

DRAFT

VERMONTVILLE TOWNSHIP SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES JUNE 24, 2009

The Vermontville Township Board met in special session on Wednesday, June 24, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Opera House.

Present: J Owens, B Miller, B Moore, J Nehmer and S Stewart. Public present: Tim James, Don and Marcia Grant, Carla Rumsey, Dawn Conklin, Sue Villanueva, Lorraine Miller, and Monte O'Dell.

Supervisor Owens called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The purpose of the special meeting was to discuss the establishment of the Fire and Ambulance Board.

Pledge to the flag.

Motion by Owens, support by Nehmer to approve the agenda. 4 ayes, 1 nay (Miller) Carried.

Miller stated he thought there was going to be a committee meeting; not special board meeting. There was discussion concerning the conversation at the May Board meeting pertaining to a committee meeting or special meeting.

Owens explained how we got to this point; no agreement or documentation pertaining to how the Fire and Ambulance Board was originally established and feels it needs to be established before by-laws can be adopted.

Nehmer stated she thought the meeting was called to discuss the F&A Board as it is and consider the by-laws presented to the Board from the F&A Board. Owens said we need to first find out how the F&A Board is established.

Moore stated the F&A Board is not a "board", but a committee because they only make recommendations to the Township Board. They have no "power" to make decisions.

There was much discussion concerning whether the F&A Committee should be established under the Non-Statutory Fire Committee section in the On-Call Fire Departments handbook, or the Fire Administrative Board in a Single Township Department section.

Owens and Nehmer agreed it comes down to the Non-Statutory Committee section. Nehmer quoted, "...the remainder of the fire committee membership is appointed by the township board from among the township residents". She feels the F&A Committee should comprise only of Vermontville Township residents. She stated since Kalamo and Chester Townships do not contract ambulance service with Vermontville Township, they should have no vote on the committee. Miller stated Vermontville Township should not subsidize Kalamo and Chester Townships.

Moore reminded the Board it was two years ago that the board voted to put Kalamo Township on the, at the time, F&A Board. He stated Miller was not on the board at that time; therefore, did not vote to include Kalamo on the board.

Sue Villanueva, F&A Committee member, stated she feels it's a good thing to have Kalamo on the board. She said we take their money; they should have a vote.

Nehmer stated we have a fire AND AMBULANCE board and the general fund supports ambulance so Vermontville Township should have the say-so when it comes to ambulance issues. We do not have an ambulance agreement with Kalamo or Chester. Therefore, the committee should be comprised of Vermontville Township residents and we should appoint the two residents who applied for the board vacancy.

Tim James stated he agrees that the original board was established as a Non-Statutory Committee because the way the F&A Board is run is closest to that. He stated we have the flexibility to allow Kalamo on the board and we should keep the doors open for future expansion of the department. He said with four Vermontville residents on the current, they could swing any vote they feel strongly about.

Monte O'Dell, Fire Chief, stated the F&A Board was designed to go over the bills to cut Township Board time. He said the department would like to form an authority with Kalamo in the future and feels we should leave a rep from Kalamo on the current board. He feels the Township Board, although they have the final say pertaining to fire department matters, should "keep their noses out of it" and let the department do their job.

Nehmer questioned O'Dell whether he felt a Fire and Ambulance Committee was necessary; are they a viable board. He stated he feels they are.

Dawn Conklin stated she thought they appointed a rep from Kalamo to the board with a plan to form an authority in the future, but so far nothing has been done.

Carla Rumsey, current F&A Board rep from Kalamo Township, said they (Kalamo Township) has been discussing an authority with O'Dell for a while now, but there has been no indication from Vermontville Township they are interested. She stated Kalamo pays for a service from a department Vermontville owns.

Motion by Nehmer to establish a F&A Committee under the Non-Statutory section, comprising of five Vermontville Township residents, support by Miller. 2 ayes, 3 nays (Owens, Moore and Stewart). Motion failed.

Motion by Owens to classify the F&A Board as a non-statutory committee with the addition of the current Kalamo Township rep, support by Moore.

Discussion followed. Moore asked about five or seven members because the proposed by-laws state a seven member board. Stewart stated if it's a committee, there would be no limits to the number of members. Moore asked about adding a rep from Chester Township and the two applicants.

Vote revealed 2 ayes, 3 nays (Miller, Nehmer and Stewart). Motion failed.

Motion by Miller to form a F&A Committee with unlimited members in hopes of developing an authority down the road. Motion died due to lack of support.

Motion by Stewart, support by Miller to establish a Fire and Ambulance Committee with five Vermontville Township reps, one Kalamo Township rep and one Chester Township rep and continue to develop an authority. All ayes. Carried.

Nehmer asked about the by-laws the F&A Committee sent to the Board for consideration. Owens said we should attend the next F&A Committee meeting and go over concerns with them and have them resubmit them to the Board for approval.

Motion by Stewart, support by Owens to adjourn. All ayes. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Sharon Stewart
Vermontville Township Clerk