

3651 S. TR 25
Alvada, Ohio 44802
March 26, 2021

Seneca County

APR 01 2021

Dear Seneca County Commissioners,
Mr. Kerschner, Mr. Paradiso and Mr. Shuff,

Commissioners Office

We understand that you are considering a county wide paid EMS District. We strongly oppose a countywide paid EMS system. We are part of NBS district and believe in our volunteers and local service. We are satisfied with our service. We voted to pay our volunteers a stipend. If Greensprings area is satisfied and solved "their" problems by hiring an EMS service why are they trying to push it through the county? Hiring an EMS service is bad news. It's easy to see the reasons why this is being pushed... if the whole county is in on the paid service, it will save Greensprings money, short term, (prices will inevitable go up over time.) Certainly, the paid EMS service will offer a tremendous price to suck you in, but as soon as the volunteer system is gone they will jack up the price and we'll be stuck paying outlandish prices (i.e. Obamacare)

This would be a raw deal for Seneca county residents. A few stations is not enough to cover Seneca County. When there is inclement weather what kind of service would people receive? Many times during inclement weather the dispatchers are very busy with several squads out at once. How would several stations serve an entire county efficiently and timely, especially in fog or ice when accidents are a greater possibility? How would you provide for several patients at once? Have you reviewed the log for that past 5 years to see how many times two stations in a close proximity were out at the same time?

In the volunteer system 2 EMT's are assigned on call, yet when a call comes, in many situations, more than two EMT's will respond. The EMT's on call will go to the station and drive the squad while other's not on call will respond directly to the scene if it's shorter. The EMT's going directly to the scene provides quicker care until the squad personnel arrive. This is neighbor looking out for neighbor. When there is an emergency it's much more comforting to have people you know come to your aide and into your home than strangers who are strictly employees of an EMS service.

Volunteers have a passion for what they do and sincerely care about the service they provide and the community members they serve. Fulltime paid paramedics don't know the community members, and as a job, they will have some days that they don't feel committed but will be there for the paycheck. Whereas the volunteers will trade with another volunteer if they are having a day that they are not feeling committed.

We feel that some people get caught up in the idea that a paramedic will provide a higher level of service. This is not true in many emergency situations. Time is the biggest factor along with getting the patient to a facility with the necessary equipment. This is why we have Life flight and they will transport from the scene. It provides quicker trauma care. Having ambulances farther away will lengthen the time factor, so how much critical care will the paramedic provide in these emergency situations? They still only have the basic tools to work with that the Advanced EMT's are capable of providing. Most importantly patients will get to the trauma center faster with the volunteer system, which

is one of the most critical elements of emergency situations.

We feel the Commissioners are showing very little respect for the great volunteers we have in Seneca County. You could do a much better service by promoting the volunteer service by sponsoring information nights and Recognize those who do give of their time instead of talking them down and promoting paramedics.

It's time the Commissioners get behind the volunteer squads instead of degrading them! We take public safety seriously and we feel the commissioners are not looking out for the best for our County when they are considering hiring a County wide service. We feel that because Greensprings had a personnel issue it is not appropriate to force a paid system upon all Seneca county residents. They can choose to pay for the service but, please leave the other townships out of this equation, unless they individually choose this option.

Please think outside the box. Our suggestions is providing the funding to each township individually to choose how they want to proceed, according to each one's unique situations, instead of one size fits all. This is not an issue 3 commissioners and an EMS coordinator should be making decisions on, this is what local people should ultimately decide. This should be thoroughly reviewed with input from the many volunteers who serve now. They have the true experience of the volunteer system. We suggest you look deeper than the surface, and maybe walk in a volunteer's shoes for a day or two to really understand this side of the issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rick and Dorothy Bouillon". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Rick and Dorothy Bouillon