

**Special Meeting  
Board of Commissioners  
Meeting Minutes  
September 4, 2025  
2:00 P.M.**

**Al Knable called the meeting to order and led the *Pledge of Allegiance***

**Present:** President, Al Knable; Vice President, Jason Sharp and Frank Loop

**Also Present:** Attorneys, Rick Fox

**New Business**

**1. Fire Consolidation Discussion**

Jason Sharp said Senate Bill 1 has changed the game for Local Income Tax (LIT), which will go away in 2028. New Albany Township Fire and Georgetown Township Fire have formed a Fire Territory. Mr. Sharp said a Territory is a marriage, more than a merger, where all these different districts come together and form one singular unit. Every district still has their board in place. They form an Advisory Board. There are two different units within the territory, a providing unit and a contributing unit. The providing unit oversees the operational aspects of the department. The contributing unit feeds into that system. All the finances run through the providing unit.

EMS would be county employees and would be housed at individual fire departments.

Jake Barnes, Highlander Interim fire Chief, proposed the County giving them \$3 million a year, they'll provide 5 ALS Ambulances and they will cover the county. They already have an integrated health going that has been approved, just waiting on EMS commission. They also have a chase car with a paramedic in it. They have a superior EMS model. They would run it and look at merger down the road.

Jason Sharp said a fire territory will eliminate redundancies and starts streamlining things and lets you reinvest the money back into the system. He said if the residents are paying for the service with their taxes they shouldn't be billed for EMS services.

Frank Loop said if they can get EMS model in the fire departments, it will save the taxpayers a bunch of money.

Attorney, Rick Fox, said statutorily, if Highlander Fire chooses to join the Fire Territory, it would have to be done between January 1 and April 1, 2026. The EMS contract ends the end of next year. The first move is to join the fire territory and the second would be an interlocal agreement between Highlander and the Commissioners to transfer assets, to use the fire stations for EMS and all the other things that go into what needs to be discussed regarding the agreement.

Jason Sharp said he thinks this is a good thing for the community, the personnel and offers a lot

more stability for both. He has a total EMS plan worked out, including a budget.

Bill Fender said there is a lot of heavy lifting before considering implementation.

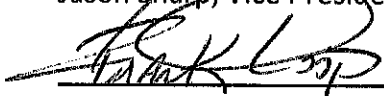
**Motion to adjourn. Moved by Jason Sharp. Seconded by Frank Loop. Motion passed unanimously.**

Approved on September 16, 2025.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Al Knable, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Sharp, Vice President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank Loop, Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Attest: Diana M. Topping, Auditor