

Ripley County Commissioners Special Meeting  
February 29, 2016

The Commissioners meeting opened promptly at 7:00 p.m., Monday, February 29, 2016 at the Ripley County Annex Meeting Room, Versailles, Indiana.

Commissioner President Gary Stutler called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

NOTE: The recording system did not start promptly but was in operation by 7:08p.m.

Commissioner President Stutler announced to the attendees that due to the sudden resignation of the Ripley County EMS Director and the various unanswered issues with the Rescue Units the commissioners had voted in the regular Commissioners' Meeting that morning that the previous vote to cancel the contracts with Rescue 20, 30 and 69 on 8/1/2016 had been rescinded. All contracts will continue as are currently in effect.

Also he advised those present that Mr. Scott Huffman had been named the Ripley County EMS Director effective 2/29/2016.

Mr. Huffman introduced himself to the crowd and advised a steering committee was being formed to look into all aspects of the Rescue Units and County EMS operations. This Steering Committee consists of representatives from each Rescue Squad, County EMS, Council, Margaret Mary Hospital, and Commissioners. The committee will bring ideas and recommendations to the commissioners to make the program work within the financial parameters.

Steering Committee:

Rescue 69—Mr. Keith Sieverding and Mr. Charley Cozart

Rescue 30—Mr. David Voss and Mr. Mike Alloway

Rescue 20—Mr. Danny Smith and Mr. Dave Lattire

Rescue 10—Mr. Todd Schutte and Mr. Brian Hardebeck

Ripley County EMS—Mr. Scott Huffman and Mr. Mike Sieverding

Ripley County Council—Ms. Brenda Wetzler and Mr. Ed Armbricht

Commissioners—Mr. Mark Busching

Margaret Mary Hospital—Mr. Tim Putnam

Mr. Paul Hildebrand spoke and questioned why the decision to cancel the contracts was rescinded and stated Rescue 30 had not agreed to the rescission. He was told the commissioners rescinded the previous decision because with the current situation they felt additional information and research needed to be done.

There were several attendees that spoke and presented questions. Mr. Rick Stevens of Rescue 30 questioned if the Rescue Units could use any billing company they chose. Mr. Danny Smith of Rescue 20 stated the current billing company had completely missed billing 17 runs for them. Mr. Jeff Poole questioned why any funds were being sent to Rescue Units if the County did not have financial statements from them. Mr. Tom Poole questioned why the county was in the ambulance transfer business at all. He was told it was an attempt to provide additional funds to the county to operate the EMS program as River Boat Revenue Sharing declines. He was also told this operation would also be part of the evaluation done by the Steering Committee to determine if it is working. Mr. Keith Sieverding stated the issues are complicated and are not limited to Medicount, the current billing company. He stated there had been issues with Ambulance Billing Service, the prior billing company as well.

While many questions could not be answered at the present time due to lack of information everyone agreed the steering committee would be an important part of developing solutions to the current issues being faced by the Rescue Units and the County EMS.

Patrons with questions or suggestions should contact their respective Steering Committee representatives with them for consideration when the committee meets.

Commissioner Stutler stated it would take time but with the support of the attendees and the patrons of the county answers and solutions could be found. He thanked everyone for their concerns and support.

With no additional attendees requesting time to speak, Commissioner Busching moved to adjourn with a second from Commissioner Linville. Motion passed with 3 yes.

\_\_\_\_\_ Gary Stutler

\_\_\_\_\_ Mark Busching

\_\_\_\_\_ Robert Linville

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ William Lee Wagner, Auditor Ripley County