

UHRICHSVILLE CITY COUNCIL
Special Council Meeting
EMS Presentation by Bob Smith of Smith Ambulance
Monday, October 28, 2019

Council President Mark Haney called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL showed the following members present: Mr. Grandison-yes; Mr. Baker-yes; Mr. Miller-yes; Mr. Harmon-yes; Mr. Warner-no; Mr. Cottrell-yes; Mrs. Davis-no.

The following visitors were present:

Don Ackerman	Lawrence Township
Joel Peterson	Resident, Gorley Street
Bryan Lehigh	Warwick Township
Joe Martinelli	Union Township
Terry Grant	Rush Township
Fred Edwards	Rush Township
Amy Madoni Myers	Novosel Real Estate
Harold Booth	Warwick Township
Phil Knisely	Warwick Township
Dana Moore	Tuscarawas Mayor
Jerry Piccin	Mill Township
Helen Borland	Dennison
John Edwards	Mill Township
Corey Henry	Mill Township
Greg DiDonato	Dennison Council
Justin Edwards	Uhrichsville Fire
BJ Green	Uhrichsville Fire
Curtis McLarry	Uhrichsville Fire
Wes Dillon	Uhrichsville Fire
Mike Hickman	Uhrichsville Fire
Mike Huff	Council in January, Oak Street
Carl Kohler	Clay Township

The meeting was turned over to Bob Smith of Smith Ambulance. Mr. Smith presented Council with a handout which followed along with his presentation. A copy is available upon request. After Mr. Smith's presentation the following questions were asked.

Q: Mr. Grandison – Saturday he came to the station and there were two men on duty. And there was an ambulance run and they had to make one for you because we had no back up. Fireman had to be called in and we have to pay more overtime and that doesn't work well for us. Maybe for you.

A: Smith: But if we're there and they go out on a fire we're there to do it. It goes both ways. We're handling over 80% of the emergencies. For us to compensate someone for those calls would be impossible to do that.

Q: Mr. Cottrell: In March when you took the backup out I was very disappointed but I learned more as I went. I need a price on you providing the backup also. Our Uhrichsville Fire Department gave us a price

and it would be fair to compare apples to apples. I know its fair to get a price on backup. We're sending people on backup and that adds up.

A. Smith: So you're saying if Uhrichsville is running a call and we have to come down.

Cottrell: Like it was before March.

Smith: So you want to see how much it would cost for us to do that?

Cottrell: That's the price we got on our other proposal. They're going to be here and they are going to do backup.

Smith: We depended on the revenue from those backup calls. And the city would take the call and we sat there and that car never turned a wheel and the city grabbed that second call and it left us paying a tremendous amount running any calls.

Cottrell: Why in March did it happen?

Smith: We're running tight and trying to make payroll. We were spending way too much money to not run a call with that ambulance. We can give you a call for two ambulances here or three ambulances here. It wouldn't be as much as the first because we already have the building and a billing service. That's not what I was asked to do. I will get something together and get it to Mark to share with you.

Q: Mayor Dorland. – You're run volume, are they strictly emergency calls?

A. Smith – These don count hospital they are strictly 911 calls.

Q; Greg Di Donato – We would like a copy of the proposal. The monthly bill says 14 calls. So, what you're saying is those are not billable. That number is for calls. How many employees reside in the service area?

A. Smith – I'll look into.

Q: Brian Lehigh - Before we get another estimate. We'll have one ambulance and one paramedic.

A. Yes.

Q: Fred Edwards – asked about ambulance incident going to Port involving seizures.

A. He'll get the information and get back to him.

Q. Greg DiDonato – Regarding backup, I call 911, one ambulance is out, Do you answer only if availability.

A. Alarm goes to Uhrichsville. There is a pecking order.

Q. You only respond if no one else is available

A. Mayor Dorland – every call you get you're no providing backup. We're providing backup. Every call they get you're not providing backup.

Q. Smith- Our proposal is one ambulance. 88-93% of the time we catch them

Q, DiDonato – Just to clarify, before Uhrichsville got into it you didn't have two sitting over here.

A Sometimes. Tones were dropped, immediately a crew knew who was up to respond to Uhrichsville for coverage and they would stay until medic 63 got back in. About 12% of the time they would get a call and we would send a third down. When Uhrichsville went into the ambulance business it just made sense they were dispatching Uhrichsville for the call and its working, we would not afford to sit and not run calls.

Q. Fred Edwards – if you provide a backup, where would it come from?

A. Philly or Dover with a response time of 12 to 15 minutes.

Q: Carl Koehler – If one or more entity drop out of this proposal how does it change it?

A. I don't know. Depends which ones. If Uhrichsville drops out we cannot afford to stay. We can't. Uhrichsville's plan to just serve Uhrichsville is dangerous because I don't think it takes care of their neighbors. A plan here has to look at a region, not one time. This is not a unique problem here.

Q. Bill Grandison – In 2018 we showed a 34 transport s3.43% of your calls, through September 15 that number has increased to 83 or 10.91%. With you being so much busier that's going to throw a heavier load on our fire department.

A. That reflects not sending backup down in March. We don't send the back up.

Q. It's still going to be significant. And we're still three months short. That puts a big burden on our fire department plus its more costly.

A. I get it. We've presented plans over the years to put more ambulances here, but the City decided to go into the ambulance business.

Q: Chief Edwards – We still do go out and help Smith. That also costs us money. So, on top of the \$17 that Uhrichsville will pay plus maintaining an ambulance for backup for the region plus we'll go out on the calls for the City, that's going to cost us overtime, is there any wiggle room for Uhrichsville in that aspect?

A. \$17 puts us at such a thin margin. I have been nothing but transparent. We've been honored to be here and would like to serve in this capacity.

Q. Greg DiDonato – What Judd asked, could that be part of the proposal? Anybody makes that run that bill goes with them and they're charging for it. If they transport.

A. Chief Edwards – We didn't lose \$10,000. That because of our transport capability. That number also includes wages from our people, overtime created by calls, it was the cost of EMS as a whole.

Q. Mr. Haney - How will Uhrichsville be compensated for backup is the basic question.

Q. Mayor Dorland – The problem is, who would be providing backup for, the entire region also? If we get a call to Dennison, there is no compensation to Uhrichsville.

Q. Cottrell – If Uhrichsville goes to Dennison, there has to be some subsidy for us. That's blunt, but that's what I need to know.

Q. Wes – You're saying Uhrichsville is going to pay the same for backup as everyone?

A. Cottrell – I'm saying if we are going to be the backup then we shouldn't be paying the same because we're going to lose money.

Q. Julie – The proposal was also for the region and the same cost at \$22. I don't think it was anyone's intention to leave anyone else.

Bob Smith – we would ask if you choose to terminate us that we have it in writing. We are not going to walk away. This agreement will have to be terminated. We extended it until January 31, so I would expect some sort of answer in January. We have been fair in this extension. I appreciate your comments.

Q. Haney – How long of a contract this time?

A. I don't know, if you want to do 3?

Q. Haney – One other question. We always asked for a report of calls. Can we get that in monthly report?

A. You get a call volume report, right/

Julie – It used to be listed addresses...

Smith – we can't do that with HIPPA.

Pearch – Can we get more detailed on a monthly basis.? We just get total calls.

Smith – Yes. I thought you got that. Do you want a breakdown if we transported or didn't transport? Absolutely.

Pearch – Do you have a high turnover of employees?

Smith – Our turnover average is better than average in the industry. Also, we have a lot of college students.

Q. Eric Harmon – You mentioned two guys at this garage. How many employees do you have at this garage?

A. Smith – 9 to 10 full time employees.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Trisha Addison
Clerk of Council

Mark Haney
Council President