne Valley station is a huge concern. Communication is key in this situation.

Bruce Giem: What is the board's expectation when the truck goes out?

Ralph Towne: I think both services do a good job. I don't like the communication between the two.

Mike Cain: We are here because we still think we can offer the best value and best service to Boyne Valley. Our joint EMS service has one of the most robust staffs. Continuity in staffing is maintained due to less turnover. The city has not walked away from the township because we are trying to honor the same system. We have submitted proposals to the township and they do not respond. We feel Boyne City is providing good value.

Sue Hobbs: When Lynn and I have met with you, we asked to form an authority and Mike Cain said that is was not an option. Why not have an authority, where we are all working together? Where we both have a representative managing the system?

Bruce Giem: Define an authority.

Jane Millar: This issue will not be answered in 2 minutes. There are issues that the involved parties need to go back to the table to discuss. Need to make timelines and move forward.

Mike Cain: No other party expressed interest in forming an authority. The current system works great, there is quality service. Boyne City is continuing to try our darndest to make this system work.

Jane Millar: Northern Community Mediation will help in the process of resolving these issues.

Lynn Sparks: The board will compile a list of items that they would like to see in the agreement and get back with Boyne City.

VI. Adjournment

Motion by Matelski, support by Sparks to adjourn.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Time adjourned: 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Sparks
Clerk