

Glen Arbor Township
PO Box 276
Glen Arbor, MI 49636

Special Meeting
June 29, 2009

Special Meeting called to order at 9:00 A.M. in the Public Service Building in Glen Arbor. Purpose of meeting was to inform the Township Board of the findings and proceedings of the county committee work regarding a county-wide (combined services) Emergency Services Department. Fire Chief Dodson has put together a proposal for a county-wide committee. This committee has been working on the issue since 2007. Soderholm, Quick, Gretzema and Kelly were present. John Dodson (Fire Chief), Amy Hubbell (Leelanau Enterprise), John Kenny and Bill Bolton (Supervisor, Empire Township) were also present.

Fire Chief John Dodson

- In 2007 a committee generated priority list was topped with a consolidation of Emergency Services.
- They believed money would be saved.
- Subcommittee was formed (Fire Chiefs, Supervisors, Accountants)
- Nov 07 – present, subcommittee has met 9 times
- May 09 plan presented;
- Dispatcher recorded arrival times are problematic since many reflect the arrival of a fire fighter without a fire truck or apparatus and others reflect, and rightly so, when a licensed response vehicle (piece that offers basic level care) arrives.
- Soderholm summarized that “to be effective, an integrated system is needed with 1st medical responders/EMT’s arriving first, with transport arriving by 10 minutes, and if advanced life support, additional transport arriving within 15 minutes.” The group agreed to this.
- Dodson: This is a “tiered system”
- Leelanau County Board not intended to rule over the combined EMS department: possibly representation of each of the 7 districts,
- Currently: 11 stations for 7 districts currently.
- Currently: Each area provides different levels of services.
- Cost more money to run ‘specialist’ rather than EMT
- \$3.4 million spent in ‘08
- Dodson’s numbers and the Committee’s numbers about costs of consolidation are quite different.
- Dodson: \$4.6 million /Committee estimate \$5.2 million
- In September 09, a meeting of the Township Supervisors with query to whether or not to proceed.
- Soderholm: Does not expect to participate in county-wide, if we receive a lesser service.
- Soderholm: Significant time and energy in accessing costs of participation without regard to equipment costs, debt service, and other important associated costs. They need to be adequately reflected so that those townships that have not brought their departments up to the level of compliance that we have, will have a different cost incurred.
- Soderholm: We are supplying more mutual aid to our neighboring communities than we are receiving in return, at a cost to our community. However, mutual aid is still necessary.
- A question from Kelly about ‘bulk purchases’ and quantity discounts for equipment. Dodson says that our quantities are not significant enough to realize many, or any, savings with large quantity purchases. Kelly says, “It seems we have little to gain and much to lose”, in the county-wide system.
- Dodson supports to county-wide system for the reason of public safety for the citizens (of the entire County). He suggests that the Glen Arbor Board may look at the proposed system for different reasons; rather for their constituents of the Township specifically. Dodson says GA may gain a lot from new system.
- Soderholm summarizes: Each Township will have to decide whether to be in or out. The Glen Arbor Board is doing its part on being knowledgeable of the options. In the meantime, we have a good combined system with Empire and costs will probably go down as time progresses.
- Empire Supervisor Bolton suggests keeping score of mutual aid given to Kasson and Cedar and to get these Townships to pay.

Meeting adjourned 10:55 A.M.