



# Dillsboro, Indiana

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## **DILLSBORO TOWN COUNCIL STATEMENT REGARDING THE DILLSBORO EMERGENCY AMBULANCE UNIT JULY 15, 2024**

The Dillsboro Town Council has been working with the Dearborn County Board of Commissioners since the beginning of this year to establish a reliable, working emergency response service for Dillsboro and the surrounding areas. In past years, the county has contracted with the Dillsboro Emergency Ambulance Unit, Inc., also known as the DEAU, to provide this service. The DEAU is not a part of, or under the authority of, the Town of Dillsboro in any way. Instead, it is a public, not-for-profit corporation, supposedly dedicated to providing “a Life Squad serving the Town of Dillsboro and surrounding areas.”

For the years 2021 through 2023, the County paid DEAU over \$60,000.00 in public funds each year to provide the necessary emergency medical response service to the Dillsboro area. But DEAU did not meet its responsibilities. In 2021, DEAU made only 30.82% of its calls. In 2022, the response rate sank to 20.79% of its calls. Last year, the response rate hit rock bottom, with DEAU responding to only 12.30% of its calls. While all of this was going on, there was also significant turmoil at the DEAU, as members have alleged that theft of DEAU property or funds have occurred. Finally, tax forms filed by DEAU, which are available to the public, show a decrease in net assets or fund balances of DEAU of approximately \$1,084,692.00, between 2016 and 2021.

For all of these reasons, the County Commission voted to terminate its contract with DEAU on January 16, 2024. Since that time, the County has provided supplemental funds to the ambulance services from Aurora and Moores Hill in an attempt to cover the Dillsboro area. Emergency service is spread paper thin in the southern part of the county because of DEAU’s failure.

The County Commission made every effort, with the full support of this Board, to get DEAU back in service. In June, the county extended an offer to restore county funding to the ambulance unit in return for DEAU’s agreement that the unit would hit reasonable, regular benchmarks for better response rates, that it would agree to an audit of the service, and that it would allow representatives of the county and the Town of Dillsboro to serve on the Ambulance Unit board.

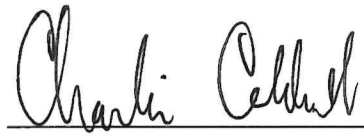
DEAU treated that offer with arrogance and contempt. Their response was an offer to essentially run the service on the old deal, with no contractual obligation to increase the response rate. The Commissioners refused to agree on this basis and were right to do so. DEAU has wasted vast sums of public money and exposed the public to potentially serious danger.

The Commissioners could not and cannot deal with the DEAU on that basis. The Dillsboro Town Board supports the County Commission in this decision, and desires swift effort and collaboration from the Commissioners to restore reliable emergency medical service and transport service serving the Town of Dillsboro and the surrounding area.

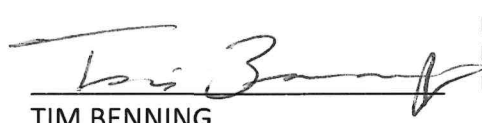
We need to start over when it comes to emergency services in the Dillsboro area. The entire DEAU Board of Directors should resign, effective immediately. DEAU's equipment and assets should be used to form the basis of a new emergency ambulance unit to serve the Dillsboro area. There is no way forward with the DEAU. It's time for a change.

**DILLSBORO, INDIANA**

**TOWN COUNCIL**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CHARLIE CALDWELL

- Aye
- Nay
- Abstain

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
TIM BENNING


- Aye
- Nay
- Abstain

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DOUG BAKER

- Aye
- Nay
- Abstain


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
BECKY FRYMAN

- Aye
- Nay
- Abstain

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JERRI JACKSON

- Aye
- Nay
- Abstain

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
RITA STEVENS  
Clerk-Treasurer  
Town Council, Town of Dillsboro