

**Brian Seymour**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 04, 2006 1:53 PM  
**To:** iafireassn@yahoo.com  
**Cc:** wfdparamedic@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Township fire departments

Wendy,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am the [REDACTED] of Wapello Fire and Rescue in Wapello, Iowa. I have served on the department for about ten years many of those as an officer. I am a certified Firefighter I and a Nationally Registered Paramedic. Our department consists of 35 members and responds to an average of 250 calls annually. We are essentially three departments under one roof. The city council is our governing body and we receive an annual budget from the city as well as the Township Trustees. The city owns one pumper a 1979 Chevy 750 gpm and a 2001 Chevy attack truck that we purchased from DOT surplus and modified with a skid unit. The township owns two pumpers (2005 & 1985) and two tankers (1981 & 1978). The members of the department also operate a non-transport rescue service that was established in the early 1950's and is currently equipped with a 1975 walk-in rescue and a rescue boat. We fund this service with donations, grants and our fundraising events such as fish fries, raffles, soup suppers, demo derby, and our annual Firemen's Ball. We work very hard to keep this service to the community without the help of tax dollars. Our dilemma is that we feel that we are under funded when it comes to fire protection. Years ago the township and the city made a "gentleman's agreement" that the city would house the trucks and pay half of the utilities if the township would provide the apparatus and pick up the other half of the utilities. As far as an annual operating and equipment budget, the city pays to maintain their trucks the township maintains theirs and they split the cost of equipment such as hose, nozzles, SCBA's, etc. I feel that the city is making out pretty well with this agreement considering they don't have to buy apparatus and other than the one time cost for a station built 35 years ago they only have building maintenance as an additional cost. There is no formal 28-E agreement between the city and trustees however. I feel that we are getting neglected by the trustees though. Long before my time the trustees from all of the townships that we cover as well as the trustees from the townships covered by the Morning Sun and Oakville Fire Departments formed the Township Firefighters Association. This association consists of three trustees from each of six townships. The taxes levied from all of these townships goes to the association as a whole and they split the money to operate each of the three departments providing each department with an annual operating budget as well as a new pumper on a rotating schedule so each department receives a new pumper every 20 years. The problem I have with this system is the fact that most of the tax revenue generated from these townships comes from the properties located in the Wapello fire district. Morning Sun and Oakville are far less populated areas with little of no industry in the unincorporated areas of their districts. I feel like if we are responsible for protecting these properties, then we are entitled to the tax revenue that is generated from them. I have never had the time to get specific taxable valuations based on the fire districts themselves, but I have looked at the taxes collected within each township and tried to correlate that data to give an estimate of how much tax revenue is generated within each district. My best estimate, taking into consideration each departments average annual budget as well as each department getting a \$200,000 pumper every 20 years, is that there is approximately \$300,000 of tax dollars generated every 20 years from properties within our fire district that we never see. In my opinion the only reason this association was formed is because there is not enough tax base in Oakville or Morning Sun to support a fire department at the current levy. This troubles me because I approached the President of the Township Fire Association a couple of years ago asking them to consider raising the levy which at that time was 38 1/2 cents per thousand. That year it was communicated to us that the association spent \$17,000 more than they levied due to the fact that Wapello and Morning Sun both had to have major repairs done to our tankers that were rusted through. His reply was that they could only levy up to 40 1/2 cents per thousand. I told him that this was untrue if they could demonstrate that it wasn't enough income (which they easily could). I printed out the section in the Iowa code that specifies that they could levy up to 60 1/2 cents per thousand under these circumstances and gave him a copy but it seemed to fall on deaf ears. Our trustees only meet with us one time a year which is also a concern of mine. They have also been known to have meetings without notice. In my opinion, a bunch of farmers with no knowledge of the fire service have no business running fire departments. This current system of government is a joke. The trustees have no accountability for their actions. It is simply a boys club. In recent years fire departments have accepted responsibilities not even dreamed of thirty years ago. When people call 911 they expect professionalism and that is what we try to provide. Equipment, training, responsibilities and operation costs continue to climb every year, but the legislation that is supposed to be supporting our departments remains the

1/16/2006

same. Every year we see less people willing to volunteer and the morale of our current volunteers is circling the drain. Something has got to change. Personally I like the ideas of Benefited Fire Districts. I would like to see all unincorporated areas of the state be required to become a Benefited District with a board of three trustees that are required to meet with the fire department heads a minimum of bi-monthly. These districts should also have a minimum tax levy mandated. I would also like to see a mandatory training class for those elected to serve as a trustee that covers the laws, rules and responsibilities for operating a fire department with an annual refresher to instruct them any new mandates that a fire department has to cover. If these trustees are responsible for funding a department, then they should be required to be informed on the responsibilities that we have as departments. I think the incorporated cities should have the option of being included in the benefited district or keeping their current department in place. Basically I don't want to see a change in our district boundaries, only that the taxes generated for fire protection of one district should stay in that district. This is a very complicated problem that will not have an overnight solution, but if we continue to use our current system our fire departments are going suffer. We must not let our departments and the citizens we are supposed to protect suffer any longer. In closing I would appreciate that you not include my name or the names of any of the above mentioned departments in any publications for fear of retaliation from our township trustees. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at 319-759-8960 or by email. Thank you for your time. I hope the IFA can help the suffering departments in the state.



**Joe Specht**

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From: "Gordon Fassett" <gfassett@netins.net>  
To: "Iowa Firemen's Association" <iafireassn@yahoo.com>  
Cc: "Iowa Firemen's Association" <iafireassn@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2006 10:09 PM  
Subject: Study bill the highest priority.

1-20-2006

TO: Wendy Lensing, Administrative Assist. Ia Firemen's Association.

RE: STUDY BILL NEEDED. PROS & CONS.....

PROS.....Notta CONS.....I have plenty.

Study bill should be given alot support. Property tax \$\$ collected for FIRE PROTECTION are being squirreled away, (my wife calls it) like a savings account. Saving for what ??

30 years ago, alot of city residents and their fire departments were and still are. being held hostage to/by these so called township trustees, through a third party/sub committiee calling itself a Community Fire Service. Even though the community/city and it's fire dept. are not represented on or at this so called fire board/committee.

.....Motions at meetings to execute the expenditures and the allocations of those funds are, on numerous

occasions not carried out as motions ordered.

.....On training, Board says, "Only 2 firemen a year can take a class when winter fire school is held.

WOW. That would take our fire dept. of 23, over 10 years to be able to attend fire school. Oh and by the way they also said, " You could get hurt training."

.....Overhauling this system is an understatement. Sorry, but we need to just put them out of business of

directing a Fire Service /Emergency First Responders of any kind. I could go on and on.

I guessing the deeper this study goes. The uglyer its going to look.

Gordon Fassett,  
Clutier Volunteer Fire Dept.  
Clutier, Ia 52217  
319-479-2318  
[gfassett@netins.net](mailto:gfassett@netins.net)

To the members of the Frankville Emergency Volunteers Association:

The relationship between the volunteers and trustees has been deteriorating for several years. In the past there have been people, including trustees' that have weighed on the facts and tried make changes. For years we have endured an attitude of subservience. This negative thinking has reflected an "us against them" mentality. The obligation of the trustees' is to provide fire protection to the people of Frankville Township. Since we are the fire department, this responsibility rests squarely on our shoulders. This being said, by not having the cooperation of the trustees', this job is solely is our responsibility. This isn't the way it's supposed to work, but apparently in fact it is.

In the years recently, two of three trustees have appointed by the remaining two trustees. When this happens it leads to a good old boys club, therefore the attitude is business as usual. It my contention that this cycle of," this is the way we did it for 25 years", should be broken. The trustees seem not to want take into consideration the fact that we have done an exemplary job of firefighting, training, EMS and fundraising. The time has come for the trustees to take a new look at the department. Our members have had to keep up with the changes with local, state and federal mandates. It is time the trustees keep up with us to provide the best possible protection for our friends and neighbors.

The issue with the trustees' supposedly has been about finances, I dare to venture that the problem is much more deeply seeded than that. The trustees' don't have confidence in us to handle any financial problems that arise, but in fact our finances are actually are in better shape than theirs. We have always have been penny pinchers when it comes to money, so I feel their concerns are unfounded and unjustified. I haven't seen the trustees' looking for alternative financing or going to other sources for funding. We in fact have applied for and received \$136,000.00 in grants.

Our mission is to respond to any emergency, whether it may be fire, natural disaster or any life safety issue. Our vote to disband from Tri-township has not been met with any solutions to our wishes, but instead excuses. We have come to a crossroads that we cannot ignore anymore. Our members have decided to break any ties with Tri-township but I feel it has fell on deaf ears. Obviously if they were concerned about our vote to disband they would have helped us. The question is, if the trustees represent the people and fire fighters consist of 5% of the population, aren't we the silent majority? Our next step we will discuss soon, at that time we will make our decision on how to carry out our request. I believe we would be remiss by not bringing our wishes to fruition. The Frankville Emergency Volunteer Association has an long standing obligation to the people of this township and an organization we can all be proud of.

Chief Wilder

## TRUSTEE GREIVENCES

- Trustee appointments lead to business as usual (good old boys club)
- Trustees' do not keep twsp. Clerk in check (lack of due respect for trustees and firefighters)
- Trustees' not willing to look for alternative funding for fire department and life safety
- Trustees' not willing to incorporate to become a 501C3 non profit organization
- Trustees do not understand that without firefighter fund raising they would not be able to provide adequate fire protection
- Trustees' unable to edify why Frankville township is the only township taxed for town hall maintenance, when the building and grounds are in Tri-townships name
- Trustees' renting out building for less than maintenance costs and wear and tear and providing snow removal for such rentals, this not only makes the department look bad but also a liability
- Trustees' in violation of federal law did not give a volunteers application for Tri-township bookkeeper
- Military and Springfield Trustees control Tri-township by having voting majority, therefore giving Frankville township an unfair advantage
- In violation of state law, banking town hall maintenance funds
- Violations of open meeting laws
- Unable or unwilling to disband from 1963 contract with Tri-township after Frankville Emergency Volunteers Association voted and notified Trustees'
- Unwilling to negotiate a fair and equitable split of equipment and property owned by Tri-township

**LIST OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO STATION**  
**BY VOLUNTEERS**

- Ran electric to sub panel and supplied panel and breakers
- Bought Flagpole and ran electric to light
- Installed approximately \$2000.00 worth of landscaping( donation from Buddenberg Family)
- Placed stone for memorial and had etched ( also donation from Buddenberg and Kerndt Monument Works)
- Taped and mudded utility room
- Ran 3 outlets outside and 8 inside building
- Ran conduit for hotsy totsy hi-pressure washer (donated by members)
- Purchased and installed display case, white board and movie screen
- Poured and painted 28'x56' concrete slab
- Up till last summer provided lawn care and snow blowing
- Purchased television and vcr for class
- Received new computer, printer for being EMS compliant
- We perform most basic upkeep for station lighting, ballast etc.

**becky1**

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**From:** "Patrick and Deb Cornwell" <pdcorn@netins.net>  
**To:** <iafireassn@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 08, 2006 6:21 PM  
**Subject:** 2006 emergency services study bill

This is in response to the request for input about a 2006 study bill that ran in the January 2006 edition of the Iowa Firefighter. I am a member of the Green Mountain Fire Department (joined in '96); the only township owned fire department in Marshall County. With help from the Marshall County Auditor's Office and George Oster, I've learned how the current system works, but I'm no expert. Here is what I believe the system needs for corrections and/or improvements:

1. Penalty for violating Iowa Code - The code of Iowa currently mandates that townships have proof of fire protection (written contract), yet townships continue to pay incorporated cities/towns and other townships for fire protection without a written contract. If a current or non-expiring contract is not on file with the auditor, townships shouldn't get the fire protection money. They've had six years to write and sign one.
2. Current cap should be increased - In the past thirty years everything has gone up in price, thus the cost of fire protection has dramatically increased.
3. No minimum - The county auditor should enforce the written contract issues and penalties as mentioned in number 1 above. My reasoning for this, Green Mountain provides fire protection to Vienna Twp. in the Northeast corner of Marshall County as does three other incorporated towns. Vienna Township is currently able to pay their fire protection expenses with a levy of less than forty cents. Vienna township is able to figure out their tax levies so accurately, they pay their annual fees and usually have less than two hundred dollars left in the account, no hoarding there. Marion Twp. proposed the use of the taxation formula developed by George Oster and Vienna Twp. agreed to it, so Vienna pays approximately fourteen percent of Marion Township's annual estimated budget. If you look closely, I believe you'll find that a majority of townships have only the two expenses - cemetery and fire protection. Most townships are not concerned with the electric bill, or the expense of maintaining the trucks. Some townships do own fire apparatus and pay maintenance bills on those trucks, but a majority pay a flat fee every year to a department's governing body and have no say in

how the money is spent.

4. How is the money spent - I've heard stories of townships paying a few thousand dollars to incorporated communities for fire protection, only to have the money dropped into the general fund and spent on resurfacing street in that community. I'm not sure there is anything that can be done with this subject, but I believe the money levied by townships for fire protection should be given to the fire department, not the city's street department.

There is room for improvement, but let's try not to penalize the townships that are doing their best to follow the law, not to mention the few townships that actually own and operate fire departments.

If you have any questions about my comments, please feel free to contact me.

Patrick Cornwell, FF/EMT  
Green Mountain Fire Department  
403 Green Mountain Rd  
Green Mountain, IA 50632  
641-474-2255  
[pdcorn@netins.net](mailto:pdcorn@netins.net)



**Joe Specht**

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**From:** "Chief Scott Schabacker" <firechief@jtt.net>  
**To:** <iafireassn@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 14, 2005 4:10 PM  
**Subject:** Study

Hi!

My thoughts expressed below are my own thoughts. I tell it like it is and do not candy coat. I apologize and do not mean to offend anyone.

I believe the current taxation and township trustees are very antiquated. When the tax levy for fire protection was implemented in the 1970's it did not inflate with the time and demands of the future. At the time it was developed, it was primarily for fires, it did not take in account for the future demands of services we are expected to provide today. i.e.: rescue, haz mat, etc. It also did not inflate with all of the rules, regulations, and standards we must comply with now, i.e.: Ladder testing, service pump testing, pulmonary fit testing, physicals, etc. The Fire service has kind of done this to themselves by taking on all of these jobs, and not asking for the dollars to support this.

As far as the trustees. There are good ones and bad ones. Some are visionary enough to let the fire dept guide them, while others expect allot and want to get it for less. Most trustees are farmers. They have no standards they must follow in their operations day-to-day. If someone gets hurt, OSHA won't investigate them. But, if the fire or ems service goes out to help them, and we get hurt. We will have to answer to OSHA and will be judged by all the standards. So, how can the trustees understand what we must do and the dollars it costs to run a fire dept. Most will not listen when you try to explain. They try and compare you to a some other dept that costs less. They wine and belly ache about expenses. In there defense. People are taxed to death. I think that besides the maximum taxation, we will have to charge people a user fee per incident, also. This will effect insurance premiums. It is a vicious circle.

I think the money should be disbursed from the county auditor directly to the fire dept and eliminate the trustees totally. The fire dept or city fire dept will have to submit a report to the auditor on how the funds were used. I think the fire advisory boards are dumb. We have one and we are currently in a dispute between the twp and city as far as who runs the fire dept budget. Since the city houses and mans the fire dept. Then, they need to be totally in control to keep consistency in the operations of the dept, instead of a bunch of individuals that have no idea of what it is to run a dept let alone care.

Go to maximum taxation for the fire service 60 3/4. Get rid of the Trustees. Put the funds directly into the hands of the fire service, with an annual accountability to the county auditor.

We also must educate the public, if they will listen. Most don't care, as they think they will never need the fire dept. So, they don't get involved. They need to be involved as they will pay high insurance premiums. They won't realize what they have until it (their fire dept) is gone.

Then, there is the politics. Who ever has the better lobbyist wins. Who ever has the most dollars, wins. Too many lawyers. Everyone is sue happy.

Then, the unfunded mandates. We need to get back down to basics. People wine about this minimum training standard that is being implemented. I think it is great. This is for everyone's own good. We need a baseline, basic starting point. This gives people a goal to reach. Some sort of direction they need to go. We as the fire service have to get over this mentality of "we don't like someone telling us what to do". I don't know what the big deal is. Most depts. have been doing the minimum already. I also see this as the start of the future mandating of levels of service and endorsements for fire depts. to provide these services. Like EMS has now, ie. Basic, intermediate and paramedic services. If you are going to provide a certain service, then you need this amount of "trained and certified" personnel and this minimum amount of equipt. This also plays into NIMS with the typing of equipment and personnel. Our dept is prepared to meet these challenges. Everyone needs to act now. Some depts. are lacking of resources ie: personnel and mostly dollars. They will not survive. They will be gobbled up by other depts. It has happened already.

12/21/2005

We also need to do something in regards to retention of personnel. The word "volunteer" is a misnomer. The only volunteering is you asking to belong to the fire service. As we all know we are unpaid professionals. We do the same kind of work and are trained to the same standards as our career counterparts. One retention tool, we need to push for a retirement program like Minnesota. We had the money coming in back in the 1920's but the fire service was not vigilant enough and it got taken away from us. If the legislation wants to do anything, they need to keep what we have, and continue to improve the best fire service we already have.

I will get off of my soap box. We all need to be visionary, set some reachable goals, build on what we already have. We need to get our heads out of the sand.

I would be happy to visit with anyone on my current views on the trustees, taxation and my views as far as what I see the fire service heading for.

Thank you!

Scott A. Schabacker, CFI Fire Chief/Bldg Insp  
City of Jesup Fire Rescue  
601 Young Street  
P.O. Box 592  
Jesup, Iowa 50648-0592

319-827-7111 O  
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[ss410@jtt.net](mailto:ss410@jtt.net)  
[firechief@jtt.net](mailto:firechief@jtt.net)

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No virus found in this outgoing message.

Checked by AVG Free Edition.

Version: 7.1.371 / Virus Database: 267.13.13/199 - Release Date: 12/13/2005

**Joe Specht**

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**From:** "Greg Penning" <Greg81@direcway.com>  
**To:** <iafireassn@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 15, 2005 9:50 AM  
**Subject:** Taxation

I believe that the current system of funding is basically good. There are some improvements that I feel could be made. I think that there should be a mandatory minimum base that is high enough so we don't have to always be begging for money. The fire service has changed dramatically in the past 30 years. I think that the cities should also have a mandated amount of tax dollars to go to the fire department. In our community, the townships pay there levied tax and if we don't use up what we were budgeted, the city will only put in the remainder. For example, if our budget is \$20,000 and the townships put in \$10,000 the city would add in the remaining \$10,000. But if we only spend \$18000, the city will only add \$8000 instead of the \$10,000 they are planning on. If in this example, the city would put in their \$10,000, and if we didn't use the full \$20,000 budget then the extra money should go into a fund so that on the years that we need to upgrade equipment or have a big expense the money would already be there. The trustees in my fire district have no idea what it takes to run a fire department. I have tried to explain it to them but they are unable or unwilling to understand. I think that there should be some kind of a board that includes fire department personnel as well as county supervisors and trustees to determine the amount of money that should be levied for fire protection. Some departments in my area do quite well with their city leaders and trustees and some of us have stubborn city leaders and trustees. Our department has actually done quite well but only because we are constantly out doing fund raisers to help buy the necessary equipment. We are only volunteers and the hours that we spend fund raising and training and attending meetings is beginning to become overwhelming. We need to have a more stable income so our time can be better spent on training. Everything in the fire service has increased in cost but we are still operating on thirty year old taxation laws. I don't have any answers but would love to be able to review some possible solutions and give my opinion from the fire side. Thank you for asking for my input.

Greg Penning  
Granville Fire Chief  
712-261-4944  
[Greg81@direway.com](mailto:Greg81@direway.com)

**Joe Specht**

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**From:** "John Miller" <tfdchief@iowatelecom.net>  
**To:** <iafireassn@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 12, 2005 8:43 PM  
**Subject:** State funding system

Wendy,

I'm a 38 year member of the Tipton Fire Department and have been chief since 1987 but by no means have any or all of the right answers. In my own opinion I would sure think it would be nice if everybody used the same system and/ or the same millage rate. Tipton uses the formula from Iowa State University while the other nine departments in Cedar County go by millage. While I don't have the exact figures, I do know the rate is not the same across the board. I have heard some chiefs say at our county meetings they have lost townships to a neighboring department just because the other department's rate was lower never bothering to consider travel time. They look at dollars only. As I'm sure you are well aware smaller communities just don't have the tax base to adequately support their local department especially if they get undercut by someone else therefore, in my opinion, ALL departments should be the same. We have been using the ISU formula for several years now and it has worked well for us because it gives us some flexibility and may be an option other departments may not be aware of. In any case, if all are not the same the cut throat tactics will probably continue. I probably didn't tell you anything you didn't already know but I did voice an opinion. Thank you.

John E. Miller Fire Chief  
Tipton Fire Department  
Tipton, Ia.

John Miller  
[tfdchief@iowatelecom.net](mailto:tfdchief@iowatelecom.net)

"It takes 43 muscles to frown and 17 to smile, but it doesn't take any to just sit there with a dumb look on your face."

**Joe Specht**

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**From:** <dmack@netconx.net>  
**To:** <lafireassn@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 12, 2005 4:48 PM

The current method that we are using in Manly works well. The county auditor collects the taxes, which for us is at the maximum level. Each township treasurer writes our rural association a check for our services every six months. Our agreement is that the rural trustees purchase all equipment for the fire department and the city shall insure, maintain, and house the equipment.

A question that has come up is who is responsible for the money. We have a tax exempt non-profit association which has representatives from each township and the city. We also have a president, secretary, and treasurer who are elected from the fire department members. The association has been responsible for the money because many years ago the money was given to the city and the city did not spend the money on fire protection. The city feels that since the fire department is a city entity, the city is responsible for the money and should be in charge of the account and check writing. This is a very touchy subject due to a lack in confidence from both the city and the trustees. The fire department is getting stuck in the middle. I realize that both are trying to protect themselves and any liabilities that they might have. Is there a right or wrong way to handle this? Most of the information that I have found has been written for cities by city officials.

Thanks.  
Dick Mackin  
Manly Volunteer Fire Department  
Trustee President

## **Joe Specht**

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**From:** "IFA Administrative Assistant Office" <w.lensing@mchsi.com>  
**To:** "Wendy Lensing" <w.lensing@mchsi.com>; "Scott Hagenson" <sshagens@wctatel.net>; "Mike McKinnon" <mckinnon@frontiernet.net>; "Mike McKinnon" <denisonfirechief@hotmail.com>; "Joe Specht" <jspecht@yousq.net>; "Cliff Renslow" <Fireduff17@mchsi.com>; "Brian Seymour" <bseymour@cityofindianaola.com>; "Brian Platz" <brian-platz@iowa-city.org>; "Brian Platz" <icfdlt@netins.net>; "Brian Hoffman" <Frasermedic520@aol.com>; "Brian Hoffman" <firechief91400@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 21, 2005 7:21 AM  
**Subject:** Fw: study bill

----- Original Message -----

**From:** The Stauffer's  
**To:** 'IFA Administrative Assistant Office'  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 20, 2005 5:00 PM  
**Subject:** RE: study bill

There are a couple of things that we feel need to be changed, 1.) .40 per thousand for all counties in Iowa, and 2.) we believe that departments that offer a B or I ambulance service included in the fire protection agreement, should receive more money then one's that only offer fire protection.

Jason Stauffer

Asst. Chief

Churdan Fire Department.

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**From:** IFA Administrative Assistant Office [mailto:w.lensing@mchsi.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 12, 2005 3:44 PM  
**To:** Undisclosed-Recipient;;  
**Subject:** Fw: study bill

The IFA is requesting the state legislature do a study bill of Iowa's emergency services in 2006. The purpose of the study is to look at the current funding system which is thirty years old, looking at the taxation base and delivery of that money through township trustees. We are asking for your input on the current system both pro and con and any other suggestions you may have on implementing a new approach to funding Iowa's fire service.

If you would like to comment on this issue please direct your e-mails to [iafireassn@yahoo.com](mailto:iafireassn@yahoo.com) .

Thank you.

Wendy Lensing  
Administrative Assistant  
Iowa Firemen's Association

**Joe Specht**

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**From:** "Don Campbell" <donlc@pcpartner.net>  
**To:** <iafireassn@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 14, 2005 9:27 AM  
**Subject:** Fire Dept Funding

Montour Fire Dept Funding.

The City of Montour has contracts with 2 townships for fire protection. We have tried to get our payment from them tied to the valuation rate of the townships. The trustees have refused to do this and instead pay us a set amount each year. This amounts to a rate of only .281 for one full township we cover and .404 for approximately 1/4 the other township.

We also have a contract with the Meskwaki settlement to cover a portion of there land and housing, They pay a flat rate of \$25.00 per house per year.

In the past the township and Meskwaki payments have been barely enough to make payments on fire trucks, one at a time.

The city of Montour houses, maintains, purchases all equipment and training for the fire dept. The Fire Dept is completely volunteer and does not receive any pay.

Don Campbell, Secretary  
Montour Fire Dept  
203 S. Division St.  
Montour, Iowa 50173

**Joe Specht**

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**From:** "JEFF SPENCER" <wfd374@msn.com>  
**To:** <iafireassn@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 13, 2005 7:38 AM  
**Subject:** Pros and Cons

I think a con of having the money go through township trustees is that a lot of the Township trustees that I have heard of do not handle their money the way they should. Maybe that is just isolated to the ones I have heard about, but I know in the Metro area that is a hot topic in the past couple of years with Saylor twp and Delaware Twp.

Jeff Spencer



## **Joe Specht**

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**From:** "Darrel Crawford" <crawford\_darrel@valley.k12.ia.us>  
**To:** "Joe Specht" <jspecht@yousq.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 29, 2005 12:14 PM

Joe it was really great to talk to you epically about the fire municipally issues. I am looking forward to visiting with you and anyone else that will help to improve the fire service for our state and communities. Thanks!

Darrel Crawford  
Building & Grounds Director/Construction Supervisor  
Valley Community School  
23493 Canoe Rd.  
Elgin, Iowa 52141

563-426-5501  
563-426-5502 Fax

[crawford\\_darrel@valley.k12.ia.us](mailto:crawford_darrel@valley.k12.ia.us)

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563-567-8448

Frankville Fire Chief  
Monty Wilder  
563-380-3069  
[montywilder@hotmail.com](mailto:montywilder@hotmail.com)

fire station  
563-567-8121