

Bennington Township  
Ambulance Special Assessment Hearing September 18, 2024

Bennington Township Ambulance Special Assessment Hearing for Southwest Shiawassee Emergency Services Authority, SSES, was called to order by Supervisor Lee Ash on September 18, 2024, 6:00pm at the Bennington Township Hall.

Present: Jim Forsythe, Matt Dutcher, Lee Ash, Cody Baker, Donna Ash.

Residents: Fred Dery, Margie Dery, Kathy Smith-Mattix, Billy Mattix, Tina Demerly, Tom Bishop  
SSES Deputy Chief Dan Munro

Jim Forsythe moved to suspend with regular meeting procedure and move to the Special Assessment Hearing. Seconded by Lee Ash. All board members in favor. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

Kathy Smith-Mattix – Questioned why this was not on the ballot.

- Special Assessments are not ballot issues.

Bill Mattix – Questioned how the Ambulance was owned, privately or publicly.

- Munro stated that SSES is owned by Cities and Townships

Kathy Smith-Mattix – Questioned about service

- Munro state that SSES runs three fully staffed ambulances during the day and two at night

Bill Mattix – Questioned what the special assessment payment covered.

- Munro stated that the special assessment does not cover the bill if an ambulance is used is only guarantees that there is an ambulance in the area. The special assessment financially keeps an ambulance in the area.

Kathy Smith-Mattix – Stated that is was nothing personal but that everything is going up in cost and that this increase is a concern.

Tina Demerly – Inquired who paid the per household, did it include apartments.

- Munro stated that it includes all households including apartments and it also includes RV parks at half the rate due to these parks are only open half of the year.

Kathy Smith-Mattix – Inquired about how monies were used.

Jim Forsythe asked if the budget was available on line.

- Munro stated he was not sure if it was on line at this time but it is available upon request.

Margie Dery – Stated that across the road from her is Owosso Township, if she calls 911 for an Ambulance who would respond, would it be Perry or an Ambulance out of Owosso because that is what it used to be.

- MMR out of Owosso that the Township has previously contracted with is no longer in service in the area.

Tom Bishop – Inquired about what ambulance services were in the area.

- Munro stated there was SSES, Owosso City, Corunna Ambulance, Twin Township, and Laingsburg Ambulance

Tom Bishop – Stated that is increase would be hardship to many but especially to seniors

Bill Mattix- Indicated that unfortunately these were also the ones who needed the service the most.

Margie Dery – Asked if SSES was currently trying to recruit new employees.

- Munro stated that trying to keep employee is difficult for a multiply of reasons, but they are working diligently to try to obtain and retain employees and that it was mostly done by word of mouth.

Correspondence: There were three letters received in opposition to the Ambulance Special Assessment. Resident letters were received from James Miller, Wayne Johnson, and Maria Carlin.

Donna Ash moved to adopt a resolution to increase the Ambulance Special Assessment for SSES at \$120.00 per household for one year (2024) with an increase not to exceed 10% per year for the following three years (2025, 2026, and 2027). Seconded by Cody Baker. All board members in favor. Motion carried. (Complete wording of the Special Assessment is available at the Township Hall.)

Public Comment: None

Jim Forsythe moved to adjourn. Seconded by Cody Baker. Motion carried.  
Adjournment at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Donna Ash, Clerk