

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Pierson Township continues to review its options for **fire protection** and emergency medical response coverage as we plan for the upcoming year. We want to keep you informed about the discussions currently taking place and how they may affect our community.

BACKGROUND

The **Village of Sand Lake**, which currently provides **fire and EMS** coverage for much of Pierson Township, has requested a **significant funding increase** to help purchase a **new fire engine and medical (Med) truck**.

- The requested increase amounts to **approximately 24.7%** over the current contract.
- If you exclude the Township's one-time \$10,000 capital contribution, the actual increase is **nearly 50%**.
- Because these costs were not included in the current fire millage, the **Township would need to use General Fund dollars** to meet the requested increase.

At the same time, the **Village of Howard City** has submitted a **proposal to provide fire for the entire Township**. (Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is provided by Montcalm County for all of Pierson Township; and this will remain regardless of fire provider.) The Village of Howard City proposal reflects a **significantly lower annual cost**; however, coverage from Howard City would increase response times to the southern portion of the Township. This is a matter that the Board takes very seriously when considering the best way to move forward.

RECENT BOARD ACTION

At the **October Township Board Meeting**, the Board voted to approve a **6% increase** in a new contract with the Village of Sand Lake—**with specific stipulations**.

- The Board also authorized the Supervisor to **terminate the existing contract and begin negotiations with Howard City** if those conditions were not accepted by Sand Lake.

Following that meeting, **Trustee Jason Bergman** and **Supervisor Patrick Maioho** participated in an **informal discussion** with representatives from **Sand Lake, Nelson Township, and Ensley Township** to share concerns about the proposed increases.

As a result of that meeting, **the Village of Sand Lake has provided updated financial figures** and asked each township to review them at their respective board meetings before making a final decision.

NEXT STEPS

Pierson Township will continue to evaluate all available options to ensure that residents receive **reliable, cost-effective fire and emergency services**.

We invite all residents to attend the **next Pierson Township Board Meeting** on



Monday, November 17, 2025, at 7:00 PM



Pierson Township Hall

Your input is important as we consider how to move forward in a way that best serves our community, protects public safety, and ensures fiscal responsibility.

On behalf of the Pierson Township Board, thank you for your continued engagement and support,

Pierson Township Board