Ripley EMT school employees can respond to calls without loss of pay
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By DAVID PRENATT - Special to the OBSERVER, The OBSERVER

RIPLEY - The Ripley Board of Education voted recently to allow emergency medical personnel employed by the district to respond to emergency calls without loss of pay.

The board received a request from Ripley Hose Company asking that three EMT's employed by the district be allowed to respond during daytime hours in the town because it no longer has the staff to cover these calls without them. The board agreed this has become a necessity.

"It's a sign of the times as the community gets smaller, it cannot provide the same services with ease," said District Superintendent Karen Krause.

Only one EMT would be needed per call and the average call lasts about an hour, according to the letter from the Ripley Hose Company. The board was unanimous that the fear of losing salary should not prevent EMT's from responding.

"We're talking about the possibility of saving a life," said board member Fred Krause. "That's more important than any money."