

NO AGENDA

## GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP BOARD FOF SUPERVISORS

### SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 30, 2023 6:00 PM

**PURPOSE:** Presentation of Erik Jankila, Hibbing, Mn. Fire Chief, on the topic of Emergency Medical Services and a discussion of the draft study the Greenwood EMS Committee is considering.

Chair Drobac-calls meeting to order.

#### Pledge of Allegiance

**ROLL CALL:** Chair Drobac, Vice Chair Lofquist, Supervisor Skubic, Supervisor Stoehr, Interim Treasurer Maus, Interim Clerk Bassing. Supervisor Ralston absent

Erik Jankila-“I am a taxpayer in the township and I am here in that capacity. I believe the McGrath study is doable but doesn’t address how. Greenwood has stated three goals, to reduce response times, to provide ALS service, and that Greenwood is not interested in running an ambulance service. The study provided several options such as, having a Community Paramedic which is a good idea but has no robust payment system. Another, said we could contract out for paramedic service which has a cost of 120,000-140,000. TAAS must have paramedics for ALS service and we must go through them to achieve that. It would be silly for the township to try to force this on TAAS or Cook Ambulance. Transfers are the money maker and 911 calls do not break even. The study gives no route to accomplish the options stated. We are going to see districts for fire and ambulance in the coming years but they are hard to create because of existing politics but they do provide more value for the tax dollar spent. The best time to create a Joint Powers Board is now but all providers must be at the table.

Chair Drobac-“Does a Community Paramedic allow for one paramedic in an ambulance?”

Jankila-“Yes. Buhl had contracted with an ambulance service, Meds One, but that provider couldn’t make it. Buhl then approached Essentia Ambulance, who took over service and applied for a license to provide Partime ALS. They have been able to make it because they pick up transfers to their hospital in Duluth and that’s how they make it.”

Mark Drobac-“It’s not right to have one entity pay the most.”

Jankila-“Bring all of the players to the table, because you can’t just get a license. I am pro ALS but it must be sustainable.”

John Bassing-“They do have Community Paramedics in Buhl. We wanted the study to provide a regional concept because having administrative officers every 25 miles apart is not sustainable. Can Tower and Cook join to make a larger region with one admin.?”

Jankila-“its definitely doable but must formulate a Joint Powers Board to make it happen. Do it correctly or it will fail. TAAS & Cook Ambulance own the licenses that would have to be transferred to a JPB and needs legislative action.”

Bev Peterson-“An even larger region is needed with one administration. The legislature needs to redraw boundaries to take into account for new roads and changing populations.”

Jankila-“Don’t wait for the legislature and I can’t recommend enough the need to sit down.”

JoAnn Bassing-“If Bois Forte had a PSA could ALS be possible?”

Jankila-“Greenwood would need the approval of TAAS.”

Jeff Maus-“If there was a carve out and Bois Forte had a PSA(primary service area) could they have contracted out with Orr Ambulance and TAAS.”

Mark Drobac-“Ad hoc is sneaky, they should come here and have an open discussion.”

Barb Lofquist-“I agree with that.”

Jankila-“Essentia wants everyone to come to the mother ship and we have done a terrible job adapting to the changes. Our income doesn't meet our costs and we are struggling to keep personnel. TAAS used to take a lot of transfers but it has changed.”

Dena Suihkonen-“Now we have to pay 1.66/mile.”

John Bassing-“The problem for TAAS is that they run empty for pick up where services with hospitals do not.”

Maus-“What type of rigs do you run?”

Jankila-“Truck chassis with box. The van types are not very safe. Buhl will run types II & III.”

Jo Bassing-“In a JPB does each entity get one vote?”

Dena Suihkonen-“In Ely it is one vote for each. The IRRRB has said they would look at a JPB.”

Mark Drobac-“One vote only, that is a complication.”

Maus-“Does the ambulance lose money on 911 and if you lost transfers would you be out of business?”

Jankila-“Yes we lose and we would be out of business and would need about 20% more from the budget.”

Maus-“What do you consider a region?”

Jankila-“TAAS is a region unto its own.”

Dena Suihkonen-“In a JPB all would pay the same amount of money based on property value.”

John Bassing-“That would require a taxing district be formed and would need a vote. What would the EMSRB do if an ambulance service were to go belly up?”

Jankila-“They will ask the neighbors to cover that area until a provider could be found. It has happened 4 times last year in SW MN.”

Mark Drobac-“Each township gets one vote but one has to pay 80% all the others 20%?”

Maus-“How long does it take for ALS to get here from Virginia when called?”

Jankila-“30 minutes.”

Maus-“The county kicks in \$23.00 dollars/run, right?”

Jankila-“Yes, it added 5 dollars this year.”

Julie Stoehr-“Do all FDs have EMS because they should have people that can provide some emergency medical service?”

Jankila-“No it is not required by some FDs like Grand Rapids does not run EMS through the FD.”

MOTION: Drobac/Lofquist-to adjourn. VOTE 4/0 PASS. 7:51 PM

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CHAIR SUE DROBAC

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INTERIM CLERK JOANN BASSING