

WATERVLiet CHARTER TOWNSHIP SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

April 12, 2010

6:30 p.m. – Watervliet Township Hall

Dan Hutchins called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The following members were present: Dan Hutchins, Patricia Bambrick, Tom Scheid, Bob Wallace, Vick Kinzler, Joe Stepich and Joe Matthews.

The purpose of the Special Board Meeting is to review the Emergency Service Committee findings and to consider a decision on either keeping Medic I Ambulance or changing over to Coloma Emergency Medical Service (CEMS).

Bob Wallace, Watervliet Charter Township Trustee, is the Chairman of the Emergency Service Committee. The other committee members are Patt Bambrick, Watervliet Charter Township Clerk; Bill Teunissen, Watervliet Township resident; Rory Bell, former fireman and police officer employed by Coloma Charter Township; and Steve Otto, Watervliet Community Hospital Chief Clinical Officer.

Bob Wallace presented a comparison chart of the two ambulance services. *A copy of the chart is attached to the minutes.* Wallace took questions from the audience and the township board.

Pete Sinclair said he wanted to clarify that in New Buffalo, Medic I sometimes might have one paramedic and one EMT. He said the EMT is training to be a paramedic. Robert Ashton and his wife said they have lived in the area for many years and they are very happy with Medic I. Robert and Claudia Jackson said they want Medic I to be retained by the township. Claudia Jackson said she would not call CEMS. Deanna Heminger corrected the statement that CEMS does not have radio contact saying they do. Pam Quinn also confirmed that they do. Robert Morlock said he submitted four names to Bob Wallace for information on their feelings regarding CEMS and asked if they replied in writing as Wallace asked people to do. Wallace said that he contacted the people on the list and informed the committee of their replies. Bob Jackson said that the millage cost per person was not that much. Robert Morlock said that it cost Lane Automotive about \$1,000 per year, and Joe Arnt about \$900 per year. The yearly charge from Medic I has not changed for many years. Deanna Heminger asked, "why can't the board stand up to the medical control board". Pam Quinn said CEMS covers most of their calls but Medic I does use other service. She said all paramedics are trained the same. Pam Quinn asked if the committee asked if they could have representation on the CEMS Board if they went with them. Bob Wallace said no. Medic I serves 19 communities.

Bob Wallace said the Emergency Service Committee unanimously recommended staying with Medic I. He said there is a lawsuit pending for Pride Care overbilling Medicare. He said the merger is new between CEMS and Pride Care. He said the ambulance situation could be reviewed after the merger had been in place for one or two years. B. Wallace made a motion to stay with Medic I ambulance service. T. Scheid supported the motion. J. Stepich asked if the committee ever contacted the police to see how they felt about the two ambulance services. Wallace said he contacted the police and they said why would you even consider switching. He said one of the policemen said he went to an ambulance call where CEMS responded with only one EMT. B. Wallace and J. Stepich said they were ready to vote. V. Kinzler and J. Matthews said they would like to take more time to look into the matter. D. Hutchins said even though the

meeting had been publicized that a vote might be taken at this meeting, B. Wallace had always stated he did not want the township board to vote at special board meetings, unless it was an emergency. D. Hutchins also said the board needs to look at this from an economic position. B. Wallace said he would withdraw his motion and they could hold the vote at the April 19, 2010 regular board meeting.

V. Kinzler moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. P. Bambrick supported the motion and it carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Bambrick
Watervliet Charter Township Clerk

Dan Hutchins
Watervliet Charter Township Supervisor

Recorded and transcribed by Marcia VanDrasek