

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP
SPECIAL MEETING
OCTOBER 5, 2021 MINUTES**

PRESENT – Trustee Jeske, Trustee Lundell, Treasurer Pachman, Supervisor Marcinkowski, Clerk Fagan, Trustee Graham, Trustee Holman

ALSO PRESENT – (10) Ten interested Parties

CALL TO ORDER – Supervisory Marcinkowski called the October 5, 2021 Special Meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

AGENDA - Motion by Trustee Holman, second by Trustee Jeske, **ADOPTED**, to accept the October 5, 2021 Special Township Board Meeting Agenda.
Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES – motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT – There were none.

NEW BUSINESS –

- a. **Presentations by Tom Schmiedeknecht of ProMed, Jonathon Degen of White Lake Ambulance Authority and Chief Pete McCarthy of White Lake Fire Authority.** Each presenter was allowed unlimited time to discuss their organization and plan for Fruitland Township ambulance services. Each presenter answered questions from the public during their presentation.

White Lake Ambulance Authority – Jonathon Degen presented first, using a shortened power point presentation similar to the one presented to the Township Board in August. He discussed changes to their board, accounting processes, and billing processes since Fruitland Township's departure years ago. He discussed the current millage that funds approximately sixty percent of their operations, with the other forty percent coming from billing. He expressed they average about a fifty percent collection rate on their billing and they do not bill for non-transport. They were able to drop the millage rate from 1.9 to 1.8 for this year. In 2021 their average response time is 8.42 minutes with an average response time of 7.14 minutes for Fruitland Township. The White Lake Ambulance Authority has not worked out a cost for Fruitland Township or how that would be set up compared to the current covered municipalities that pay via millage.

ProMed – Tom Schmiedeknecht presented second. He focused on a nationwide staffing shortage for paramedics, which is causing issues within ProMed. They cover most of Muskegon County. They have been working on ideas to help solve the staffing issues – some of the ideas include adding trainings/classes in house to get more qualified and

certified people available for staffing and making changes to the current system to allow BLS (instead of ALS) ambulances for non emergent calls and calls that are closer in proximity to the hospital. He stated they have increased their wages to be competitive and the current average salary for a paramedic is \$52,000 per year. ProMed does not cost Fruitland Township anything for the coverage. They are sustained by revenue collected from claims and through Mercy. They do charge for non-transport calls. Mr. Schmiedeknecht stated they use percentiles to keep track of their response times and that they were reporting that in 2020, 90% of their response times for priority one patients in Fruitland Township was 23 minutes or less, with that time dropping to 16 minutes in 2021. They average about 3 standby calls per day.

White Lake Fire Authority – Chief McCarthy presented for the White Lake Fire Authority. He stated that they began looking into the possibility of starting a Fire Based ALS ambulance service at White Lake Fire Authority when they started to notice an increase response times over the last year and a half. Their plan is to purchase/lease 2 ambulances. One would be in service full time with the 2nd ambulance available as backup with a “scramble crew” if the first ambulance is on a call. They are estimating this project would cost each municipality approximately \$75,000 per year but it would only work if both Fruitland Township and the City of Whitehall were both on board. The estimate includes staffing, benefits, the cost of the ambulances and equipment. They would outsource billing similar to the way White Lake Ambulance Authority does, but would keep payroll in house the way they do now. The ambulances would be kept at Station 1. They would not charge for non-transport calls for Fruitland Township/City of Whitehall residents but would charge for non-transport calls for non-residents. They would not be allowed to participate in the mutual aid agreement that most ambulance services are required to do because they would only have one active ambulance. Chief McCarthy also answered some questions about the current staffing at Fire Station 2, stating that he has never stated that he would keep Fire Station 2 staffed, but that it is still used for fire rescue primarily by on-call firefighters that live nearby the station and that they have actually seen a decrease in response times since the new station was built.

PUBLIC COMMENT – There were none but resident questions were addressed and answered during presentations.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Trustee Holman, second by Trustee Jeske, **ADOPTED**, to adjourn the October 5, 2021 Special Meeting of the Township of Fruitland at 9:00 PM.

Upon Voice Vote: **ZAYES – motion carried**

FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP OCTOBER 5, 2021 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Respectfully Submitted,

Breann Fagan, Clerk
Township of Fruitland