

Why? Why? Why?

Ambulance service in Kosciusko County before MTEMS/Lutheran EMS and other EMS Services in the County was served out of the local Funeral Homes. The State of IN abolished this way of service.

Therefore, the Commissioners (who have NO authority to designate that Township's create a Tax Rate for EMS SERVICE) and the Township Trustee's met in a meeting many years ago and it was 4 Townships (Wayne, Plain, Prairie and Etna) that created and funded MTEMS. A Federal Grant was used to purchase the first 3 ambulances for the County. One for MTEMS, one for South Central EMS (Clay, Lake and Seward Townships) which eventually folded and those Townships became MTEMS but now Lake and Seward use Life Med EMS and one for Syracuse area (Turkey Creek Township). Our MTEMS, Not for Profit EMS Business grew over the next 38 years to what we had this past year taking in more Townships and a portion of Marshall County. MTEMS was owned and funded by the Townships using a Township Tax Rate to collect funds each year plus what they generated in Run and Transfer Fees. MTEMS received a lump sum of money from Contract each year regardless if they made 1 or 500 runs into any given Township, each Township paid a different amount each year by Contract amounting to an estimated \$800,000.00 in Tax Subsidy in most recent years, then on top of that MTEMS charged a user fee for runs and transfers to the recipient. All of the Townships were represented on the Board of Directors, except on the Board also was a Representative from KCH, City of Warsaw and Kosciusko County Commissioners whom never contributed any monies to help fund the Not for Profit EMS Service. We eventually had a large member representation on the Board from all Townships contracting for services until K21 came in and did a study after they were asked to help fund a new ambulance, with that, our Board was reduced to a 7 member Board and then K21 would contribute monies towards a new ambulance. Although KCH, City of Warsaw and Kosciusko County Commissioners were not at all Funding the EMS Service they were automatically put on the Board recommended by K21, so the remaining 4 were voted on for a particular area of several Townships put together with 1 member being At Large, so the Townships with the Tax Rate paying the Tax Subsidy had very little say so on the Board.

In the Fall of 2014 and Spring/Summer of 2015, MTEMS Board of Directors, struggling with monies after serving us for 38 years and not soliciting for monies to sustain themselves from area Business, our huge Orthopedic Industry, KCH/Lutheran, City of Warsaw, Kosciusko County Commissioners, Drug Companies and other numerous Business entities, Fundraisers or putting the Government Funded Not For Profit Business up for Bids, secretly Sold out the MTEMS Business to KCH/Lutheran which is a Privately Owned For Profit Company.

Why would a Township want to Contract with a Privately Owned For Profit Company and continue to pay a Tax Subsidy on an EMS Service that is non Township owned, even if at a reduced rate for 3 Years which consisted of 25%? Why does a privately owned for profit company still need \$600,000.00 in Tax Subsidy? Why do they need any Tax Subsidy at all? Why would any Township sign a Contract for more than 1 year with any Business, we live in a fast changing world? Why wouldn't all the Townships get offered a contract for the same percentage of reduction by Lutheran EMS, now it's known that Wayne Township got over a 50% reduction for a two year Contract, is this Fair? We no longer have a Neutral Township owned EMS Service that serves a huge portion of Kosciusko County/Marshall County and we have a new Hospital coming to Warsaw in 2016, Parkview Health. How willing do you think Lutheran

EMS will want to transport to Parkview? Do you think Parkview might have bid on MTEMS and paid more for MTEMS? What about a bid from Tri-County EMS? Anyone for that matter.

What happened to the monies from the sale of MTEMS? It doesn't go back to the Townships that subsidized it for 38 years, it was Government Tax subsidized and a Not for Profit Business so it must go into the Kosciusko County Foundation with a Fund created to be used for radio's, medical equipment and may be used by local EMS Services or Fire Departments in Kosciusko County that apply for the funds but may not be used to purchase an Emergency Vehicle. I guess that's ok as there would have been no fair way to give back to the Townships that paid in the Tax Subsidy monies and just think they could have possibly used the monies towards their respective Fire Departments. Many Townships came and went over the years with Contracts. What happened to the monies from the unfortunate sale was for the best.

IC36-6-4-8 c & IC16-31-5-1 provides that a Township MAY provide EMS, including ambulance transport. Each Government entity makes its own decision. A Township is NOT required by law to provide paramedic services or ambulance transport. It is required by law to provide Fire Protection and with that, first responder services. (If your Fire Dept. is called to the scene of an auto accident, they will put out the fire in the car, handle any hazardous materials and provide emergency basic first aid to the victims. Our Firemen are trained in CPR and basic first aid.) Townships are not required to provide medic or ambulance transport service unless the Township chooses to do so. A Township does NOT have to contract with any EMS Service provider.

You have a CHOICE who you want for Health Care and Public Service! Kosciusko County has many Doctors, Fire Depts., EMS Service and in 2016 Parkview is opening up an ER with 24 hour Bed Hospital Care. When you call 911, you can ask for Lutheran EMS, our new Tri-County EMS based in Warsaw with 2 Ambulances with a Paramedic on Board, Mentone 4-Way EMS, North Webster EMS, Syracuse/Turkey Creek Township EMS, Life Med, Nappanee EMS and even others that come into Kosciusko County and if they only run with Basic EMT, they have back up to call for Paramedic Service. Do your research and find out what each EMS Service charges for Basic Life Support or Advanced Life Support for EMS Service, you will be surprised. They are all a great service and do a great job saving lives but they all are different in their own way. An EMS Service Provider must have a sponsoring Hospital and Sponsoring Medical Doctor so in turn they all have different protocols to follow on any given situation.

We have 14 Fire Departments in Kosciusko County with most of them being Volunteer Firemen that work other jobs to provide for their Families but are very dedicated to their Communities. We thank you for your service to us. Townships MUST provide Fire Protection. Townships operate under a frozen maximum levy for General Fund and Fire Fund, we can only collect so much in any given year through our Township Tax Rate! We have to be dedicated to our Fire Departments as it is the law.

KCH/Lutheran is NOT a Trauma Center Hospital now nor will Parkview be at this time. If you are in a serious accident more than likely a Helicopter will be called, either Samaritan Air or Lutheran Air, again you have a choice, you will be flown to the nearest Trauma Center for your medical condition. It's also possible you will be transported immediately to the nearest Trauma Center by Ambulance of your choice.

When a 911 call is made, Kosciusko County Dispatch will dispatch a Service and again you may choose which service, if you are able to, if not, one will be chosen for you! All Emergency Public Service responds to the best of their ability as that is their duty and commitment to the Community. ? Would an EMS Service that does not receive a Tax Subsidy with a Contract

in Kosciusko County refuse a 911 call, after all that's how they make their money, Runs and Transfers? Isn't a Tax Subsidy to any EMS Service FREE Monies for them to operate?

We sincerely hope this answers any of your questions you may have and we hope you have learned a little by reading this. You may always call if you have further questions and I will do my best to answer them or guide you in the right direction. 574-858-2253, Prairie Township Trustee.

Prairie Township Trustee, Julia A. Goon