

**RESOLUTION #19-0619-02**

**Authorize Sending Response to Delaware County Commissioner's Proposal dated October 30, 2018 to Replace Liberty Township EMS with Delaware County EMS**

**WHEREAS**, on October 30, 2018, the Delaware County Commissioner's sent a proposal to the Liberty Township Board of Trustees to replace the current Liberty Township fire-based EMS with Delaware County EMS, and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees has no desire to replace the current Liberty Township Fire Department fire-based EMS, and

**WHEREAS**, Liberty Township currently receives approximately \$190 per run from Delaware County as reimbursement for the Township providing EMS on behalf of the County, and

**WHEREAS**, the reimbursement amount has remained unchanged for since early 2000 despite significant growth in the Township and increasing need for EMS services, and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees would like a more equitable and reasonable per-run reimbursement in light of Delaware County's estimation that each EMS run would cost them approximately \$2,100.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF LIBERTY TOWNSHIP, DELAWARE COUNTY, OHIO** to authorize sending the attached response to the Delaware County Commissioners, which, in part, proposes the following:

1. A more equitable and reasonable per run reimbursement of approximately \$490 from Delaware County.
2. A ten-year contract with Delaware County for maintaining Liberty Township Fire Department fire-based EMS.

Motion made by Leneghan and seconded by Gemperline.

**Vote:** No Mrs. Eichhorn Yes Mr. Gemperline Yes Mrs. Leneghan

This Resolution shall be in force and become effective immediately upon its execution.

June 19, 2019

Date

Melanie Leneghan  
Melanie Leneghan, Trustee

CERTIFIED BY:

N. Denutte  
Nancy Denutte, Fiscal Officer

Shyra Eichhorn  
Shyra Eichhorn, Trustee

**RESOLUTION 19-0619-02**

**Response from The Liberty Township Board of Trustees regarding the Delaware County Proposal To Takeover the Township's EMS, Dated October 30, 2018 to the Liberty Township Board Of Trustees.**

The Liberty Township BOT would like to thank the Delaware County Board of Commissioners for your October 30<sup>th</sup> proposal to have DCEMS perform the EMS functions in Liberty Township thus relieving the taxpayers of Liberty Township of the burden of funding a township funded EMS department.

After months of evaluation and consideration of the results of the Fitch Report and with the cooperation of Delcom personnel, Delaware County personnel, City of Delaware Personnel and Liberty Township personnel, all of whom we wish thank, the Liberty Township BOT is confident that the appropriate actions have finally been taken to address the concerns of the Fitch Report and members of this board, that will improve service levels through reduced response times and increased positive patient outcomes and lower taxes by creating other revenue streams to fund EMS.

**Whereas:** The County hired Fitch & Associates to conduct an EMS Master Plan dated July 5, 2018. In the Fitch report it states "In the early 1970s, the County added a half cent sales tax that was dedicated to fund EMS activities." At that time the City of Delaware and Liberty Township already had established EMS departments. The report goes on to state "The City of Delaware and Liberty Township have a historical compensation agreement with the county, which compensates them on a 'per response' and 'per transport' basis, as they 'opted in' to the county EMS system when that was established in the early 1970s." Therefore, Liberty Township has been receiving monies from the sales tax to "fund EMS activities".

**Whereas:** On October 30, 2018 County Administrator Mike Frommer submitted a written proposal to Liberty Township "to encompass Delaware County EMS providing EMS services in place of the Liberty Township Fire Department (LTFD)." It is understood it costs an estimated \$1,000,000 for the County to operate one (1) Delaware County EMS station. The County's proposal is to "provide two (2) Advanced Life Support ambulances; one located at station 321 and one located at Station 322. The ambulances will be staffed with two paramedics and be operated 24 hours a day, 7 days a week."

**Whereas:** Commissioner Lewis has commented that it would cost the County \$2 million a year to provide EMS service to Liberty Township. She goes on to state the County has treated the Township unfairly and has promised to remedy the situation. This unfair treatment is due to the residents of Liberty Township paying an additional tax for EMS service which has been occurring for decades.

**Whereas:** It is understood that the cost to run one (1) County EMS stations is estimated at \$1,000,000 per year. Liberty Township has two (2) stations which the County offered to operate at an estimated total of \$2,000,000 per year. During the Township's proposed 10-Year timeframe, the County would spend an estimated \$20,000,000; whereas the Township's proposal of \$1,000,000 per year equals \$10,000,000. This is a savings to the County of an estimated \$10,000,000 over the 10-Year period.

**Whereas:** the Delaware County EMS Performance Metrics, the cost per call in 2014 was \$1,973, 2015 was \$2,053, 2016 was \$1,895, 2017 was \$1,927 and 2018 was \$1,785. This averages out to \$1,926.60 over the last five years.

**Whereas:** In 2018 Liberty Township EMS had 1,947 runs. At the proposed \$1,000,000 request, this would equate to \$513.61 per run. This is 26.7% of the average cost of a County EMS run over the last five years.

**Whereas:** The Board of Trustees would like to take into consideration that reimbursing the township \$1,973.00 per run would represent a considerably significant increase and while it does cost us approximately \$3 million to fund the EMS portion of our fire and EMS department and Commissioner Lewis stated that it would cost the County \$2 million to provide EMS services to Liberty Township, we would like to propose a \$1,000,000.00 annual reimbursement to be paid by the county to Liberty Township for providing and funding our own EMS services.

**Whereas:** The Liberty Township BOT has also considered the March, 2001 Ohio Attorney General decision 2001-011, which states "it is clear that if a county or township provides emergency medical services, emergency medical services personnel of the county or township are responsible for providing such services throughout the entire territory of the county or township."

**Therefore,** based upon all of the above, The Liberty Township Board of Trustees, on behalf of the taxpayers they represent, would like to counter the county's offer by proposing that instead of providing the EMS service for Liberty Township, that the county consider saving the county taxpayers approximately \$10 million by entering into a 10- Year Contract with Liberty Township whereby "The County agrees to provide \$1,000,000 in reimbursements to the taxpayers of Liberty Township on an annual basis to be paid in 4 equal quarterly payments designated to fund EMS services that the township provides to its residents." These payments of \$250,000 to be paid on the first day of every quarter for the next ten years. In return for that reimbursement, Liberty Township taxpayers will pay the remainder of the cost to fund their own EMS department and partner to the best of our ability with DCEMS to implement a consistent outcome based medical protocol and agree to dispatch the closest/fastest available vehicle to all Liberty Township residents.

The Liberty Township BOT respectfully requests a response to this proposal no later than June 10<sup>th</sup> as it is irresponsible for the township to continue to budget based upon funding that is not backed by a contractual obligation.

Once again, we would like to thank the county commissioners for providing the Fitch Report and the October 30<sup>th</sup> proposal as both have proven to be very useful in helping us to adopt the improvements that have been made to make improvements and to put measures in place to strengthen the future of our EMS service levels.