

Portage Township Special Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2023 Approved Pat MacLachlan, Clerk

Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Supervisor Reed/ Pledge of Allegiance

Board members present: Reed, McKeage, MacLachlan, Holbrook and Abram
18 community members.

1. Discussion between board members, Captain Wiegand, Chief Burton and members of the community about Portage EMS service. **Reed assured attendees and the community that the board is not here to remove EMS services in Portage Township.** Reed recognized members of Portage EMS and Fire that were in attendance and Ed Unger RN, Paramedic and Region 8 Health Care Coalition coordinator.

Facts, figures and opinions about EMS service nationally as well as locally were expressed.

Personnel/staffing appeared to be the main issue, with discussion of solutions from pay increases, additional education opportunities, recruitment, consolidation of service or creation of EMS authority.

Public Comment:

- Downstate service required all firefighters to be MFR licensed.
- Could we pick up EMT's from Luce County?
- Willing to offer classes, only 6 people needed to teach an EMT class. MFR class takes 60 hours.
- EMS should be highest compensated township employees. The service should be a township priority.
- How is our Emergency Service millage divided between EMS & Fire?
- EMS is a family commitment.
- What is the timeline/deadline for a board decision on this issue?

Motion to adjourn 7:40