TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP

ANTRIM COUNTY, MICHIGAN

DRAFT MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

MARCH 14, 2018

COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING

TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP

Present: Martel, Schultz, Petersen, Schoenherr and Windiate

Absent: None

Audience: +/- 37

THE PURPOSE OF THIS SPECIAL MEETING IS FOR THE BOARD TO MAKE A DECISION ON THE DIRECTION TO TAKE FOR THE TOWNSHIP AMBULANCE SERVICE. ALL OTHER ITEMS THAT WOULD NORMALLY COME BEFORE THE BOARD AT A REGULAR MEETING WILL ONLY BE ADDRESSED IF ALL MEMBERS ARE PRESENT AND THERE IS A NEED FOR URGENCY.

1. The meeting convened at 7:00 PM followed by the pledge to the flag. Letters and emails received for tonight’s meeting were read into the record (See Attachment).

**Public Comment was open to the audience.** 1. Mike Kiwak does not want to privatize; willing to pay. 2.Nate Adamson wants ALS with the best trained staff and is willing to pay. 3. David Barr wants ALS, in-house, ASAP. 4. Leon Darga didn’t realize we weren’t ALS. We should move ahead quickly; it isn’t just a matter of cost. 5. Jerry Klinefelter supports local ALS and would support an increase in taxes; asked why are we doing this again? 6. Marge Dawson is satisfied with the service we have now; doesn’t understand why we haven’t gone out to the surrounding townships to see what they are doing; don’t rush into it. 7. Lee Scott supports moving to in-house ALS; is also happy with the service we’ve had so far, we should prepare for the future. We need an actual proposal and whether they (MMR) have lived up to it. If it costs more, it is money well spent. 8. Deb Graber is for upgrading to ALS. 9. Jill Spencer encourages us to move to ALS. 10. Dieter Amos stated that four years ago, when he was on this Board, he pushed for ALS with MMR and it fell on deaf ears; we will never be able to provide the same service as MMR; it is worth looking in to and should have been done a year ago. 11. Don Schultz feels we should look at MMR again. He is for an ALS upgrade, but feels it is ridiculous to make a decision tonight; we have two new Board members who are not familiar; seasonal residents don’t know what’s happening; let’s look at a private source; we should respect each other. 12. Chuck Goossen is a former trustee and is concerned with the proficiency of the current crew, with only 70 runs a year it is a challenge; four years ago, he supported staying in-house with our service. MMR was an unknown entity. He asked that we revisit this in a year; why did we wait so long to revisit; ALS doesn’t raise taxes, there is plenty in Fund Balance. 13. Tom Petersen feels there are some misconceptions about “in-house” and “local”; the work should have been done before the budget; time needed to look; he feels we should keep it as is, get the bids going, with the goal ALS. 14. Bob Cook likes using Fund Equity without raising taxes; we could do the analysis; he wants in-house ALS; will serve on committee. 15. Bob Spencer did a study of the revenues and expenses and has those numbers. 16. Chuck Goossen says let’s lay the cards on the table but let’s lay all the cards on the table; what does out- source rent look like; run times. Look at the facts. 17. Jerry Kulka is in favor of in-house ALS, now. Any bids should not say what can you do for us, but rather this is what we want. 18. Rita Service commented MMR was here in January; its not new; we had the numbers. 19. Marge Dawson talked to Steve at MMR and he did not make a proposal; lets go to ALS but let’s do it responsibly. 20. Dr. Lynn Schmidt encourage us to go ALS but do our due diligence; be leery of privatization- it’s easier to get into then out of. Break at 8:30 PM.

1. **Discussion/Decision about Township ALS:** The **Motion** by Martel that Torch Lake Township establish its own ALS service; take the necessary legal steps with the state to establish the service; increase the EMS Fund millage .0004 mils from .00145 mils to a total of .00185 mils for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the primary purpose of providing competitive wages for EMS personnel, as well as meeting cost for added ALS medical supplies, equipment and other related requirements. Motion is seconded by Windiate. Discussion: Martel states we didn’t do our RFP well; we have a population with 45% over 65; specifications will be needed; we should move toward ALS with a millage to stabilize the department. Schoenherr commented that a lot of information was shared tonight. It is an emotional issue. What she heard helps her understand; feels we should look at today and the future; wants to see costs involved, such as insurance, wages, supplies. Petersen stated he was not on the Board then, but he has been talking and listening to others; feels we need to go to ALS but without a millage increase. We need to develop standards, facts, hard numbers, factual information; next year look at adjusting the millage. Schultz thanked the audience, the Board; she was a member of EMS for 30 years. She asks what will happen if we don’t go ALS, if it’s done at the last minute? Can we continue? She feels the article in the paper regarding the March 1st meeting was misleading; she has always supported ALS, initiating it years ago. Windiate is in favor of moving to ALS, does not want residents waiting for an intercept ambulance to arrive before certain treatment can be given.

With discussion completed the roll call vote is taken. Schultz No, Windiate Yes, Schoenherr No, Petersen No, Martel Yes. Motion is defeated 3-2.

1. **Public Comment:** Goossen stated go ALS and fund through Fund Equity.It creates a hook. Bob Spencer believes we could operate without millage increase by using money market accounts. Dieter Amos thanked the Board for taking the extra time to decide. Jerry Kulka says go to ALS now and look into other alternatives; the Township should develop the proposal. Mr. Petersen asked what happens if we are ALS, called out to support Banks Township and then get a call?
2. **Board Comment:** Schoenherr thanked all for coming out; she appreciates it and will do her best to make the right decision. Petersen also thanked the audience for accepting that we are not making a decision tonight.With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:28 PM. These Minutes are respectfully submitted and will be approved at the next regular Board Meeting. **Kathy S. Windiate** **Township Clerk**