

Watab Township Supervisors' Meeting
660 NW 75th Street
Sauk Rapids, Minnesota

March 26th, 2019
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

A Special Meeting of Watab Township Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Todd Waytashek at 7:01 p.m. in the Watab Township Hall.

Supervisors Julie Johnson, Todd Waytashek, and Steve Wollak together with Clerk Nicole Burski and Treasurer Deb O'Keefe met to listen to and consider opinions and suggestions regarding concerns about Watab Township's response to fire/emergency/medical/rescue calls and subsequent billings to Watab Township residents and the Township from the City of Sauk Rapids and the City of Rice Fire Departments at seven o'clock p.m.

ROLL CALL

Included Jerry Kostreba, Lloyd Erdmann, John Olson, Ray Thompson, Robin Wollak, Sandra Saldana, Natasha Barber from the Sauk Rapids Herald, Kevin Reiter, Janel V., Scott Jansky, Roxanne Wilson, John Olson, Bill Wilson

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Fire District 1 – Rice Fire Dept.

Fire & Medical Contract (though the Fire and Medical pricing is separated out)

Fire Contract Signed – Nov 2019

Contract Period 1/1/2019 – 12/31/2020

Fire Contract Amount - \$23,996.82 payable in 2 installments of \$11,998.41 on or before June 30th & Dec 31st each year.

Fire & Medical Billing: In addition to contract, each fire or medical call is billed as follows:

\$350/first hour

\$300/each additional hour or fraction of hour

\$300 cancelled call fee.

(Note: if ambulance is called to fire dist. 1, Gold Cross bills victims direct)

Watab Pays first 25% if first hour, bills victims for the rest.

Covers northern 1/3 of township

Fire District 2 – Sauk Rapids

Fire Contract Only – Signed March 1, 2018

Contract Period 5/1/2018-4/30/2020

\$41,507.00 due on or before June 30th of each year

Sauk Rapids bills residents or accident victims for all fire calls. Township currently reimburses residents 25% of first hour of billing. NOTE: that needs to be changed – Sauk Rapids needs to bill the township the 25%.

Negotiations will be late fall 2019.

Medical Services billed direct to residents/nonresidents from Gold Cross Ambulance.
Covers Southern 2/3rd of Watab Township

Treasurer Deb O'Keefe stated \$9000 bills were wrote off

CITIZEN'S INPUT

Roxanne Wilson: Concerns of repeat 911 calls for medical from the same residence and to work with public health to reduce costs. Feels that Rice has a higher level of training and wants them to respond medically but feels that Rice is charging more than what they need and using for their own services.

Scott Jansky: The fire department is unable to reduce calls because they are unable to assess if the calls are true emergency. Training is mandated by state, Rice has 4 EMTs.

Supervisor Julie Johnson: State statutes a minimum of 4 people is required to go on a call

Sandy Saldana: Feels that we pay more for services because of Rockwood and training. Does not want to pay medical because it is already paid through taxes.

Jerry Kostreba: Would like to get rid of the fire contracts. Supervisor Todd Waytashek said it would need to be brought up at the annual meeting and a township vote would need to take place. Jerry Kostreba asked why \$15,000 was paid by fire district 1 for attorney fees, stamps and other expenses and not divided into the correct accounts. Supervisor Todd Waytashek to follow up.

Bill Wilson: Does not care how we bill but wishes to keep medical services.

Lloyd Erdmann: Asked how many homes were in Rockwood? 251 approximately. Questioned why they were not paying the same tax as regular homes. Proposes 1 free call per household and charge after that; feels each fire district should vote on their own contract. Supervisor Julie Johnson to follow up.

John Olson: Sliding fee after each call and to adjust the percentages

Kevin Reiter: Would like to bill non-residents more

Natasha Barber: What is the max the township has collected in a year if \$15,000 write off was for a 12-month period. Supervisor Todd Waytashek responded the cost varies year to year because the calls are unknown.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business appearing before the Board, a motion was made by Supervisor Julie Johnson, second by Supervisor Steve Wollak, and carried adjourning the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Burski
Watab Township Clerk

Respectfully accepted,

Todd B. Waytashek
Watab Township Chairman