

WESTFIELD TOWNSHIP TRSUITEES
SPEICAL MEETING WORK SESSION EMS PROPOSAL
September 7, 2011
7:00 pm

Chairman Trustee Oiler opened the meeting as a work session between Westfield Center, Lodi, Harrisville Township and Westfield Township at 7:00 pm. (Agenda is attached)

Trustees present: James Likley, Ronald Oiler, Gary Harris.

Attendance and self-introduction:

Dave Ridenaur, Lodi Fire & Rescue Chief

John Carpenter, Lodi Councilman

Letha Mapes, Lodi Safety Committee

Pat Graham, Lodi Safety Committee

Dick Indoe, Harrisville Township Trustee

Tom Packard, Harrisville Township Trustee

Mark Williams, Westfield Assistant Fire Chief

Richard Fletcher, Westfield Fire Chief

Dan Goodrow, Mayor of Lodi

Chris Halley, Lodi Community Hospital EMS coordinator

Gary Harris, Westfield Township Trustee

Ronald Oiler, Westfield Township Trustee

Jim Likley, Westfield Township Trustee

Pat Edington, Westfield Center Councilwoman

Dan Grabowski, Westfield Fire & Rescue Volunteer

Russ Zupanic, Westfield Fire & Rescue Volunteer

Kevin Rych, Westfield Fire & Rescue Volunteer

Heather Sturdevant, Westfield Fire & Rescue Advisory Board

Martha Evans, Westfield Township Fiscal Officer

Gayle Foster, The Post Newspaper reporter

Trustee Oiler thanked everyone for coming this evening and turned the meeting over to Chief Fletcher. Chief Fletcher felt this was a good indication that everyone is coming together to discuss a solution. The chief wanted to make something clear. Westfield is not complaining the number of runs that we make to Harrisville Township or to the Village of Lodi. I made it very clear with the former chief and with Dave to never hesitate to call Westfield when needed. It has gotten to a point where we have some conversation. My concern is when the service to the resident if there is not a response from Lodi dispatch 3 minutes goes by, another 3 minutes goes by and then a dispatch from Westfield. Then it takes us 2-5 minutes to get on the road, another 3-5 minutes travel time. We are looking at close to 20 minutes from the time someone calls for an emergency to a response. I know Westfield had issues in the past and the interim chief at the time put a challenge out to his employees that we go ahead and dispatch Seville right away or at least after the first set of tones and if you aren't on the road they will have the run. The members of the department got together and met that challenge. In any volunteer

department staffing is an issue and it is an issue for us at times. Sometimes I am concerned about especially day time when most people are working, who will show up for the run, are we going to have enough people. We all rely heavily on mutual aid, that's why we are there to help out when we can. If you look at some of the runs last year (49 runs in 2010) that we went to Harrisville Township and/or Lodi. That is inflated a little bit because some of those were actual mutual aid runs (about 20%) we fire calls, motor vehicle accidents where they do need assistance. We can look at our runs (20%) that we rely on Seville or Lafayette. There is a time when mutual aid works. When it becomes not mutual aid so much it's where we are covering an area and it is the residents that expect a response.

John Carpenter: My understanding here is that Westfield is being leaned upon too heavily for mutual aid. The answer is: Our safety committee gave our chief a consensus to request that Lafayette, West Salem, Chatham is called before Westfield. So this is kind of a mute meeting.

Chief Fletcher: Are you identifying the problem though.

John Carpenter: Yes, sir we are. Lafayette and West Salem has full time day staffing.

Dave Ridenaur: Rich, you and I talked about this awhile back after we had that meeting in Feb. in Seville. We have talked about it off and on here shortly; I have been fighting Pat over dispatch to get some of this faster tone out stuff going. So I don't understand why we are here in this big meeting. I was going to talk to you about this stuff when I called you last week when we set this up but I was told to schedule a big meeting when you and I was going to try to hash some of this out ourselves. I have tried to take some of the burden off of your department and then I'm reading in the paper that we are possibly jeopardizing patients when I used departments that were staffed and actually on the road as soon as they have knowledge of the call, we are talking less than a minute.

Chris Haley: All I can address is the numbers. We at the ER and me as EMS have set a record the last three (3) months the number of squads coming in, which is a good thing. We want to continue providing that kind of a service to our communities. We had over 100 squads in August. 50% of those were Lodi and Westfield. I work as an ER nurse also and just this last Thursday we are standing there waiting. 5 houses north of the hospital, Chatham was called after the 3rd tone out for Lodi and Chatham responded but by the time they got to the house (I understand what is going on here, as I volunteer where I live and understand the volunteer system) but when the family arrived at the hospital wanting answers as to why it took 16 minutes by the time Chatham got there. I don't know what the fix is. I don't care what color ambulance comes in. Why aren't we responding immediately? The worse thing we can do is cancel somebody. Lafayette, Town and Country and I think Canaan even has some full time people on. We are surrounded by folks who are just more than willing to help out. I am not trying to divide lines.

John Carpenter: The answer should be instead of tones going down three (3) times and asking another volunteer department to come. Wouldn't the proper answer be immediately go to one of the staffed departments; which is just exactly what I instructed him to do.

Chris Haley: I have talked to Medina County myself and good luck with that and talked to (I think his name is) Captain Lenslott kind of is in charge of dispatch and his answer was we do things our way and this is the way it's done and keep using the word "mavis" and I have been in fire and EMS for 27 years and have never heard that word. All I have to do is answer to these folks and answer to my medical

director who is essentially your director so you guys can run. I don't care how we get to a conclusion here and you are right Mr. Carpenter, why is dispatch not dispatching simultaneous. We know, sometimes Westfield has trouble meeting squads, where I run we do it too but if we know we are going to be a little low that day, we call dispatch and say if we get a call in our area call Town and Country if it's closer. The numbers for the hospital are growing and it's unbelievable. Medina is busy they are 4 hours deep in the ER's. We are seeing a trend here and we are going to have to be very proactive in coming up with a decision. The folks in the community are very alarmed about this.

James Likley: Does anyone know what the procedure is to communicate whether it's to the Medina County's Sheriff Dispatch or in case of Lodi/Harrisville pursuing Wadsworth as your 911 service? What is the procedure to set that standard if a tone goes out to Lodi?

John Carpenter: The chief sets that.

Dave Ridenaur: I have tried since March to get a dual set of tones during the day. If the computer says don't do it they don't do it.

Chris Haley: That is pretty much the answer I got.

John Carpenter: Bottom line on our end we have done what we need to do to fix this issue.

Chief Fletcher: Did we not say there is an issue with dispatch on that?

John Carpenter: The chief and I will be handling that with the sheriff department tomorrow.

Chief Fletcher: Like I said it's not an issue of how many times you call us, if you get that worked out that's a better service for your community and residents. I think we are all on the same issue of concern of providing a good service to the residents. That is one option. The other option I had down was calling us directly if it's in our area (you have 4 different areas) I have no problems responding.

John Carpenter: Lafayette will be there. You guys are about the same distance from us.

Pat Edington: Do I understand correctly that mutual aid is something that occurs when someone needs help in rare instance? If there is a big fire, yes automatic mutual aid. Mutual aid is to be a rare instance so my question is

John Carpenter: It takes full time staffing and that is why we are going to Lafayette and West Salem because they have full time staffing.

Chris Haley: Mutual aid is common not a rarity. Where I live we are in a 4 county area and we depend on 4 different dispatches. The closest hospital where I live is maybe 14-15 miles away. We have this conversation almost on a daily basis.

Pat Edington: In your department, if you had 20 calls in a month how many calls would you respond to?

Chris Haley: We try to make every one of them.

John Carpenter: Our biggest problem is during the day. We cover our calls from usually 5 pm till 6-7am the next morning. Most of us work a regular 8-4 or 5 job. A volunteer department does not pay our bills so people still have to go to work. That's what most of this discussion is about is covering those times when we are short on staff. Every volunteer department goes through it. You guys cycled through it a couple of years back and came out of it fine. Now it's our turn.

Chris Haley: The one thing that I want to throw out caution, I love Lafayette and I have dealt with them but they are under a different medical control.

John Carpenter: I understand that.

Chris Haley: They are swooping down into Lodi and going to Medina because that is where there medical control is.

John Carpenter: We use them because they have what we need and that is daytime staffing. That's why we are going with them.

Chris Haley: I understand that. I don't want you to lose sight that we are up on the hill there.

John Carpenter: We can't necessarily make them do that.

Chris Haley: There are rules that do.

John Carpenter: We can't that is something you can handle through your end.

James Likley: Has communication been open with Lafayette for this service?

John Carpenter and Dave Ridenaur: Yes.

James Likley: They are on board?

James Carpenter and Dave Ridenaur: Yes.

Dave Ridenaur: I have talked to Jeff several times and I have talked to Bob over at Town & Country several times and also Chatham.

John Carpenter: Even before this was going on tonight.

James Likley: I don't know how many squads they can man, can they staff 2 squads?

Dave Ridenaur: Yes and usually Lafayette can as well.

James Likley: The concern in any community that is relied upon (that is why we called this meeting) is that if we or any other department is the main responder for another community call that pulls them out of their community.

Dave Ridenaur: Our squad mavis is the same as our fire mavis with a few exceptions. West side of town will be Town & Country, North will be Chatham. One department will not be for everything because I talked with you on Franchester Road that day that it should not be you guys it should be Town & Country. That's another issue with dispatch that I am still trying to get resolved. I have sent a fax to Pat and I don't understand where the problem is. That is why John and I will make phone calls tomorrow. So it will not be Westfield or Lafayette coming over for everything, it's going to be divided up the way it's supposed to be the way I sent it to them months ago.

Mark Williams? So you haven't removed Westfield from mutual aid?

Dave Ridenaur: Not at this point, no.

Mark Williams: Is that what you are doing?

Dave Ridenaur: No.

Mark Willisams:??? because once you mess with the mavis it blankets you for no coverage from us for everything, on a normal basis. Unfortunately, we could not pick one department a year and half ago, we had to pick our standard mutual aid which Lodi picked up some of those calls. When you change mutual aid, you change it across the board. When you eliminate Westfield off the board it drops us off everything.

Dave Ridenaur or John Carpenter: I don't recommend it but that is what we need to do.

Chief Fletcher: One of the proposals on one of those sheets is to work together and to provide day time staffing for Lodi, Harrisville Township and Westfield.

Question: Would it be with a contract? Chief answered, yes.

John Carpenter: I have 3 out of six sitting here that say yes, if we could afford a \$65,000 contract we could have our own day time staffing. We can't afford it and with that I'll excuse myself.

James Likley: If nothing else comes from this meeting I think we have a commitment Lodi's chief to follow up with sheriff's dispatch possibly get that resolved. This is not a new issue or new problem.

Pat Edington: About 19 years

James Likley: The concern obviously is a cost to a community that is providing the service when one community is not able to for whatever reason. True mutual aid is to assist on back-up calls when you are already on a call and another call comes in mutual aid comes into play, a large incident that warrants additional staffing. I don't think the intent of this meeting was to pull Westfield Fire & Rescue off of your mavis to put us to the bottom of the list; it was to address the issue, correct the issue and realize that with this protection that is being provided whether it is Chatham, Lafayette, Town & Country there is a cost to those communities that their residents are paying for as well as our residents are paying for this service. Part of the purpose of this meeting is: if this is the conclusion that it is the consensus of the safety committee, Harrisville Township, Lodi Council as to how you want to handle your service to your residents the meeting might be done.

Dick Indoe: As far as the township goes we don't control fire and rescue at all. It is hoped in the future that we will have more say what goes on.

James Likley: Maybe 2-3 years ago we had a meeting at Westfield Center. The recommendation at that time to you folks, you are writing the check, you are paying a portion of this service. What I gathered from it little input as to its operation or service. That is entirely up to you folks as to how you want to handle that. I would want to know as the person writing the check that I would have some say in the service that I am getting. We do that here through an advisory committee and have for a number of years. We now have a professional chief that we have hired.

Pat Edington: Which we did not think we could afford.

James Likley: Yes, which we did not think we could afford and we found we could not afford to not to have a person of Chief Fletcher's caliber. He has taken on that department, provided the leadership and communication back to village council and Westfield Township trustees. In our case the trustees oversee the department as far as the day to day financial side of it and are through a contract with Village of Westfield Center. We have a contracted service. We (Westfield Twp.) is responsible for the fire department. We open the chair to Westfield Center council and they certainly have the opportunity to come before us and present any issues that they have to us. If they don't communicate it to the chief, we certainly will. That's how it works here. The purpose of this meeting is not to try to take over Lodi Fire & Rescue.

Ron Oiler & Pat Edington: Absolutely not.

James Likley: The purpose is to recognize the issue that has been an issue and try to get to a conclusion as to how best to address the concerns, not only your residents' concerns but our residents when we are providing service outside our community. I am not trying to cast any aspersions to any department. The service that is provided is at a cost. The service that isn't provided is at an even greater cost. If your boards comes to the conclusion that service to your residents is best served by calling Chatham, Lafayette, and Town & Country you folks will have to answer that.

Dick Indoe: The village will have to answer as well. In my mind, in our instance it would be better off if we had a fire district that wasn't controlled by the township or the village but village would have input into it and the township would have input into it and have a board established and take the politics out of it. I think they would get along much better.

Pat Edington: Any time you are ready to move the Village of Westfield Center will be listening.

Dan Goodrow: My feeling on that is in line with what Dick is saying from this perspective. You are absolutely right, we have seen that situation occur here in Westfield and we are now seeing it in Lodi. It has also occurred in other areas. We HAVE to give consideration to the fact and quite honestly I think we would be remised not giving consideration to the fact that utilizing outside entities other than Westfield negates what sits on top of the hill right in our town that being the hospital. We have to give consideration to that entity plus it DOES take away from service because it is farther away. I would really like to come to an agreement of some kind that would give Westfield an opportunity to have some say in how we operate. I don't see anything wrong with the mavis system being set up in a manner that Dave is speaking about. One thing that we know is how it is currently set up, we don't know how it would be set up based on phone calls tomorrow or any other day. Those are unknowns. What we do know what we have. I think what we ought to try and work with is what we know we have. We have a professional chief in Chief Fletcher. We have experience in Chief Ridenaur, we have knowledge of the area, knowledge of the hospital and Chris Haley and we have knowledge of the safety committee, Mrs. Mapes and Mrs. Graham. We have knowledge of the township and all of our trustees both Westfield and Harrisville. We have all of that. I am a little reluctant to just toss that out the window and say it doesn't matter anymore and go another direction and rely on the fact that units several more miles away are going to be as reliable as Westfield has been and as we have been when we have been able to Westfield. I'm real reluctant to go that round I would much rather deal with something that I know and can rely on. So far we have been able to rely on Westfield and is there a cost to Westfield? Absolutely; not a question, do we want to address it, yes we do. Is this contract the answer? I am not certain. Is an arrangement the answer; absolutely. As Chief Fletcher said, numbers are negotiable but I would rather not deal in numbers I would rather deal in service to the residents. That's what is critical here. The reference Chris made to the family a few houses down the street from the hospital speaks volumes the same as the reference Chief Fletcher made to the way the tones go. They go off once, they go off a second time and then they finally get a response. There are other issues at hand here that we aren't even discussing, they aren't issues to be discussed here because they are pertinent to people and departments that serve no purpose in being discussed here. What needs to be discussed here is how can an arrangement best be reached between the communities. They are close to each other and have successfully served each other and could continue to serve each other. This is a fine opportunity in my opinion for what that's worth to think more along the lines of what Trustee Dick Indoe said. The trustees are footing part of the bill here. I agree it's been under the arrangements of the village. It sets the rules and trustees just pay to have us service them. I don't think it should continue to necessarily always be without their input. I think that's a good idea to have that input to give prudence to the fact that we have resources human and equipment in nature that could be utilized and it should be utilized in a fashion that best equips and mans both departments. The people that can determine that aren't necessarily just the ones sitting here. Two (2) of them are, they can determine that with some of the folks sitting out here. How do you best man the departments? The people that make the runs know the answer to that and Mr. Haley sees the numbers. He can help crunch those that helps bear how the lay out should occur. I really think it takes a little bit of research and a little more in depth study than what this meeting by itself will provide but it is a great start. Look at it and determine how to best come up with a solution that will not just be the Band-Aid. It's going to be a long term

solution and one that will give every one of us an opportunity to feel safe and be proud of our emergency services. That's my say on ethics.

Chris Haley: Mr. Whelan, President of the hospital and I had a conversation about this meeting. The only thing he wanted me to do (he is a very well represented man in the community) is read this. Everybody here so we don't lose sight. Lodi Community Hospital's mission is to improve the health and lives of our community. Simply said, that's all he wanted me to say about this. I understand frustrations, I understand money, I get it all. I wish I had a magic wand. The numbers aren't going away. More and more people are coming and it is equal across the board. Town & Country, Westfield, Lodi, Canaan, you are all right there. I can't understand why we can't just all help each other using another volunteer service that has the same issues. I am not knocking Chatham. To help a volunteer service that has the same issue. We are still going to have to explain. I am still going to have to explain to my medical director why, I am still going to have to explain to the patients why and that is difficult to do. These people are getting angry in the community. Pat sees it when she works registration, she is at the bedside with us as nurses and she can attest to these patients and the family wondering why it took them 20 minutes to get there. I guess I don't care like I said about the politics of it all. Mr. Whelan and I agree that we want to provide the service and we'll back anybody. We will be there for anybody as we have been. I just think that with everything said we have enough people here to figure something out. I know the firefighters over there are chomping at the bit to say something.

Dan Goodrow: If I can make one more comment to the departments. I completely respect the hard working individuals of the Lodi Fire & Rescue Department who have been dedicated and providing the service to the community and its surrounding communities. I also recognize their limitations in terms of time, command experience, some certain skill levels. I would really encourage Lodi Fire & Rescue, Lodi safety committee and Lodi council to strongly consider what is being presented here in the way of an offer, not necessarily a contract but an offer to come to some level of understanding in how each department can best serve the other rather than being territorial but being more conciliatory, compromising in their approach. The two townships, the two villages and the two departments have an awful lot to offer and I am certain that can be brought together. Each member of each department knows people on the other department and they know people in the other communities and the other townships. It's not like we're strangers. We can make this happen.

Trustee Oiler: I agree with you 100% actually a lot of us came from a meeting we had in February of how we can support one another, how we can work together and what can we do to put it together. That is exactly what Westfield Township, Westfield Fire and Rescue's intent was here. Our intent has NEVER been to take over anything; our intent is save lives and to help one another. That is why we are here tonight. Someone asked who put the proposal together in the e-mail. Chief Fletcher sent first proposal and Dan Goodrow had written the 2nd "what if" just throwing out questions for consideration. The budget details came from Chief Fletcher.

James Likley: That was a long term option, not knowing what Lodi Fire & Rescue would be pursuing. Option 1 was a short term solution and what I would add to that is that instead after the first tone out to Lodi that it would be an automatic tone out. That is what you are proposing to the other communities. If as a result Westfield Fire & Rescue was the first responder that would be their call or service. Now if the community is split in quadrants and that can be resolved as far as 911 call goes to dispatch in the NW corner that would automatically go to Chatham or Town & Country. I don't know.

????????????? This entire toning bit is somewhat complicated. I was thinking if Lodi goes with Wadsworth for dispatching.

James Likley: One of the things that I would add is that I spoke with Mayor Goodrow just the other day. What I can gather from that is the expense; \$50,000-\$54,000 dispatch fees.

Dan Goodrow: \$50,000 is about what Lodi is paying a year for dispatch fees

James Likley: That is a big dispatch fee. What you have to realize is that with every tone that goes to Lodi that isn't answered and they tone out another community you are paying for that tone out.

Dan Goodrow: There are a lot of tones Dick, that go out that we pay double for because we get the initial tone and then someone else winds up going out on mutual aid in response to that but we still wind up paying for it. Wadsworth is a flat rate of \$35,000 per year. We have asked them for a 5 year contract. I am not proposing that we are close to any deal or anything

James Likley: The point that I am trying to make is some of that cost that you're seeing in your dispatch fee is as a result of unable to respond to the initial call. Dan stated there is a percentage of that cost that is in there, you are right. I don't know if Lodi and Westfield is toned out at the same time if that is a double charge or if that is one single dispatch fee. That answer would warrant being understood.

Dan Goodrow: I talked with the sheriff and Buck Adams and Chris Jacobs as well, county finance administrator at one time there was a rather complex formula that was agreed to countywide. Brunswick, Medina and Wadsworth have their own dispatch service. Montville and Medina Township left the sheriff and went with Medina City. Medina Township is not paying any more today than they did when they left in 2001. It's a very difficult nut to crack on these costs and I'll be honest we never gotten a square answer when we have asked the question, what does each run cost and how can we fix it or reduce it. Supposedly we have a representative of Wadsworth and the sheriff's office that will be at our meeting September 12th.

James Likley: Our dispatch fee that we receive is broken down to number of calls for fire and rescue only and we are given the price per call. We will pay for the calls in 2011 in 2012 by an invoice. We have seen an increase in the number of calls as well as the cost. Several years back those mutual aid calls we were paying for that call. If we were called for mutual aid to another community we were paying that bill. I think in general across the board departments and elected officials said "wait a minute" let's put that cost back to the community that is calling for that mutual aid with an understanding of that expense.

Dave Ridenaur: When you speak about costs again recognize that this is pure and simple numbers. Lodi can't afford to pay you or anybody anymore. Let's say you took over responsibility for EMS (what if). We couldn't pay you any more than what we would pay our EMS chief if you will. That would take a vote of council and it would make a change in the pay rate. So it would take some action and I don't know if they all would agree to it. That's the payment part. If we went to fire district, many of you know what that would entail. Everyone who pays any kind of a levy who is in that fire district would have to agree to that levy. It could be more or less than they are paying now or it could be the same probably a snowballs chance that it would be the same, it's a possibility. Regardless of what you did or how we did it we would have to think all these things through and hand it to the electorate and have them make certain that everyone truly understood what it was we were providing for the money they were spending. Just to do it on the off chance that Westfield would agree to what we pay our EMS chief that still takes some action by our council to agree to that and it would take contractual language etc.

Mrs. Mapes: I have an issue with the fact that with the levy that we passed. I don't know legally if we can do anything at this point. I know you contract with the village for those services but I don't know what and we still have time on that levy that was just passed. So I don't if we can even get out of something of this sort.

Dan Goodrow: That is where the clerk-treasurer comes into play. As you know they have line items that they have to address. They get audited every year and if that doesn't jive as it should, they are the ones that get called on the carpet and they aren't going to allow that happen. There is more than what can be resolved right here but I think this is a great start and I think it should be resolved perhaps in this meeting that there is A. an interest in the entities working together B. an interest in exploring further of what the possibilities are. But I think they have to be taken a step at a time. I was pretty certain we weren't going to come away from this meeting with a signed contract.

James Likley: I would have like to have thought that we could have something on paper to run it by legal counsel.

Dan Goodrow: I think you should go back to your legal counsel and ask that question; What could occur in the way of compatibility between the villages, townships, and departments and we will ask the same thing. From your end you have 3 people and from our end we have 6 people who will have to agree to that proposal.

Mrs. Mapes: I guess I have another issue. On this contract and/or proposal presented to us it was stated by your chief that you are not trying to take over Lodi's EMS but right here in the details it specifically says Lodi Fire Department will continue to provide fire service for emergency calls involving fire related incidents and motor vehicle accidents. All emergency services will be provided by Westfield Fire & Rescue.

James Likley: Option 2 was a potential long term solution for Lodi Fire & Rescue if the service was the direction that you folks wanted to go. Option 1 was a short term solution to address the issue today, come to some resolution as how best to handle it. That is why there are 2 options. There was a 3rd option offered from Mayor Goodrow.

Chief Fletcher: For clarification it says all emergency medical services will be provided by Westfield Fire & Rescue. Still the fire department of Lodi would provide that fire service, motor vehicle accidents. The life squad would come from Westfield. Also built into that would be first responders which would be people in cars that would respond from their house directly to the scene. They would have some first end equipment; we would utilize some of Lodi's personnel, EMS personnel to staff those vehicles. That is something you don't get paid and hourly wage it's like a \$1.00 an hour or whatever to be on call. Just to throw that out there as to who will be staffing these vehicles. Obviously they would be certified in EMS and pass an assessment and legality type thing.

Pat Edington: We have training 3 Monday's a month on going. There is always something going on in training and your personnel would be part of that.

Dan Goodrow: I know it's just semantics rather than say your personnel, our personnel the department's would participate in training.

Chief Fletcher: We have trained with other departments too, we have trained with Lafayette and we actually trained with Lodi when they did the ice rescue. That's a good thing because it's hard to staff specialized training. It is good that departments work together. I have a tremendous amount of respect for the volunteer fire service and Dave is part-time and doing some of the things I sometimes find myself

struggling full-time just to make things legal and keep things up. I have a lot of respect for that but we are out there and committed to helping any department around us. We are there to pick our brain for something or if you need some equipment or something like that and by all means don't hesitate to ask, we'll be there to help out. We have also tapped into resources of other departments for our use. It's a mutual understanding that we will be there to help.

Dan Goodrow: Another approach might be before we go to all the bother of legalities and contracts and levies and re-districting and so forth. Maybe there could be a facet agreement when the departments come up with a method of seeing how this could work. Then let the departments make the proposal.

Pat Edington: Have we ever thought about hospital based

Chris Haley: I have approached that. I agree with you. We are limited because of the critical access monitor that we have put all our federal or whatever dollars underneath us and it completely handcuffed us as far as what we can or cannot do. They are talking about expanding. We would love to do what Willard Mercy just did. Bought a piece of property and built this big pretty new hospital. We can't as a critical access, we can't build out of our property, we are so limited as to what they allow us to do. That is the first I said when we got there at least set up a mobile intensive care. We have one with Med Flight but they are so gone all the time now. Their runs have increased so dramatically. I think they tried it a while ago.

Dave Ridenaur: Back in the late 90's we did all the hospital transports in and out of Lodi. The hospital itself had 2 squads. I guess it was not managed properly.

Chris Haley: Everyday I will say something about that like when the weather is bad and the aircraft only flies 30% of the year anyhow. We have to mandate that we can get people to General Hospital and we are doing it with blinders on. Actually Westfield helped us one snowy day and took a heart attack to Akron General just out of the kindness of their heart they did it. We see the numbers and we see what's going on and the trends to ER and it is going to get worse with our wonderful president's health care. ER's are just going to be overrun with everything. Point being is that we would love to do that but we are so handcuffed. Even with me as an EMS coordinator; when I do my Qa's I do ride alongs with all 4-5 ambulances that we control. I have had to be put on the roster for malpractice insurance so that all this stuff can be covered because the hospital doesn't allow for that. I would love to sit at my desk and listen to the tones drop and get in my car and come to the station but I can't do that either. There are so many laws and rules and one that I want to bring to Dave's attention; be real careful about – like I said we don't care what color of truck comes into ER, OK just as long as the patients in Lodi, Harrisville Township whomever is giving the best care, quickest care, if you guys transport and you throw one of Lafayette's guys in there, they fall under our protocol. It's a municipality law in the State of Ohio. You might get this: you called us we're going to take your patient. I am just telling you if you are going to be prepared for this whole thing, these are some of the issues that will roll out from it. As I am saying tonight use whoever is available. I just want to see quicker times, so does Dr. Keesler and the hospital and so does the patients. That's the hot issue of everybody coming in.

Pat Edington: What is the critical time for heart patient for an ambulance to respond?

Chris Haley: 2-6 minutes according to the state. We have probably at the emergency department from door to cath lab we have average 47 minutes. That's astounding that you come through our door and you are in the cath lab in 47 minutes. Firelands in Sandusky is 22 minutes. Something to shoot for but they are all full-time and they are a level 2 trauma center.

Dan Goodrow: Just like Westfield Group they have to have people in house that know how to perform CPR even though you have a fire house right here staffed personnel that can provide professional care. OCEA says you have to be available 3-5 minutes and if you can't get there in 3-5 minutes because you are labeled a volunteer department that is what they will hang it on. Hey, they will say you are a volunteer department you cannot guarantee the 3-5 minutes so you have to have a staff of personnel.

Chris Haley: In defense of all this there are full-time departments that have response times of 16 minutes. A friend of mine who runs North Central EMS and they cover a large area Erie and Sandusky County and they are fulltime and averaging response time give or take 8-10 minutes on the norm.

Dave Ridenaur: Even in Cleveland the response time is huge.

Ronald Oiler: Dave, maybe you have to talk some people and so forth, how do you feel about the 2 departments working together to come up with some options just to see what's there.

Dave Ridenaur: I think to start with Rich and I. He and I have not had a chance to sit down and talk about it, we have addressed the subject very briefly. He and I could probably sit down and start. We also have some _____ pending and that will be helpful and at least 2 of them are daytime and are already EMS trained.

Dan Goodrow: I don't think this should be a reflection on the departments in terms of why this meeting was held versus of just letting you get together, don't think that at all. Think more along the lines of; I think everyone at this table has been having questions posed to them either by people at the table or by residents who would like to know more about what is the situation and I think it helps each one of us answer those kinds of questions better.

Chief Fletcher: Possibly include other chiefs in the strategy. I have talked with Jerry at Seville. (Many agreed)

Dave Ridenaur: I have talked to Jerry about the same stuff.

Chris Haley: I don't know how they are doing it with the poorest townships I've ever seen in my life is Congress Township and Homerville Township. They're doing it and have been full-time for 12 years and they are doing it with mirrors and they are very successful, unbelievably successful. They are running into the same problem with Ashland County because Homerville Township butts right up against Ashland County and that whole northern part of Ashland County is in trouble and they called on Bob Husing as a great resource. I actually tried to coax him here tonight and he wouldn't bite.

Ronald Oiler: Does anyone else have anything they would like to address?

James Likley: I have to point to the gorilla in the room. I think we all have a full understanding that Westfield Fire, Lodi, Seville, Lafayette, Chatham are all in this same business for the same reason. There isn't anybody sitting at home saying I am not answering that call because that's over there. There are no lines as far as these people are concerned. The concern is that as I stated earlier when one community relies completely on another community for that service there is a cost involved in that. If that's the gorilla in the room and I have to say it, there is a cost associated with the service being provided. This isn't just mutual aid when you are not able to because you are on call; this is mutual aid as a result of being unable to respond to that call for whatever reason and Lord knows Westfield Fire and Rescue had their issues just a few years ago. What was done, I think they put Seville-Guilford on automatic mutual aid; that was the intent that and that was the desire.

Pat Edington: We volunteered to pay them. We came right out and said how much.

James Likley: We those of us sitting at this table recognize the cost to run a department.

Dan Goodrow: Like I said earlier I know that Lodi can't afford to pay more than what we pay the EMS chief.

James Likley: I don't believe in this proposal Option 1 is saying that we're going to give you a contract that says it's going to cost Lodi Fire & Rescue, Lodi Village Council \$65,000, \$70,000, or \$35,000. I think just an understanding of possibly a billing for services rendered until a district, communication, department staffing. This is the elephant in the room here, gentlemen, and ladies. There is not a question or concern as to the service that Westfield Fire & Rescue is willing to provide to Lodi or to any other community. I don't want anybody to think that why we're here that we are tired of servicing Lodi that's not the case.

Someone said it should be.

Possibly it should be but understand that your budget is cut and our budget is cut as well. This November we have a fire levy on the ballot. We are asking our residents for additional 1 mill that will make 2.5 mills. This is our 3rd attempt to pass. We recognize the economics every household is facing in the decision they are making.

Dave Ridenaur??? In what you are saying is very true and it doesn't really matter what's services mutual aided whether it's Westfield or Town & Country I'm pretty sure eminent bill is coming.

James Likley: That was my question when you said well Westfield is going to the bottom of the list and Lafayette can take up the slack. Is Lafayette willing to pick up the slack at no cost? Is Chatham? Can they? I don't believe so. I don't believe that this community would ask another community to pick up the slack that we're not able to meet and say let's do it for the team.

Dave Ridenaur??? I agree

James Likley: These people are dedicated to provide the service to every resident that calls for help.

Dan Goodrow: Dave and Jim I think where we are going here is at a circle.

James Likley: I am trying to break that circle when I said there is an elephant in the room and nobody is willing to talk about it.

Dan Goodrow: I told you many times what we can afford to pay you.

James Likley: I'm not saying it's going to take a contract or that it's gonna take

Dan Goodrow: It doesn't matter whether it's a contract or not that's how much we can afford to pay.

James Likley: Are you able to pay on a per call basis?

Dan Goodrow: No. We pay an EMS chief about \$4,000 per year and that would take council to approve that.

James Likley: I'm not asking our chief and I don't think it's the intent of this board in this interim Option 1 plan to put the burden on to Chief Fletcher to run your department, no. Option 1 is that Westfield Fire and Rescue be toned at the same time that Lodi Fire & Rescue is toned. If we respond and we transport we bill that insurance provider. The elephant in the room is calls that aren't billable.

Dan Goodrow: OK

James Likley: We're providing that service

Dan Goodrow: Are we talking Dumbo or Jumbo here, which elephant is it

James Likley: I'm talking what's the same standard billing price if we transported, is that something we can talk about? If Johnny falls out of the tree and Lodi is called and you don't respond and Westfield does is that of no expense to Westfield Fire & Rescue? And we don't transport.

Dan Goodrow: No, it's not at no expense

James Likley: OK is it feasible to understand for that service that there is a bill provided to somebody to pay that bill. Is that

Dan Goodrow: You would have to- If you want it in that kind of detail-If you want it in that kind of defined expense scenario; you would have to tell us what you are talking about.

James Likley: Absolutely and that's one of the things that we can get on paper if that's even something that you're willing to consider. It's not the best idea that I've thrown out but the fact of it is that every time that truck pulls out, there's an expense to it. If any community relying on another community to provide that service knowingly, require, asking and expecting another community to provide that service; they have to knowingly expect that there is a cost for that service. This is no longer just mutual aid because you're on a call and cannot respond. From what I've gathered over the last 3 ½ years – 4 years that I have been involved in it, that it's you are not able to respond because you do not have the staffing. We don't have full time staffing. We have a chief that is in the station, we do not have another person sitting there waiting to answer that call but we are fortunate, truly fortunate to have personnel that are at home during the day. Their hours allow them to be available on day time hours. When those tones go off they are hitting the door.

Dan Goodrow: Until Lodi is in a position to have a Chief Fletcher, OK? We have Chief Ridenaur his experience, his capabilities but also his full time job. So where I am going with that is this: My suggestion earlier when I said Lodi could afford to pay what we pay a part time EMS chief that would be probably something because it is not an more than what we pay now, we are just not able to utilize that position because we don't have position to utilize and that's what we are talking about in terms of utilization of Chief Fletcher in assistance manner to help manage the department and help develop the staffing that needs to occur that would help resolve the problem. I want a long term solution not a Band-Aid. Until we are able to hire that chief because right now we can't hire that chief until we are able to do that. But that still comes under council to approve.

James Likley: Chief, what are our billing rates to transport?

Chief Fletcher: \$450, \$550, and \$650 (depending on the level of care) plus mileage

James Likley: Our billable recovery is about 65% of the bill. Is it feasible to submit a bill for those services to Lodi Village Council? I'm only talking or suggesting about non-billable service. If we go to Lodi transport a patient that's a billable run. That run is essentially paid for by that billing service. If we go to Lodi or Harrisville Township on a non-billable run, not transporting is it feasible to provide an invoice on a monthly basis for those runs.

Dan Goodrow: Are we going to keep track of what is mutual aid, what is going out on a run because nobody answered the call?

James Likley: I think there would have to be.

Dan Goodrow: And who would keep track of that

James Likley: I think the target time is your day time. After those hours your department is able to answer those calls, you have the personnel. I think Chief Fletcher is willing to work with any training requirements or needs that your department might need. That's two communities working together for the purpose of providing that service. IF you don't have that training opportunity right now, participate with Westfield Fire & Rescue in their training.

Dan Goodrow: OK what I would suggest then is that the safety committee go back to council with a proposal regarding your proposal billable hours during the day time based on calls that were not

answered by Lodi, not mutual aid; that would be one item to consider. The other item to consider would be working together of Chief Fletcher and Chief Ridenaur in a determination of and the possible development of staffing and a training scenario that would get the Lodi department whether it's the Lodi department solely or a combination of Lodi and Westfield personnel in a position to be able to make those runs. Those are the 2 items to come out of this meeting.

Chris Haley: As far as the training for EMS side of it, we don't do fire at the hospital but EMS I have set up an education forum for every EMT in our 4-5 ambulance district at the hospital to meet all their requirements on a yearly basis. There is no reason why and it is all free. So as far as the training the hospital provides that and there is enough in the area..

James Likley: I think the problem as any community will see is having those people interested in serving and being able to serve during those day time hours. I think we have a couple of nurses that are on the department and they happen to be working the night shift or swing shift. Those day time hours are to serve our community. I'm just throwing this out.

Dan Goodrow: There used to be a residency requirement, there isn't any more. There might be people that the chief knows that lives in this area that would run with Lodi. That's what I'm getting at. IF two of them work together to develop the staffing, personnel and the training with Chris at the hospital that can man that department and this department during the day in a satisfactory manner that is a step forward and at the same time safety committee take it back what you suggested and that is some form of a billing scenario for those runs that are not answered that are not billable runs.

James Likley: Chief, input?

Ronald Oiler: How much of a problem is that for you to keep track of those runs?

Chief Fletcher: To keep track of those runs that we respond to is not a problem. We keep track of all the mutual aid runs that we go to Seville, Lodi, and Lafayette everywhere. It would take some tweaking as far as making sure that those were the runs that are automatic mutual aid.

Ronald Oiler: You would not have a problem working that out?

Dave Ridenaur: Here is a thing too, those calls that we are toned out for and don't respond to we still get a call sheet from the sheriff's department so that is something both of us could keep track of. That is how I know every call.

James Liklely: I don't want to set a precedent in the mutual aid billing each community back and forth. It's just a transfer of money. IF Seville-Guilford responds to Westfield 5 times and we respond to them 6 times, then our bill would be for one time, no. This is not about mutual aid circuit.

Dan Goodrow: I am fairly confident the safety committee won't buy it. I'll just say that now. There is two of the three there.

James Likley: This is not to try to develop a billing for mutual aid. This is to bring this to this table that this is not a new problem and that hopefully from this meeting that the contact to the sheriff's dispatch will be changed but we need it corrected and I don't care who you need to talk to, if it's Sheriff Hassinger, Medina County Commissioner. This is a problem and if you are seeing a problem in your dispatching and how they are responding to your request then take it up the line.

Dan Goodrow: We have been believe me.

James Likley: Take it the next level, county commissioners.

Dan Goodrow: I have to go to the center, right now I have to go to Bachelder because right now it has been to the commissioners but the point is this; I think we would be shuffling paper work around and

wasting a lot of time trying to keep track of billing runs that were not mutual aid and because nobody responded, I think that would be none sensible. I think what would make sense would be for these two gentlemen to work together and come up with solutions but the same time let's go back a step and follow up on what Mr. Indoe said earlier in the discussion phase and that was the concept of a district. You said the people sitting at this board, well who runs a fire district; a board. Who makes up the board; a fire board. Your fire board needs to be made up of a trustee and council people and the fire department. Well, the fire department, council, trustees, perhaps Chris maybe an interested resident or two. OK now we got a board and depending upon the length width and breadth of your district you expand it not that the committee is necessarily the best things to make decisions but at least the representation is there or the areas that are being served and that would be contributing in the form of equal payments by levies.

James Likley: That's the common ground in a district that is formed that all parties, all residents in that area have a voice in how that department is run. That is by no means an easy task. I have not been involved in it other than in the forming of our district. Communication to our residents is crucial and it is separation from the trustees overseeing the fire department to the trustees putting on a different hat on that district board.

Dan Goodrow: Generally speaking though, once it gets up and running it generally runs pretty smooth until issues arise. When issues arise then you have meetings like this and we have to resolve them. Once things level out, it sort of runs itself.

James Likley: As we look at Harrisville Township, Westfield Township doesn't get the service area any smaller. So there are costs that are involved in forming that district over and above our individual operation. From what I understand, we have our expenses and our costs. Harrisville and Lodi has their expenses and costs. Forming a district does not say well it just combines those revenues and costs and you now have a district. There's a lot more to it. It's a process to take a few months, a year. By the time each community involved. It has to go to the community to even be interested in forming a district. Then once the district is formed and those pieces are together then you have to get the funding for that district so it is a long process. I am talking about an issue that has been an issue for a long time and trying to resolve it before we close tonight at least get something on paper so that collectively we can go to each of our boards and understand it. The elephant in the room is not the service. The elephant in the room is the cost of that service to our residents, to your residents and even more importantly the ones that that we're not serving.

Dan Goodrow: After the safety committee takes back and that is those questions for a decision perhaps even the trustees take back and discuss among themselves.

James Likley: To give you that base line and. This is just me talking unfortunately that if it's a non-billable run that we start at the low end of our billable run and that's \$450. We collect approximately 65% of \$450. That quite possibly could be the invoice sent to Lodi Fire & Rescue for that service. If that isn't feasible then we can't come together enough on that issue you are not going to get people to come together to form a district and say let's all get together and do that.

Dick Indoe: I see what you are getting at but as a trustee in Harrisville Township

Jim Likley: This is information that you folks need to understand as well

Dick Indoe: I know that. I don't think you can expect to get that on paper but it could be a proposal that they can take back.

Pat Edington: I agree with you, Jim is..... we can't this done tonight it has to go back. A lot of things have been said tonight. Take it back now.

Someone said \$282.00 per month for non-billable runs

Jim Likley: I don't even know if that even covers our cost.

Dan Goodrow: I doubt it if you are only getting 65%.

Jim Likley: Really I don't know. These are fees we have established

Chief Fletcher: I will throw something out there too. I believe that it was discussed that Chief Ridenaur and Mr. Carpenter will make a phone call to dispatch to go ahead and try to straighten out the mavis, is that intent to automatically dispatch right away? If you get a crew together then you can cancel. That is a lesser charge that should be incurred because if you have people that show up for a run I have to pay those people for that minimum. \$50 or something like that so it covers my personnel cost for individuals showing up, getting in the squad, taking off then getting cancelled. I think that resolves the issue of your residents waiting 6, 7 or whatever minutes for us to get toned out or another mutual aid to. I think you are going to have someone on the road a lot quicker. You have to have the response time within 4-6 minutes.

Pat Edington: What was that charge?

Chief Fletcher: Whatever my personnel cost is \$50 something like that if I have 4 people show up

Jim Likley: If the call is cancelled. In your dispatching fees you need to understand if they are going to double charge (if both departments are called) If they don't that's \$25,000-\$30,000 savings right there.

That gives you money to work for.

Dan Goodrow: Right now dispatching just round it up at \$30 and depending upon if it gets double toned then yes, then it's \$60 and if you don't do that then it remains at \$30

Jim Likley: That is a potential savings

Dan Goodrow: You can't say what the savings would be because I don't know the percentages of those calls are double toned out.

Jim Likley: But you can recognize there is a savings opportunity if that problem can be resolved by simply toning out Lodi-Westfield at the same tone or Lodi-Chatham or Lodi-Town & Country. Now we are just talking about Westfield Fire & Rescue. My question an hour ago was Lafayette providing the service; at some point there are going to say wait a minute. It's not a matter of being cancelled but Lafayette, Chatham and Town & Country at some point they are gonna say you guys went into an agreement, a billing agreement with Westfield Fire & Rescue to provide service when you are not able to what are we chopped liver? I think you are going to see – I would be thinking I'm going to see this cost around me come in just by dispersing that responsibilities to someone else just kick the can down the road. It truly does. We're seeing a reduction in our funding just by somebody taking a pen to a map and say here you go that's no longer your service area. That's a total of almost \$4,000 we will lose in funding just by drawing a line. Medina County is coming to us and saying we need you to service your hydrant, that's at a cost. We will probably absorb that cost because that service is crucial for these men and women that go out there and want to open a hydrant and know that there is water and our residents standing out in their front yard saying why doesn't that hydrant put water out. So we will absorb that cost, there's another \$4,000-\$5,000. Right there is \$8-9,000 that we can just write off our budget for these reductions and additional costs beyond our control. So with that we come to this table with an understanding that for the service being provided there has to be a fee.

Another lady asked: What did you pay Guilford Township when you were in trouble and you were using them some.

Jim Likley: They never billed us.

Mark Williams: We kept them down to – in that six-month period we kept it down to I think is was 10 calls. We worked hard on – I can't remember but there were 2 or 3 from Lodi and a few from Lafayette, mutual aids all together. We didn't just dispatch Seville at that time. We didn't have a contract with them but we had talked about it and Jerry and I had a lot of dialogue to keep up with where are we at and are we at a point to where we need to look at it so he and I talked about that constantly and he said, no we are good, it is not an issue. We did keep it down, it was under a dozen calls by the time it was all said and done.

Jim Likley: Trustees were calling us individually. We understand you have an issue here and you will get through it but just be aware of their concern because every time Lodi squad truck is pulled out of their community that is back to their residents.

Pat Edington: I have been on council in Westfield Center 19 years and this has been an issue with Lodi for 19 years. 3 mayors have discussed this issue so this is the reason why it was said; Gee whiz we have a problem in Lodi can we help, can we help solidify it, and can we help making it better. It's not something that just happened for 2 or 3 years.

Jim Likley: The thing I think we all have to realize is that when our shrinking budget is to the point that we can't pay our bills, that we can't put good piece of equipment under our volunteers because of funding costs then we lose too. We're in that position, well we can't pay for the equipment out there, we can't pay the chief, we can't because of costs keep coming in and this is just one discussion of a cost that we have seen over a period of time, this isn't a short lived problem. It isn't and I think we can all acknowledge that. So if your boards, your communication can look at an acceptable billing rate that and if that forces more discussion at the Lodi council and Harrisville trustees to go to those meetings and force you folks to sit down and say: look we're paying for a service that we're not getting what are we gonna do. What do we have to do in our community; do we need to raise additional money, do we need to get more involved? This is getting us all at the table to point at that elephant in the room; I don't think anyone pointed at it in the past.

Ronald Oiler: If there is nothing else to come before us, a motion to adjourn by Pat Edington, seconded by Ronald Oiler. Unanimous

Approved September 19, 2011