

**Town of Pierceton**  
Special Meeting Minutes  
Pierceton Community Building  
December 7, 2022 @ 6:30 pm

**Purpose of Meeting**

For discussion with the Washington Township Trustee and the Washington Township Board members regarding a contract for fire services between the town and township.

**Present**

Council members Armando Espinoza and Tom Barker. Clerk-Treasurer Myra Mast. Town Attorney Tammy Keirn.

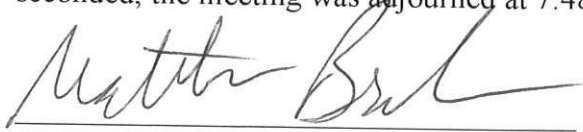
**Discussion**

- Effective January 1, 2023 the Pierceton Volunteer Fire Department LLC will be dissolved and the township will take ownership of fire services.
- Township Trustee Dean Rhoades is looking into EMT services. If the township can provide a building, Lutheran is interested in providing the ambulance service. In this case, Lutheran would want a contract that any dispatch would go to them.
- The Township board will appoint the fire chief as their main responsibility to the fire department. Once that is decided, the fire department will not run differently than it does now as the volunteer fire department. The bi-laws may be updated.
- The advantage of the Township owning the fire department is the grant opportunities for equipment and staff. The staff will be considered employees of the Township and will be volunteers unless a grant is obtained for paid staff.
- Clerk Myra Mast advised that she contacted the Kosciusko County Auditor to verify if the Town of Pierceton, was, in fact, receiving the levied taxes for fire services as was previously suggested by Town Council member Matt Brubaker and Township Trustee Dean Rhodes. The auditor advised that neither town or township was receiving taxes for fire services currently.
- Neither the Town nor Township receives a levy for fire services for the Town of Pierceton. Attorney Tammy Keirn suggested that a six-month contract be draw up so the Township can take that time to get the process started to levy those taxes to the Township. The clerk from Rome City provided documentation of their process of changing from a volunteer fire department to a township owned fire department and Tammy stated that a statement by the Town and a separate one by the Township with like verbiage will be needed to state that there is no contract by the Town for fire services in order for the Township to obtain those taxes. This will most likely need to be done after the six-month contract is complete.

- An amount was discussed and agreed upon. Dean will submit a contract to the Town for fire services for the six-month period. This amount will include insurance for the Town owned trucks. Dean will provide proof of insurance to the clerk.
- Issues were discussed regarding the use of water by the fire department taken from hydrants. Water taken from hydrants need to be monitored for water audits which are currently showing as water loss. It is unrealistic to place meters on hydrants to monitor the amount taken due to meters are expensive and may not hold up out in the weather. It was suggested that the fireman taking water should log the estimated amount taken in relation to how much the tanker truck holds. Dean said they will monitor the usage during the six-month contract. In fighting fires in the town limits, hoses are hooked up to a hydrant and the usage cannot be estimated in the same manner, however, property owners in the town are paying that hydrant rental through the taxes used from the General Fund to pay the water department for that usage.
- Another suggestion was that the Township rents one or two of the hydrants per year since they are using them. Dean stated that he would consider that.
- The Township will eventually purchase the two fire trucks that are currently owned by the Town of Pierceton.
- Dean will work with Town Attorney Tammy Keirn and Clerk Myra Mast to iron out the details for the contract.
- Other concerns:
  - Water leaving the Town without proper compensation.
  - Whether or not the Township will retain a ladder truck which would be needed to fight fires in the local industries.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Council, by a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm.



Council President



Clerk-Treasurer