

October 9, 2008

## Emmett Twp., tribe approve public safety contract for FireKeepers

*The Enquirer*

EMMETT TOWNSHIP — Trustees here today approved an agreement allowing the township to recoup expenses for providing emergency services at FireKeepers Casino.

Trustees unanimously approved the 55-page document, a revised version of a 2001 contract between the township and the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi, the tribe that owns FireKeepers.

According to the contract, the tribe will pay \$375,489 for the township to hire five new public safety officers to provide 24-hour, year-round service for three years at the casino site. The township's public safety department will have an office on-site.

Township public safety officers are cross-trained to provide police, fire and emergency medical services. The township currently has 17 officers, Public Safety Director Frank Post said. He said he expects to hire the new officers this spring; the casino is expected to open in summer 2009.

The contract also says the tribe will pay \$46,500 for a new patrol car to be housed at the casino. The tribe will also pay for upkeep on the vehicle.

Without the agreement, the township would have been forced to recoup expenses from the 2 percent of electronic gaming revenue the state requires the tribe pay local government, Supervisor Jim Demarest said.

That "would have been a cash-flow nightmare, to say the least," he said.

*See the full story Friday in the Enquirer and at [battlecreekenquirer.com](http://battlecreekenquirer.com).*

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