

TIPTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' SPECIAL MEETING:
NOVEMBER 13, 2023

SPECIAL MEETING:

The Tipton County Board of Commissioners met in a Special Session on Monday, November 13, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.. Those in attendance were Dennis Henderson, Tracey Powell, Nancy Cline, County Attorney, Mark Regnier, and Auditor Pickering.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Allen Hensley, Adam Dewitt, Steve Niblick, Megan Dwigans, Joe Bitner, Alan Wessner and Bill Steen.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Commissioner Denny Henderson.

ALS/BLS CONTRACT DISCUSSION WITH TOWNSHIPS:

SHARPSVILLE EMS:

Alan Hensley, spoke to the Board of Commissioners. Alan would like to upgrade the EMS in better fashion and hire two new employees. Sharpsville did purchase a new ambulance a few years ago. The new ambulance was provided with Indiana Bond payment where they make regular payments. The new ambulance has a necessary feature which allow them to lift an individual, thereby reducing injury to the emergency team. They have purchased a piece of equipment to do CPR with two individuals.

Howard Community has an arrival time of approximately 5-7 minutes and is a back up to Sharpsville.

Fuel prices require them to increase billing rates to be comparable with surrounding entities. Sharpsville has a 10 million dollar risk policy to cover staff and equipment. The rate is \$550. With a write off policy if someone proves a hardship or if they have a chapter 7 or if the patient is deceased. They also have contractual services that are write-offs, including workman's comp, Medicare, Medicaid, and other sources. Med bill is the official billing company that is utilized and there is a fee for their service.

The billing is rated to cover the cost of the run, fuel, manpower, insurance and billing company.

They are looking to hire two part-time individuals at \$16,000 per individual. They currently have 22 volunteers on day shift. There must be two people on staff to take the rescue truck which requires Alan to take the truck at times to cover needs. A rescue truck requires a first responder. Firefighter certifications are required for all volunteers and an approximate \$200 uniform cost. A drive gets \$20 per run and an EMT makes \$40. Per run. Alan would like to increase the amount per run to be more comparable and draw interest.

There were questions regarding current staffing and potential future staffing that would be necessary to run the operation in Sharpsville. The town of Sharpsville owns the fire building and the entity owns the trucks.

The request for an additional would be to cover cost of CPR machine and other supplies to go with that.

WILDCAT TOWNSHIP / Megan Dwigans:

Last year's contract was \$12,000. The township requested \$22,000 for their proposal. They have needs for fuel cost, equipment as well as six new EMT's. They would like to upgrade their equipment and a new striker on their ambulance to load patients in the truck. They would also like to purchase an auto pulse or CPR equipment. The ambulance is a 2003 ambulance. There are several members who do have some availability during the day. They offer a driver \$25. per run and an EMT \$40. per run. They are located in the city building in Wildcat Twp. They cover Wildcat township and the city of Windfall.

CICERO TOWNSHIP / Andy Wessner:

Cicero is currently at \$12,000 contract. 37 active members with 12 EMT's. It costs \$1100 to send a volunteer to go to class to become certified. They would also like to purchase the CPR equipment. The increased cost in fuel, equipment, and insurance continues to rise.

Commissioner Cline asked when the County began subsidizing the Townships EMS budgets. There was discussion regarding Townships increasing their tax base in order to provide for their area EMS. She further discussed where the tax dollars should come from to support the township EMS. Andy stated that not all of his budget can be contributed to EMS as they also provide fire services, equipment and staff. They are on a tight budget and he has concerns about being funded for the townships.

Mark commented that most of these agreements from prior are from 2016. The changes made with EMS cost and agreements were most likely between 2010 and 2015.

Each department is currently working through Medbill for all township entities.

CITY OF TIPTON / Joe Bitner:

The ALS Services will be provided for through the City of Tipton's Fire Department. The cost of insuring vehicles, equipment, etc. are the same as a request for increase to funding.

Joe is working on getting his medic truck #10 in service in the event they need a backup for ALS.

Mark Regnier was able to reach out and talk with those Townships that were not present to determine the origin of the requested increase in contractual services.

E911 DIRECTOR / Adam Dewitt:

Adam will email the Commissioners the numbers for all runs for the services. He provided the number of runs for ambulance responses as follows:

Township	Year	Number of ambulance runs
Cicero	2022	208
Sharpville	2022	203
Wildcat	2022	18
Tipton Fire Department	2022	253
Seals Ambulance	2022	1192

STEVE NIBLICK:

Addressed the Board of Commissioners regarding a pitch in dinner for the courthouse on November 17th, from 11:00 – 1:00 pm. An office may shut down for a short period to have dinner with the group. Commissioner Powell made a motion to allow for a county office to close for a maximum of 30 minutes providing they post a sign on the door to attend the group dinner on the first floor. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cline, and the motion carried.

KEVIN STINER:

Kevin Stiner addressed the board regarding a couple of the outdoor cameras that need to go back to the company. The board would like to pay for the cost to send back the cameras from the 9200 fund for security. A motion was made to the effect of the above by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Cline. The motion carried.

PERFECTION GROUP CONTRACT:

A contract for Perfection Group was presented for repair on the boiler. A motion to approve the contract as presented was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Cline. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Commissioner Powell made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cline, and the motion carried.

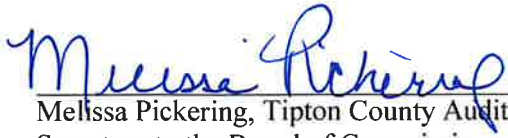
Approved this 21st day of November 2023.

Dennis Henderson
Dennis Henderson, President

Nancy Cline
Nancy Cline, Vice President

Absent
Tracey Powell, Commissioner

Attest:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melissa Pickering". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Melissa Pickering, Tipton County Auditor and
Secretary to the Board of Commissioners
Special Meeting Minutes of September 13, 2023.