

Minutes and proceedings of the meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Hope, Indiana.

Be it remembered that the Town Council of the Town of Hope, Indiana held called meeting at the Hope Town Hall in said town at 6:08 p.m. on January 13, 2014.

A quorum was declared present based on the presence of the following council members: Jonathan Titus (President), Paula Pollitt (Vice-President), Tim Shoaf, and Greg Sims. Clerk Treasurer, Diane Burton was also present.

Purpose of meeting: Working Session

The meeting was called to order by Jonathan Titus.

CLAIM APPROVAL

Diane stated this is the claim that David mentioned at the last meeting. It's J & J Excavating. It's for the demolition of the Walnut Street garage. The amount is \$3,300.00. Last time that there was something similar to this was in 2011 and it was taken from MVH Other Supplies Streets. I also wanted to see if that is a good place. That's what David kind of thought. Council agreed.

Greg made a motion for the approval of the claim. Tim seconded. Tim stated there needs to be a lien on that property for that. Diane stated I know you had mentioned hours. David said there were two guys that had an hour in it. Matt said he had six and Keith had eight. Cindy stated if you wouldn't mind trying to quantify that, those hours. Then maybe scanning and emailing that to me. We'll figure out what to do with all that. I definitely want to file something with the court letting them know how much time. Tim stated I would do that ASAP to. That's always touchy. What could happen. **Motion carries 4/0.**

FIRE DEPARTMENT CONTRACT

Jonathan stated about a year ago we as a council realized that maybe things were a little bit out of joint in that the Fire Department kept bringing us the contract. For years we'd just approve it, a monetary amount and all that. I'm not blaming the Fire Department. It was just accepted by the Fire Department. It was accepted by the Council. Here's where we are. We approved it and we just went forward, we went forward, we went forward. We as a council decided we probably really should get back in the business of us starting the process and asking you folks to provide fire services for the town. At that point the Council authorized me to begin working on it. I got with Cindy and decided here are some things we want to consider putting in it and also I asked her to check on the up to date statutes. So that's where a lot of it originated. Cindy stated if you look at page two, most of the changes there are statutory and at the top of page three, that red there on that first part is as well. I would have to say that pretty much the rest was generated from comments by the council to raise for discussion. The guts of the discussion probably are on page three, under paragraph number five. Discussion. Tim stated let's go back to page one if we are wanting to fill in these blanks. It says question mark add ambulance language here. Cindy stated I put that there from the standpoint because this contract is written, look at the line above that, it uses in furnishing firefighting services for the town of Hope. It really doesn't reference ambulance. Tim stated that's been one of our debates is whether we're paying for ambulance service or not as far as the town goes. Jonathan stated personally I would like to see us add the language on the ambulance. We've kind of expected you folks to do it. We've appreciated you doing it but we've never split that out. I think the township splits it up. Randy Woods stated our problem is with what we get, it costs at least \$800 for one person to go through an EMT class. Right now we've got four, five EMTs and it's hard for us to maintain that thing twenty-four seven. Discussion. Bruce Neal stated there must be an EMT on it before they can leave the station. Randy added you have to have a driver and at least one EMT. Greg asked if an EMT can transport. Randy confirmed. A lot of our things are when Columbus comes in, is that they are serious enough to where they need advanced care. We can't do advanced care. We can't start IVs. We can't give meds and sometimes that's why we wait for a paramedic to get here so they can start advanced

care. Tim asked is that because of our trained personnel or is it the classification on the ambulance. Randy answered we have no advanced people. Tim asked to do that we would have to have people that were trained above and beyond what we have. It's not a classification of the ambulance, it's a classification of the personnel. Randy answered we were advanced there for a while but at the time they said you have to maintain it twenty-four seven with an advanced person. We couldn't do that so we had to drop back to a basic. To get back up to an advanced level, it's going to take an act of God. Bruce said because we haven't got the training, we can't carry the drugs and the meds and stuff. Discussion. Tim asked CHR ambulance is automatically dispatched on every call. Bruce confirmed. They're dispatched first. Discussion. Tim stated back on this part, ambulance and the language there. The people in the town of Hope think the town of Hope, us, are working to provide them ambulance care. I think we should. We should do everything we can whether it's through the Fire Department, whether it's Columbus Regional, whether it's the Hawcreek Ambulance Service, whoever. I think we should do everything we can to ensure that there is good ambulance service to the town. I think that language needs to be in there and it needs to be tied in with what we have. Randy stated it's like I'm saying, you've got four, five EMTs right now. I work twenty-four hours shifts so I'm out of town a complete twenty-four hours. Tim stated I understand. We'll get down to that part when we get to percentages. I want to get a realistic number. I know you can't respond to 100% of them. There has to be some accountability. That's what we want to do. I know we pay whatever it is on our contract per year. I know the township, is there \$50,000 that goes towards the ambulance. Ed Stone corrected \$8520.00 but the township still pays Bartholomew County's medical board. Tim stated so \$8520 does not pay for that ambulance so part of our money is being used towards that. Ed stated I hate to disillusion you on that Mr. Shoaf but your money goes to the Fire Department and we do as we please with what is given to us. You have no specifics in here anywhere in this contract, last year's contract or any of the others that states we have to give a certain. We still make ambulance runs and make less than \$8500 investment in it. Tim stated what I'm saying is in the overall budget of the Fire Department, you've got your ambulance and your fire equipment. That \$8500 is not taking care of that ambulance. Randy confirmed not even close. Tim continued so some of the money we are paying you now is getting used on that ambulance. Bruce stated a bunch for it. Tim stated that's what I'm saying. We're already paying towards that ambulance. It's getting used in it. Bruce replied it's not contracted. Tim stated that's what we are wanting to change. Bruce stated I'm just saying here's where we are at. It's all fire trucks right now. Discussion. Randy stated you come to this burn out stage. I've been an EMT for thirty years. I've seen all kinds of stuff. It's starting to take a toll on me guys. I'll admit there's times when I pick and choose my runs because of stuff like that. I hate to say that and I hate to do that. Discussion. Randy stated we don't have enough money in our training to get new guys. Guys want to go but we can't afford to send them. We don't have the money because of maintenance on our vehicles, our equipment that we need to replace, we have to carry that million dollar malpractice insurance on that ambulance. Tim asked why do you want to stay in the ambulance business. Randy answered because I want to help people. Discussion. Tim stated I don't understand why the Hope Volunteer Fire Department, it's a money pit for them, it's a pain in the neck getting people to be able to do it, willing to do it and all that stuff, I don't understand why the town of Hope Volunteer Fire Department wants to stay in the ambulance business. I don't understand why they don't work with CRH and say let's do what we can to get you guys closer and we'll get out of the ambulance business. It is a money pit. I don't envy you a bit trying to man that thing and try to maintain everything on it. Tim stated back on the money thing I know you and I spoke about that, start billing for the ambulance service. Randy answered we tried that. Discussion. Randy stated part of the problem we have with billing is Medicare and Medicaid. Tim stated I would look into it. Randy stated we have. Discussion. Greg stated I know back in the days when Biggs was living that was one of the biggest things was the pride of being able to offer the town free ambulance services but come on. It's today. It's the real world. It's like medical insurance. It isn't free anymore. Discussion. Bruce stated I was district chairman for the Fireman's Association for a long time. I had thirty-seven departments. Almost every one of them operates just a little bit different. Tim stated when I was checking around last year, there's no uniform. Discussion. Tim stated can we put ambulance service in there. Bruce answered you might as well. Jonathan asked are you guys ok with that. Ed answered I'm not because it is going to be a lot more expense on us to run that ambulance under the quota that you want to run under and if you're not

going increase the pay on it. Jonathan stated we haven't necessarily said we wouldn't do that. Ed stated you did too here at these meeting I've set in on. It was stated quite plainly that you're not going to give us any more money. As a matter of fact one board member made the comment he wanted to give us the previous year's amount, the next year give us half and the next year give us nothing. Jonathan confirmed that's one member. Discussion. Ed stated I'll say one thing about this billing. I was in on that because I was the one that took over the treasurer and I took the money from the bank that she was putting it in and brought it up here so we could use it. We have over \$10,000 worth of bills that were never paid for ambulance runs out of that Crothersville office because they were uncollectible. Tim stated we talked about that too with the free ambulance. Continue the free ambulance if they don't have insurance. Ed answered you can't do that. If I bill you for an ambulance run and I don't bill her, you're going to be in jail. Discussion. Ed stated part of the contract was we had to sign an agreement that we have to take people that would not pay to a collection agency. We did not feel the people of Hope needed to go to a collection agency. Discussion. Tim said you are gaining zero right now because you're not billing anybody. You take me to the hospital and I don't have insurance. You send me a bill. I don't pay it. You don't pursue it. You take Cindy to the hospital. She has insurance. You send the bill to her insurance company and they pay it. You got paid for one out of two. Cindy confirmed you really do have to treat everyone the same. Paula stated the insurance rules goes by what Medicare says. If Medicare says you can bill me but you can't bill them. You can collect from me but you can't collect from them. To at least try to collect from them you have to send it to a collection agency to make it fair. Discussion. Tim stated I encourage strongly for the Fire Department to look into any way they can possibly bill for ambulance service because its nuts if there is way of collecting money from insurance. These people are paying for that insurance. If Columbus comes up here and takes them. They get paid. If we take them, we don't get paid. It makes no sense. Randy stated but they pursue theirs. Paula stated they send them to a collection agency if they don't pay. Randy stated they've got professionals doing theirs. It costs us money to have these people doing our billing for us and it's not cheap. Discussion. Tim stated I give up. You know I sit here and I try to encourage you guys to make more money for your ambulance and all you can do is give me reasons not to. I didn't even tell you had to do it but for God's sake look into making a buck for yourself. You're doing the work. If you can get paid, get paid. Ed asked why do we have to have it in the contract on EMS. Tim answered in my opinion the people in this town believe that we work towards providing them ambulance services. We thought we did that too and we have no say so. All we have is people coming in here saying you don't contract with us. You don't have a say so in your ambulance service. My opinion is we need to have that. We as tax payers are already paying on the one that's running down here, Columbus Regional anyway. Randy stated I'm not raising heck or anything like that so if they add the ambulance in there and our contract has been stated for fire service only if we add the ambulance in there, can we can come back and ask for money to help run that ambulance. Tim stated we have been paying you money to run that ambulance all along. It's being used for it because you have an ambulance that you are getting paid \$8200 a year for it. You are using part of the money we pay you already to make that ambulance go. Discussion. Randy asked does the township state EMS money. Tim confirmed. Randy stated that's the only thing I'm saying our contract in the past says fire protection now we want to add ambulance. Tim asked so you want more money. Randy confirmed. Tim stated then we want you to say you are going to show up at a 100 percent of the ambulance runs. Randy stated we can't do that. You pay us and we'll have someone there. Tim stated if the township was paying you enough to run that ambulance then I can say well I guess all of ours is going for fire. It's a known fact that you are using the money we have been paying your for years to help support your ambulance but we don't have no say so in it. Discussion. Jonathan stated I think sometimes we lose focus and I'm not criticizing anybody. I'm speaking for myself now. I would like the ambulance wording in here. I am willing to consider some funding towards that. Whatever we can do. I don't think we can go as much as you need obviously. It's just not there. Randy stated you give us more money, we will provide you with people on station from 5:00 to 5:00 five days a week. Cindy stated I think we're getting the cart before the horse a little bit as to what level your expectation is for ambulance service. That's exactly what the county and the city and CRH dealt with. I'll put it out here on the table. I am local, legal counsel for CRH so you really have to know what your expectations are before they can put a price on it. They moved to page two. Tim stated on the first line I would like

to see ambulance. Jonathan stated I would like to have the ambulance language there. Greg and Paula confirmed. They moved to page three. Ed stated I have a question on that. Why don't you instead of making this thing five pages with two sign sheets. I've got a perfectly good contract here from another agency that's only two pages. All it says is that the fire department will be responsible to maintain the state limit for insurance. Why have all this stuff in here. Jonathan stated my only concern is from a legal aspect. Tim stated why does it hurt to have it in there if that is what the state requires. Cindy answered you can do either way. This kind of just gets it out in front of everyone noses as to what the expectations are and makes us kind of look at it to see if there's changes from year to year. Greg stated as we said earlier this contract has been the same contract for twenty years. We've just kind of tweaked it. Things have just been added to it. Randy stated there is one thing in the contract that has never been brought up. We are supposed to have physicals every year. We can't even afford to have that done. That's getting into our medical part here. Tim stated let's do a favor and stop on what can be afforded and not afforded right now. Randy stated I'm just telling what it costs really. Tim stated I know and then I'll start telling what Fire Departments are getting out of other towns too. We don't want to have that discussion right now. Ed stated when do you want to have it. I'll discuss it with you. Paula stated I think we need to look at what the contract says and what we would like to have and then talk money. Discussion. Jonathan asked Ed to give Cindy a copy of the contract he is suggesting. Ed agreed. Jonathan stated let's go to page three. For some reason this may have came from you Bruce or it may have came from Ed, I had actually marked out item number three in my copy. Bruce stated I don't know if that needs to be in there or not but for our own benefit and for the town's ratings benefit, we have it service tested. Greg stated that's part of the ISO law. Discussion. Cindy suggested it read the Fire Department shall do all appropriate test to keep the equipment in good order or something like that. Tim stated provide results of the test or something so we know that we have our ISO rating and all of that stuff done. Discussion. Jonathan stated personally I'm just going to ask you to tell us an inspection was done on so and so date and we passed. Discussion. Ed stated insurance is going to rule more than you guys do. Jonathan stated let's move on down to item number five. When Cindy and I talked about this I suggested that we just leave that blank for the time being until we could discuss it. I don't have a figure in mind. I think honestly Tim, correct me if I'm wrong, I think Greg you might have even mentioned you would like to see something there. Greg stated I never really did. Tim said let me ask you this what do you guys see as a realistic number on the percentage of ambulance dispatch. Randy stated we can't really put one on there because our members vary from day to day on who's in town. I may be out of town for two weeks. We may have somebody else gone at the same time. We can't really put a percentage per year. Jonathan stated I think sometimes Tim's kind of been pictured as the bad guy but it's because we've gotten some questions about how many runs are they making and we can't answer that. I see your perspective but I'm asking you guys to see the council's perspective on that as well. Randy stated would any of you like to come out and ride with us on an EMS run and see what we do. Jonathan answered I would love to if I had the time. Tim answered I just want to know a percentage of calls that you think is realistic to be able to respond to. Randy stated that's something we would have to get together and discuss. Ed stated how many are we going to have a month. You have to know how many runs you're going to make to know what percentage you're going to make. Some days we make five a day. Some days we don't make any. Greg said I'm going to throw out 50%. Paula asked is there was a log somewhere these are the calls that came in and these are the ones that we responded to. Bruce answered we don't actually have a log but we have the run reports. Paula stated what about those that you couldn't assist. Bruce stated we still have people even though there's not an ambulance making the run, we still have first aid supplies and medical equipment on two of our pieces of equipment anyway and we stabilize patients. Discussion. Tim asked what are you currently responding to percentage wise. Randy answered we haven't really set down and figured it out. Tim stated 911 said it's less than 50% for Hope. Bruce stated I can't imagine us not responding to that few of runs. Tim stated that would have been 2012. Discussion. Randy stated Tim why don't you go get your EMT and help us out. Everybody is complaining about us. Why don't you all come out and get your EMT and help us out. Tim answered that's not my cup of tea. I appreciate people that do but I don't want to be an EMT. Randy stated I don't want to be one after thirty years and what I've seen either. Tim stated I would think the Fire Department would want to know how many runs you make instead of not having a clue what you're running.

Discussion. Paula asked in one month about how many calls do you get for ambulance. Randy stated I don't know. One month we had something like thirty ambulance runs. Another month we had maybe ten. Greg stated at one time I used to get a report. Ed asked when. I've never seen it. Tim said years ago I think we did. It just said so many fire runs, so many ambulance runs. Jonathan stated I think it was an annual report. Paula asked fire you do 100% right. Bruce stated we try. Tim stated I have never heard a complaint about a fire run but you've got a bigger population to run on those runs. I mean you don't have to be an EMT to run on a fire. I understand that too. Jonathan stated I think because we're so interested in this, and I'm talking on both sides of the table here, we sometimes lose a little bit of our focus. We're not arguing the fact that you folks are volunteers. At least I'm not and I don't think Tim is either. Tim Confirmed. Jonathan stated we understand there is going to be a limit to that. When Paula says how many runs do you make, if you make thirty one month, you make ten the next month then your average is twenty. We can all agree on that. What we are kind of asking you to do is to just give us a figure. Maybe I'm wrong here. I don't want to look like the bad guy. I agree with Tim I would like something in here in regards to ambulance service so that I can answer a tax payer question to the best of my ability. I'll be more than glad Randy to ask them if you're really interested maybe you should consider it. Quite honestly I have thought about joining you guys but these guys will tell you I'm twisted so many ways right now. I can't right now. That doesn't mean in a few years I won't. Bruce stated if you like I can give you our total runs every month. I don't have it with me right now but I can start doing it. Jonathan stated I want you guys to understand I am on your side. Paula confirmed we all are. Discussion. Bruce said we are down on our membership anyway. I think every volunteer fire department in the county is down on their manpower. Discussion. Bruce stated there is nothing in our bylaws that states you must make a percentage of runs. We're just loose. It's come help when you can. Discussion. Randy stated a problem with any volunteer is the training. My EMT, I have to keep up thirty-two hours in a two year period. That doesn't sound like many but it's hard. I also have to have seven hours of practical skills. Plus I am an instructor. They are changing so much on the instructor stuff that if I can't do it, I'm going to have to let my instructor lapse. I'm about the only instructor, two or three that we have in three or four departments around here. Greg stated everything that we've talked about here for the last forty-five, fifty minutes but really everything that is being said is giving me an indication of something that Tim said earlier. You guys need to get out of the ambulance service. It sounds like it's a money pit. You can't get people to come. We've got CRH right there. Work it. Does it need to come from the town. Do we need to contact them. They're coming anyway. Don't get me wrong, we're on your side. That's already been said. Just listen to everything and what it cost to take care of everything, your equipment and training. Tim stated I'll throw this out there too. I've talked to them about the ambulance and the possibilities and that's why I asked about the bag in the car. They were the ones that threw out there if CRH was our ambulance service, they would still want whoever could be on that Fire Department as EMTs and all. They said it could cut your response times down greatly. There is the possibility if we didn't have an ambulance service they might move one closer to us. Discussion. Randy said maybe you guys like I said just help us out. If somebody complains, say they just don't have enough people. Contact them. Get on the department. We'll pay for their EMT class but they have to commit to us for two years. Discussion. Tim asked would that fire station be a possible place for an ambulance with a full time crew as far as living quarters, showers and all that stuff. Bruce stated I can't imagine them even coming up here. They've taken their ambulances out of Jonesville Station. Discussion. Jonathan stated as we sit here tonight do you think your membership is committed to trying to maintain an ambulance. That's really what we've been arguing about for forty-five minutes. Randy answered we are trying. Jonathan asked you want to do that. Randy answered best we can. Bruce confirmed that's the bottom line. Best we can. The days of having eight, ten EMTs available is gone. Jonathan stated that's why we left those blanks in there. From our side of the table we are asking for realistic numbers there. We're willing for you to give us some numbers and then we can debate them. Bruce answered this percentage thing I don't think there is, unless someone is smarter than me, I don't know any way in the world we can tell yes we'll meet 68% or 25%. I don't think there is any way we can you a percentage. Unless we want to maintain career people twenty-four seven. We cannot guarantee that. Tim stated can you find out what percentage you have been responding to. Randy answered that changes from time to time. Tim stated if you can look back two or three years wouldn't hurt

if it wasn't a big deal but to come up with a realistic number of what we're responding to now. Discussion. Tim asked you guys in the Fire Department over there are committed to growing that Fire Department and making it the best it can be too. Let's just say we throw number on here. We'll just say 50% tonight and we base a portion of that say we're going to put \$50,000 towards ambulance based on 50% of the runs being fulfilled. If you only fulfill 25% of them then you only get \$25,000. Could you then not go to your fireman and say look guys we need to be getting people trained for EMTs. We need to be doing whatever we can to respond to these so that we have income for our Fire Department. Bruce answered a lot of our guys over there say I love to be a fire fighter but I don't want anything to do with being an EMT. Discussion on finding volunteers. Greg suggested to put an ad in the Hope paper. Paula said because we have been at this for God knows how long, can we work on a fire contract and then an ambulance contract. Can we do that separately. Tim stated I guess you could if you wanted to reduce the amount. Paula stated next year there may be something different that we don't even have an ambulance for some reason and then you have to redo this whole thing again. We could be here for weeks discussing this but at least we would get a fire contract going. Then we could discuss an ambulance contract if need be. Tim stated last year we tried to have this discussion. We signed a fire contract and then we were supposed to start negotiating how we were going to do this contract. The Fire Department quit coming to the meetings after they got the contract. Once we sign a contract for all the money, the negotiation ceased. Bruce stated I understand that. Something that I tried to do since we talked last month was try to get EMT people together and our finance people together and with the bad weather, Christmas shut down and people being gone I haven't been able to get everybody together. I do think we can come up with some numbers on what it would cost to have your people on station through our group without Columbus coming up here. Tim stated you would waste a lot of time. You cannot afford to put around the clock EMTs here when we've got Columbus coming for free. Not for free. They're billing for it but we're not paying as a town. Why would you pay around the clock EMTs to show up when you've got them showing up from Columbus. Randy said you wouldn't have to have them around the clock. You put us over there from 5:00 in the morning to 5:00 in the afternoon five days a week. You're covered. Most of our runs like Miller's Merry Manor usually comes between 5:00 and 8:00 in the morning. Tim stated even at that why would we pay for it. We've got the service right there. Randy stated but you guys are complaining because no one from here shows up. You're guaranteed to have us there between 5:00 and 5:00. Bruce stated that's how we can meet your percentage you're asking for. Discussion. Bruce stated we might not be able to make every run but we are helping out some people and that's something we're looking forward to. Tim said from the council side business wise its nuts to be taking tax money and paying out without any decent guarantee of times on it when we're already, and it's our tax money, paying for one to come up here. Discussion. Greg said we are an hour and twenty minutes into this. I think we need to summarize this, layout some expectations, obviously the contract and we need to meet again. These guys need to go back and get with your people. Bruce said would you rather us get out of the ambulance service all together. Greg stated I'm going to throw that out there. That's an option. Randy is saying man it 5:00 to 5:00. I personally don't see how we can justify that financially but if you guys want to spend the time and give us the numbers, bring that back to us. Bring back the percentages of the runs. We need more information from you. I think we got our stuff laid out here on what we're wanting to do. Randy stated it sounds like Tim does not want to budge on money. Greg answered Tim's not the only one. I have a hard time budging on any more money and not getting any more than we are already getting. Randy stated look on our maintenance on those vehicles. Discussion on expenses. Randy stated the thing is you say apply for grants. We can't apply for federal grants. You guys apply grants too right. They look because we contract with you guys. They look at the federal grants you guys have got. They come back and say why can't you get the town to help you get a federal grant. Tim said have you ever asked us for any. Ed stated yes. I've asked ARA many times. ARA says they cannot even ask for one because you guys tie up every grant that comes available. Tim stated I was never aware that you guys wanted us to get you a grant. Discussion. Jonathan stated I will pledge to you tonight that I will talk to Trena about finding you some grants. I'll do that. Discussion. Tim stated let me address a question you ask do we want you out of the ambulance service. This is me talking. If I was sitting in your shoes, I would be talking to CRH and whoever I can talk to and say look it cost us a lot of money to have an ambulance. We have trouble making responses. We can keep some EMTs. If we

thought about getting out of the ambulance service, what can you guys do to get your response times down in Hope. Can you get an ambulance closer. Discussion. Bruce asked how come they are not coming to us with their complaints. Tim stated because nobody has the guts to go talk to the person they complained about. Jonathan stated I think there is a lot of people still think we run it. Tim stated they think we own it. Discussion. Randy said if we do get out of the ambulance business is that going to cut our budget. Jonathan stated not as far as I'm concerned. Tim said I don't know. We didn't have ambulance service in there before. We can afford what we are spending now. Myself I'm cutting it with or without the ambulance because I would like to see the fire department pick up more in the way of fund raisers and stuff. If you took \$20,000 out of your income from anywhere right now and you got rid of the ambulance, you would still be money ahead. Discussion. Ed said to answer one of Mr. Shoaf's questions he asked while ago. The fire station when it was designed was designed with showers, male and female restrooms and potential to have living quarters in it. Because the rumor is down the road you are going to have to start paying for volunteer fireman to man the station twenty-four hours a day. The main thing is we don't want them in there. We don't have the room. The station is not big enough to handle what we got and what we got anticipated coming. The second thing is you say we don't apply for any money. I want you to know it was in the paper here this past year that we received a Hoosier Homeland Security grant for \$4,000. There was never a word put in the Hope paper about it. Next month I am going to a meeting in Seymour and we are going after another \$4,000 Homeland Security grant. We have not got any cooperation out of ARA. Tim asked I know you said you don't want the ambulance up there but if an ambulance does get stationed at a fire department, do they pay that fire department rent. Bruce answered Columbus Township used to receive rent for their ambulance. Tim stated I'm just looking at it as another money generator. Ed stated how much money is that going to cost you. Jonathan said on page three, Bruce will you be willing look at A and B along with your leadership where those blanks are and bring us something. Discussion. Jonathan stated I think we've lost contact with that first line; the fire department will make diligent effort. So I'm not saying that we're going to cut off funding if you don't do that. The wording is make diligent effort. We're asking you based on your integrity as professionals, I know your volunteers but I look at the three of you guys as professionals. What I'm asking you to do is diligent effort. Tim said I'll argue with you a little bit. You can do the diligent effort on members because you don't have any control. I can see tying a percentage. If you name a dollar figure on ambulance and we agree on a percentage of runs. I can see tying to that percentage. Like I say that puts an incentive the fire fighters or the EMTs over there to say we need this money in our department. We need to be getting in gear and making these runs. Randy said I see a problem on your guys' side. You guys want to work something. Tim doesn't want to adjust to your guys thoughts. Discussion. Jonathan stated it still comes down though to a majority. Tim and I have disagreed before. If three of us or when the last seat is filled, whenever that comes. A three to two vote, a four to one vote is still going to carry it. Page four Bruce you notice there are blanks for both fire and ambulance because we had talked about the possibility of differentiating that. I know you're saying we can't give you enough for ambulance and I don't think we can. I don't think it's budgeted. I don't think it's doable. I don't think the state would approve new tax rates. I would like you to bring us some kind of figure that's reasonable that can help you and that we then could go back and forth on. A starting point. If you would be willing to bring that back to us at our February Work Session, then we can argue if we need to. Ed stated no. Jonathan asked that's not doable. Ed stated you have not told me how much money I'm going to have. I can't tell you how much money we're going to spend. Budget wise, I asked two months ago for a budget from you people. I know what the township is going to pay me but you haven't so I can't break down how much it's going to be doable to put in for ambulance and all this other stuff. Jonathan stated I'm asking you to tell us what do you want us to pay you. Discussion. Randy stated I do agree with that. Give you a figure of what we want and go from there. Discussion. Ed stated while you are on this article five, I want C taken out and I want D taken out and I want E taken out of that article. On page three, maintain a good ISO rating and will notify the Town Council of anything the town could do to assist in this rating. It's not our job to tell you what to do to make the town rating. Get ISO to come in and tell the town what it needs to do. Discussion. Ed stated why should we work toward establishing a community advisory committee to discuss fire and ambulance service. Jonathan stated I'm not sure we need that now. The concern there was that we weren't communicating. Even though we've raised our

voices a few times tonight and even though we've disagreed, we are talking now. I'm fine with removing E. Tim stated I'm not. E is going to eliminate this. You guys are going to be talking about new equipment and I'm sure at some point there will be a need for more money and stuff for new equipment. If you've got an advisory board, that advisory board will sit down with the Fire Department discuss this that and the other. That advisory board would come to the council and make recommendations. That's going to save all of this. It's kind of like the Edit Committee. Bruce stated Taylorsville had an advisory board and other ones. They would get other people on there that would have no idea on the Fire Department's needs and they were just stuck in the mud. Discussion. Greg stated but who creates the advisory boards. Wouldn't you make sure there's people that can make those good decisions on replacing it instead of welding it. Discussion. Jonathan stated I will consider those. Discussion. Ed stated I have a suggestion why don't you pool the town. Put it in the paper and see how many residents in the town of Hope want to get rid of the ambulance. Discussion. Greg said there would be a whole lot more to that. You would have to put in there the facts. What it's costing now. What it is going to cost to continue. There's more to it than just that there. Ed stated I have never had anyone complain about the ambulance in town. Randy stated why don't they complain to us. Jonathan answered I think it's a human nature kind of thing. People pick the easiest avenue to complain. Tim said people won't complain because they might need you. Discussion.

2014 SALARY ORDINANCE

Jonathan stated we have done a first reading. We could go ahead and approve it tonight because this is a public meeting. The only thing we needed to decide is do we go with the 2% or the 3%. The language is good. The only thing we added there is the Town Administrator and if you remember I read it into the record. I read both the 2% figure and the 3% figure.

Greg made a motion that we approve it with a 2% as read. Tim seconded. Jonathan stated I've gone back and forth on that in my head. A lot of me really wants to go ahead and say 3%. I worry about what the future holds financially otherwise. We know, we've found out we've got to keep a certain amount of funds available so that the state sees that we have those funds when we go and ask for new budgets. I am comfortable with the 2% as well. We have a motion on the table and a second to approve ordinance 2014-01 at a 2% rate. **Motion carries 3/0.**

PERSONNEL POLICY

Tabled.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Jonathan asked Tim would you be willing to try to rough up, because this kind of started with you and it doesn't have to happen right away, a want ad per say that we could get out. Tim asked did we come up with our job description. Jonathan confirmed. Greg said there was some wording. Jonathan stated I emailed you from our last discussion all the wording that we had changed. I put it into a PDF form. At our last discussion we had worked our way through. My rough copy is here. I checked them off as I made those adjustments. Tim stated I'll go ahead based on that. I'll try to come up with an ad to have for us at the meeting. Jonathan stated the next step of course will be to consider an application. I personally like the idea of putting the application on the website. I think we will also need to have a couple of hard copies in case someone would request a hard copy. All corporations have gone to online applications. Greg stated we need to reach out further than just our website. Tim agreed. Tim stated we can direct them to our website to apply. I will see what I can find because probably most of your advertisement for the job per say will be online. You could probably link it right from there to here for the app. Cindy Boll stated IACT may have something too as far as an online job listing. Discussion.

Tim asked if anyone knows where we are at on our drug testing. Matt Tallent stated I just talked with Paula on her way out. She is going to meet with me and David again. We have to set up a time to get the forms filled out by all

the employees and get baseline testing done on all the employees. We wanted to have it done sometime this month.

Greg asked with the accident, did we not have that in place prior. I know that is part of our drug screening now but did we not before test anybody involved in an accident. Tim stated I thought it was supposed to be automatic. Matt answered I know nobody else has as far as testing goes. Tim asked is our policy not in effect. Jonathan answered the policy is in effect. Greg asked about the vehicle. Matt answered they totaled it out. The damage on the vehicle was approximately \$6,000 and it only booked for \$3500. It was a 2002. The problem that I've run into is the vehicle didn't belong to us. It belongs to City of Columbus still so I'm working with Jason Maddix. Jason has found the title and said he will turn it over to you. You can scrap the vehicle and look for another vehicle. That's where we are at right now. Discussion. Matt stated he came into the Medical Center parking lot. The lights were out already in the parking lot. He thought he seen a car behind the building trying to come out. He cut it sharp to try to head off that car and just didn't see that pole. Discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Attest
