

North Township - LaPaz Fire Protection Territory, Public Meeting
Monday, July 28, 2025 at 6:00pm
LaPaz-North Township Fire Station

Present:

Roger Ecker, Town of LaPaz
Cathy Welch, Town of LaPaz
Steven Davenport, Chair, North Township
Stephen Barber, Secretary, appointed by Ms. Haskins, Trustee
Lisa Knepp, appointed by Town of LaPaz

Also present:

Emily Haskins, Trustee
Mathew Haskins, Fire Chief
Please refer to the sign-in sheet for additional attendees.

* The reader will note that meetings are now livestreamed. Please refer to our website for a schedule of our meetings, links for the live streams, and additional information: <https://northtownship.org>

The meeting consisted of the following:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Davenport at 6:00pm.

1. Approval of 7-16-25 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Barber moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Knepp, and passed 5-0.
2. Billing Service Update.
 - a. Ms. Haskins reported that we have been approved by Medicaid retroactively to January 1, 2025. As part of this process we were informed that we should include a policy in the employee manual related to whistleblower protections.
 - b. Ms. Haskins reported that there are questions about how to bill a couple of situations.
 - i. Billing for responses when substantial treatment is provided but we are not the transporting agency. Mr. Robertson and/or Mr. Haskins will be in communication EMS/MC to ascertain our options. The concern is that the only option we currently have in our fee structure is, "Treat, no transport." This only a fee of \$75. They will continue to do more research and inform us at our next meeting of their recommendation. One option may be to separate "lift assist" from "treat, no transport."
 - ii. The next question is about how to calculate lift assists and the free initial service. The Committee clarified that they would like this to be calculated every calendar month. So, within a calendar month, patrons may have one free service, but thereafter all additional lift assists (within that month) will be billed.
3. 2026 Budget Preparation.
 - a. Ms. Haskins reported that the Township has approved the 2026 budget and presented this to the Territory (see attached).
 - b. She indicated that while the Township accepted PERF MyChoice, there was a reduction in the plan, resulting in an overall reduction in the budget for the Territory Operating Fund at \$817,200 (a reduction of 16.95%).
 - c. With figures from 2025 net assessed valuation (since 2026 figures are not yet available), she also reported that at this time it is **estimated** that the total Township levy (including Fire Territory Operating Fund, Equipment Replacement Fund, and the

Township General Fund) will be reduced from 0.5226 to 0.4123. This is an **estimated** reduction of 21.10%. She does not have figures for the Town of LaPaz.

- d. She pointed out that the rate for this budget is just 0.03 higher than the budget proposed by Mr. Barber (with fewer staff) and that the budget which was passed will provide the Township with 24x7 coverage.

4. Trustee Update.

- a. Ms. Haskins explained that SourceWell is a company that manages the bidding process for many things, including the remounting of ambulances. Ms. Haskins recommends that we move forward with MacQueen/Crossroads. They also offer a discount. We are familiar with MacQueen/Crossroads and are pleased with them. Mr. Ecker moved to recommend that we move forward with MacQueen/Crossroads, seconded by Mr. Barber, and passed 5-0. It was explained that the current "box" will be remounted on a new chassis which includes a new engine, tires, wheels, etc.
- b. Ms. Haskins reported individuals interested in filling the vacancy on the Township Advisory Board would need to communicate with Megan Rogers, Chair, Marshall County Democratic Party.

5. Good of the Order Announcements

- a. Mr. Haskins reported that with Mr. Grolich's assistance, Grain Bin Rescue training is scheduled here for tomorrow night with 45 anticipated to attend.
- b. Mr. Haskins reported that the SCBAs have been received. We are awaiting two tanks which are on back order. Fitting is scheduled for August 13.
- c. Mr. Haskins reported that regular trainings are typically scheduled twice a month.

6. Public Comment. Nothing noted.

7. Adjournment. Mr. Ecker moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Barber, which passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:28pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 22, 2025 at 6:00pm.

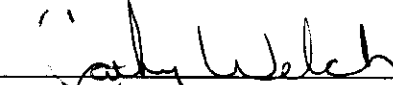
Respectfully Submitted,
Stephen Barber, Secretary

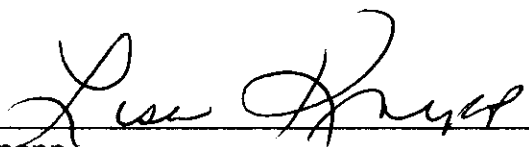
Approved: ☒ As written ☐ As Amended ☐ As Corrected

Steven Davenport, President Date *Not present*

Roger Ecker, Vice President Date *Not present*


Stephen Barber, Secretary Date *9-22-25*


Cathy Welch Date *9/22/25*



Lisa Knepp

9-22-25

Date

LaPaz-North Township Fire Protection Territory Public Meeting

Monday, July 28, 2025 at 6:00 pm

LaPaz-North Township Fire Station

Sign-In Sheet

1. Lisa Knapp
2. Alice Oyler
3. Al Roberts
4. Sandy Roberts
5. Steve Barber
6. Steve Daugherty
7. Peter Eise
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.

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Monday, July 28, 2025 at 6:00 pm
LaPaz-North Township Fire Station

- 1. Approval of 7/16/25 Meeting Minutes**
- 2. Billing service update**
- 3. 2026 Budget Preparation**
- 4. Trustee update**
- 5. Good of the order announcements or updates as necessary**
- 6. Public comment (Limited to 2 minutes)**

Online Streaming: <https://www.youtube.com/live/vE5gVnwDUoA?si=dblHjS-CEf73tLt->

2026 PROPOSED FIRE DEPT

OPERATING BUDGET

Operating Budget

Personal Services

Full-Time Staff

Salary	\$55,000.00
Insurance	\$ 4,400.00
Employer Taxes	\$ 5,500.00
<u>PERF</u>	<u>\$ 3,850.00</u>

\$68,750.00 x 6 = \$412,500.00

Administrative Compensation	\$12,000
Overtime	\$15,000
Part-Time Employees	\$20,000
Volunteer Firefighters	\$40,000
Volunteer Officers:	\$20,000
Fire Chief -	\$10,000
Assistant Chief (2) -	\$5,000 each
Employer Taxes (Part-time)	\$2,200

Total Personal Services \$521,700

Supplies

Office Supplies	\$5,000
Fuel	\$21,000
Station Maintenance Supplies	\$5,000
Medical Supplies	\$18,000
Clothing/Gear	\$35,000
Communication	\$25,000

Total Supplies \$109,000

Other Services and Charges

Miscellaneous	\$4,000
Maintenance Contracts	\$11,500
Insurance	\$50,000
Utilities	\$20,000
Truck Maintenance	\$40,000
Small Equipment	\$45,000
ALS Assists	\$6,000
Training	\$8,000
Accu-Med Overpayment	\$2,000

Total Other Services and Charges \$186,500

TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET **\$817,200**

16.95% budget decrease

Rate decrease ≈ **21.10%**