

**BALDWIN TOWNSHIP SPECIAL MEETING  
BLUE HILL FIRE CONTRACT**

**June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Present** – Supervisors Jay Swanson, Tom Rush, Alan Walker and Scott Case

**Absent** – Jeff Holm

**Also Present** – Blue Hill Township Board: James Artmann, Edward Evens and Matthew Sullivan.

Township Attorney from Couri & Ruppe: Mike Couri

**Call to Order** – The June 24<sup>th</sup> 2024 special meeting of Baldwin Township was called to order by Chairman Jay Swanson at 7:00 p.m.  
James Artmann called Blue Hill Township to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Discussion with Blue Hill Town Board on Fire Contract** – Case went over how the yearly payment is determined to provide fire service to Blue Hill Township. The formula is determined by the number of emergency service calls to Blue Hill Township averaged over the last 3 years. There were 77 calls, and the previous calls averaged 75 calls per year. The market value of all taxable and non-taxable structures and the population in Blue Hill Township. Swanson and Case asked Blue Hill Town Board if they were happy with the service they have received. Blue Hill Supervisor Artmann stated that they are so happy with the service they have gotten from Baldwin Fire. They have received compliments from the Sheriff that Baldwin Fire beats most to the scene. They have also heard this from the Residents. Artmann also went on to say that there is a Baldwin Fire Department Representative at every Blue Hill Town Board meeting. Supervisor Sullivan agreed with Artmann and is very happy with the response times. Supervisor Evens stated that he has heard the same and that Baldwin Fire is first on the scene. Case stated Baldwin Fire is not always first on scene but probably 95% of the time they are. Artmann said that it's the Chief's response time that adds value to the service Blue Hill Township receives.

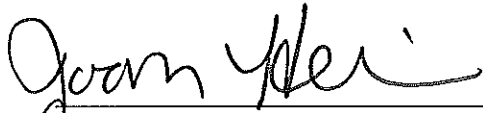
Medical is 77 calls per a year. Case asks both Boards if North Ambulance responds to the calls, should the Fire Department respond to the call. Case is concerned about burning the Fire Department out. Clear Lake and Baldwin are the only Fire Departments in Sherburne County that respond to these calls. Artmann stated he would be open to this change. These are routine medical calls. Blue Hill Supervisor Evens asked how the calls are prioritized. Case stated North triages all calls and then calls are dispatched appropriately. Case was given permission from both Town Boards to explore options with Sherburne County dispatch. Sullivan would like this discussed again after Case speaks to Sherburne County and then both Town Boards will discuss/approve/disapprove.

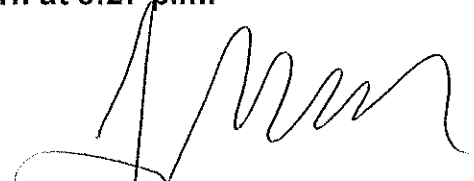
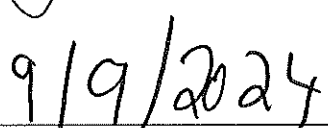
The terms will change on the new contract effective January 1, 2026. When we get to 2026, the capital fire fund will no longer be part of the calculations. Swanson stated that figures currently show that Blue Hill pay 22%. The contract will stay the same for 2025 in the amount of \$55,000.00. This meeting is strictly on seeing how things are going and if any changes to the contract need to be made. Next summer there will be a new contract, and the terms will be changed at this time. On page 2 of the contract, the fire capital fund will disappear next year and will be replaced with the total annual budget. This will also be changed on page 3, 4(a).

**Artmann/Evens made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.**

**Discuss/Approve/Disapprove Orderly Annexation Agreement for Road Description for Incorporation Boundaries Process** – The descriptions are not complete yet. Justin Roberts from MNDOT will be reviewing these remnants.

**Adjourn – Rush/Case unanimous to adjourn at 8:27 p.m.**

  
Submitted By: (s/) Joan Heinen  
Clerk/Treasurer  
Baldwin Township

  
Approved By: (s/) Jay Swanson  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors  
Baldwin Township  
  
  
Date

Attendees: Jeremy Evans