

## No contract for Monticello EMS

*Jefferson Twp. Trustee denied formal request for township to be released to White County service*

By **Debbie Lowe**  
Staff writer

A request for Carroll County Emergency Medical Services to be released from providing ambulance service to Jefferson Township residents by the trustee was met with questions, concerns and finally a denial by Carroll County Commissioners on Monday.

"Jefferson Township would like to request that the Carroll County Commissioners release the Carroll County Ambulance service from Jefferson Township, in order that Jefferson Township have the opportunity to receive service from Monticello for the remainder of 2009," the written request read. "Cost of the service would be covered by Jefferson Township. Timing of change of service to be agreed upon by Mike Durr, Carroll County

EMS Director and Shane Swaim, Monticello Fire Chief."

The letter was signed by Harold Erdmann, Jefferson Township Trustee.

Erdmann said the township was prepared to pay \$11,000 for the service for the remainder of 2009.

When commissioners president Loren Hylton called for a motion, Bill Brown provided it. However, it did not receive support from Hylton or Pat Clawson. Commissioners made the decision to deny the request based on information received at the meeting. Carroll County EMS director Mike Durr said Monticello would be able to provide faster service to county residents around the lake, but not to those who live farther away from the lake. He said the Monticello department has had the same equipment for several years and provides service to most or all of White County. Durr said Carroll County ambulance has made 27 runs into Jefferson Township this year.

He said although it was important for all residents to receive the shortest response times available, the county had to consider the amount of lost revenue from not providing the service, which he predicted to be about \$40,000. Durr added it would be a challenge for Carroll County dispatch to change how they call out

an ambulance for the remainder of this year, and then possibly be expected to revert back to the former system next year.

Durr advised Monticello EMS charges two user fees to patients in Carroll County. He said a flat \$100 fee for coming into the county was assessed and then the service and transportation fee was added to that. He said other counties, such as Howard and Cass, provide service to outlying Carroll County residents and charge a user/transport fee only. He said Howard County EMS made 50 runs into Carroll County last year while EMS records indicated Monticello made 18 runs into both Jefferson and Adams townships.

Monticello Fire Chief Shane Swaim said the \$100 fee would be dis-

continued if there was a contract with commissioners. He said Monticello made 24 runs into the county as opposed to Durr's figure.

County council member Ron Slavens said he is a member of the county EMS committee. He said that committee recommended Carroll County continue to be the primary service provider to Jefferson Township residents. The committee recommended a mutual aid agreement with White County, such as the ones with Cass, Howard and Clinton counties.

"We need to hold our ground with no strings attached," he said. "We need to be careful about dividing up our community."

Slavens said EMS records indicated the ambulance service made 25 runs into Jefferson Township in 2008, with average response times of **See EMS page 5A**

### Ambulance meeting set

The Jefferson Township Advisory Council will hold a public meeting today, Wednesday, at the Yeoman golf course at 7 p.m. about the ambulance situation. Jefferson Township Trustee Harold Erdmann told the *Comet* the township advisory group did not meet about the request to release the county ambulance service from the Jefferson Township obligation prior to the commissioners meeting. He said he did not consider the discussion about the matter finished.

## Flora man critical after Sunday fire

Comet staff report

A 54-year-old Flora man remains in critical condition at Wishard Hospital in Indianapolis following a fire Sunday evening at his residence.

Steven R. Dixon, a resident in Apt. #1 at Sycamore Efficiencies on West Clem Street, was rushed to Wishard Burn Center by Carroll County EMS. He sustained second degree burns to roughly 20% of his body, as well as smoke and heat inhalation.

Flora Police Officer Josh Disinger and the apartment complex manager, Troy Baker, helped Dixon, who was trapped in his apartment, escape after breaking a front window.

Baker discovered the fire and called 911 at 7:09 p.m. Disinger, who was patrolling nearby, saw the fire about that same time. They immediately began evacuating the apartment complex. Dixon was trying to get out through the front window when Baker saw him.

Flora Volunteer Fire Department Chief Scott Sisson said the fire started in an area behind the front door.

The cause of the fire has been officially ruled undetermined, he said, and foul play had been ruled out.

"We know where it started, but just not why," said Sisson. "The fire remains under investigation."

"Dixon's apartment was

destroyed, but we were able to keep the fire confined to that apartment," added Sisson. "We were fortunate that it did not reach the common attic."

The Flora VFD was able to extinguish the blaze quickly, containing the damage to the west end of the 20-unit complex. Two adjoining apartments received minor smoke and water damage.

Representatives from the Indiana State Fire Marshal's office responded to assist in the investigation. Also assisting were the Cutler VFD, Carroll County Sheriff's Office, and Carroll County EMS.

Because of Sunday's heavy precipitation, Dixon could not be transported to the hospital by air.



## Big bunny hug

Brant Blocher rushed up to the Easter Bunny to give him a big hug at the conclusion of the Flora Easter egg hunt on Saturday. The great weather brought out a big crowd. Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald

## Wastewater study submitted to IDEM

### Flora to start remediation efforts

Susan Scholl  
Editor

Tim Balensiefer and Keith O'Brien of TBIRD Design Services Corp. presented an update of Flora's sewer study progress at Monday night's town council meeting.

The Lafayette firm has been working with the town to fulfill the obligations of an agreed order with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM).

O'Brien said the 418-page report was submitted to IDEM on April 1. He expects a 30 to 45-day waiting period before IDEM responds.

TBIRD has used a flow data meter in the sewer system for the past few months to identify areas in need of remediation. They brought a map of the town showing the identified areas.

While waiting on IDEM's response, O'Brien said that the town can make several

low dollar fixes that will help control the ground water that is leaching into the wastewater system such as replacing manhole covers and grouting and plugging up lines.

"Our goal is to get the town down to an acceptable level so that IDEM will take the town off of the agreed order," said Balensiefer. "We want to work on a three to five year remediation program so that the town can spread out its

costs."

"We'll try to budget what those repairs are going to cost," he said, "and maybe go after grant money."

The town's sewage treatment plant's capacity is 428,000 gallons per day.

"If we can reach 80% of that capacity consistently, they (IDEM) will be happy," said Bill McCarty, Flora's wastewater foreman.

A video camera could prove beneficial in pinpointing leaks in the system, said O'Brien. McCarty was in-

structed to secure prices for a camera.

Resident Steve Meeks said that TBIRD's presentation shed light on problems with sewage backups he and his neighbors are experiencing in the Mohawk and Meadow Lanes area.

McCarty explained that the main line there is old. The town offered to put the line on the calendar to be cleaned out two to three times a year.

A video camera would help **See Flora page 5A**

## Water leak investigation saves Delphi big bucks

By **Debbie Lowe**  
Staff writer

A study designed to locate problems in Delphi's water system to help water depart-



Mailing label goes here

ment employees determine how much water the city is losing each year has more than paid for itself...and only three leaks have been discovered so far.

According to utility manager Dick VanSickle at Monday night's city council meeting, the study cost Delphi roughly \$5,000 and has saved the city more than \$6,000. The project is not yet completed.

VanSickle said one previously undetected issue located on E. Main St. was leaking 15 gallons of water per minute, which translates to 21,600 gallons a day or 7,884,000 gallons per year.

VanSickle said the city could own a unit to provide the inspections for roughly \$5,000. He said he could be recommending that purchase

in the future to enable the department to perform on-going tests.

### Clean-up/Trash removal

Council member Brian Garrison said the city should furnish curb-side pick-up for spring clean-up this weekend and next. He also said he thought the contract with trash haulers Indiana Waste called for multiple dumpsters, not just one at a single location.

Dan Sterrett agreed with Garrison. He questioned street commissioner Aaron Lyons about what the city would do if residents put spring clean-up items on the curb instead of taking them to the central dumpster. Lyons indicated no contingency plan.

Lyons said the details about spring clean-up were clear in the contract with Indiana

Waste. He said the city no longer owned a trash truck, therefore making trash pick-up a challenge. He said the trash hauler would remove the dumpster from the park after the drop-off day each weekend. He said he was meeting with Indiana Waste personnel Thursday to discuss details for the spring trash weekend.

No decision about how to proceed was made. Mayor Randy Strasser said he and Lyons would "put our heads together" to resolve the situation.

"We'll make sure we get it picked up," he said.

In a related matter, Delphi resident Dennis Parks complained about the limited number of trash bags allowed each week. He said his household is paying \$10 each month for

trash removal and he thought it is unfair to then have to pay an additional amount for more than two bags or one trash can. He said council members should have realized young families have more trash than other families due to young children's input. He requested the maximum number of bags per household be increased.

Council members explained they signed a contract with Indiana Waste and those were the terms agreed upon.

"It was costing the city \$20 per household to do trash pick-up in-house," Strasser said.

He said recycling was encouraged with the new program because a household can put out unlimited recycling items for curb-side pick-up.

Strasser took credit for the yearly calendars developed by

the street department not yet being sent to residents. He said a letter is being composed to accompany the calendars. Clerk-treasurer Janice Roe said the calendars are available in her office for pick-up.

### New police car

After much discussion about whether a need existed to replace the police car wrecked last winter, bringing the fleet total to three cars, council members voted for the purchase of the new car.

Chief Justin Darling explained the department has three officers on duty during the day. With only two cars, when one becomes disabled, the city has only one car to respond to calls. He said there is no new car in the 2009 budget.

**See Delphi page 5A**

Less Money More Speed!

Now Introducing HighSpeed Broadband in your Area from \$26.95/mo

(574) 583-9906 or (888) 523-9271  
321 E. Main St. Monticello IN  
www.fairnetbb.com

Unlimited Calling for only \$27/mo