

Town of Lewis

Public Hearing-Establishment of an EMS District

April 9, 2024 - 6:00 PM

Lewis Town Hall

**Present:** Counselors Lanita Canavan, Terry Pulsifer, John Blades and Steve Denton, Supervisor James Monty, Highway Superintendent Kevin Denton. William Tansey - Assistant County Attorney

**Public Present:** Gerald Spooner, Glen and Donna Crowningshield, Phil Arsenault, Jim Rule, Alvin Reiner, Peter Evans, Darren Dickerson, Sheri Morris, Jeff Scott, Patty Bashaw, Ethan Farmer, Carolyn Sicher - President of EMS, Charli Lewis

**Called to Order:** The Public Hearing was called to order by Supervisor Monty at 6:00 PM .

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Supervisor Monty opened the Public Hearing stating this is the second meeting in a series of three, for the purpose of the discussion on forming an EMS Taxing District for residents of the Town of Lewis.

Assistant County Attorney, William Tansey, stated there is a draft resolution up for consideration, post Public Hearing. Mr. Tansey read it to the public present.

Darren Dickerson asked to clarify if exempt people will still be exempt from the EMS Tax District. Mr. Tansey will look into that.

Charli Lewis Spoke. She has over 30 years experience in the Real Property Office. The Town of Lewis has over 1213 parcels of which 247 carry an exemption and 46 parcels being wholly exempt from taxes. The assessed value for the 2024 tax roll is 221.4 million with a taxable value of 156 million - approximately, making the Towns value 42% exempt from taxes. Charli explained the Towns wholly exempt properties - Forest exemption, the Landfill, DPW, Public Safety building and the Cornell Cooperative Extension offices. She stated the Town of Lewis currently contributes \$60,000.00 to the EMS and Elizabethtown contributes \$155,000.

A discussion was had with the public and the concerns of their taxes increasing, creating another District and another Board of Commissioners for EMS. These series of Public Hearings are to answer the questions the public have. Supervisor Monty encourages the public to attend these meeting as the EMS District will be up to the Town of Lewis Voters. The third and final hearing is to be held May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall in Lewis.

Supervisor Monty closed the Public Hearing at 7:05 PM and continued to the Regular Board meeting at 7:10 PM