

UHRICHSVILLE CITY COUNCIL
Special Council Meeting
EMS Presentation by Uhrichsville Fire Department
Monday, September 23, 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-yes. Mrs. Davis left the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

Mayor Dorland was out of town but attended by FaceTime.

The following visitors were present:

Debby Dillon
Zachary Lynch
Nancy Molnor
Nathan Crouse
Justin Beckley
Sgt. Mike Hickman
Josh Galloway
Shayne Dorland
Karl Kohler, Clay Twp. Head Fire District
Steve Wright, Arrowhead JFD
Ptl. Smith
Joel Peterson
Bob Michels, Treasurer
Helen Borland, Dennison Council
Greg DiDonato, Dennison Council
Julie Pearch, Auditor

The meeting was turned over to Chief Edwards. Chief Edwards had a handout for Council and a copy is available upon request. He proceeded to give a power point presentation.

The following are Questions/Answers following the presentation:

Q: Mr. Harmon asked no tax increase for residents. Projection for five year.

A: That is the criteria, goal. The system is sustainable with what is currently available. Chief Edwards said no guarantees were possible and he could not predict the future.

Q: Nancy Molnor asked for an e-mail copy of the proposal and a hard copy was provided to her at the meeting. She asked for a summary of Option One and Option Two.

A: Proposal One is the favorable proposal with everyone working together. That would equate in proper staffing in both ambulances and fire trucks helping to meet standards and a win/win. Spreading the cost among more people, spreading the cost. The staffing proposal is a starting place that they feel comfortable with.

Q: Greg DiDonato looks at it as a contract with no control over costs. Currently there is a three year contract. He needs to know what the cost is. He can't control the expenditures.

A: He was referring to inflation. He says that could be drawn up in the contract.

Q: He can only go with it if there is a set price. He has two other offers on the table

A: Competition is not always good when the cheaper it is the more sacrifices there are. Their goal is to come up with zero – every dollar that comes in benefit the people.

Q: New Philadelphia cannot control their overtime. It was in the paper. They had to transfer money. Talk to the Auditor.

A: The numbers in the paper seems like it doesn't mention that the revenue goes up.

Q: They had to pass a levy.

A: Hasn't seen one department run by the EMS that they've tried to get rid of.

Q: It's hard to get rid of someone when you get rid of the competition.

Q: Mr. Haney asked Mr. Crouse if he sees an issue with MOUs.

A: Chief Edwards talked about the two in two out rule. He commented that rule can be broken. They don't know if property is vacant. If they know no one is alive they will not go in. They balance that very well. Option Two, as Union President, MOUs they can negotiate the language. There will be a higher demand for the part timers that will affect the MOUs negotiations. They are supportive of Option One that provides the highest care to ourselves and the region. The money that will be generated will be put to future expenses down the road, replacing equipment, vehicles, etc.

Q: Mr. Harmon asked will we need a new station within the next five years.

A: To sustain the EMS system – no. To have fire department someday – yes. You will need one eventually regardless. One concern he has, \$22 per capita was offered out there, and that was for one resource for the region which keeps us in our own spot. Obviously, we are not receiving any subsidy from the outside townships or villages so we would continue to support that. Above that amount, if Uhrichsville is still the secondary ambulance out the door, we need to figure out how Uhrichsville is compensated in that. If backup is provided by someone else, we are still running the same number since March as when we were backup.

Q: Mr. Cottrell asked that Option One would take Smith Ambulance out since it is for the whole region. Option Two wouldn't.

A: Option Two the City of Uhrichsville will be doing the City of Uhrichsville.

Q: Concerned about getting paid as backup

A: We have to remember that we have two ALS equipped ambulances in our community now. We don't want to go backwards. In the previous arrangement that wasn't the case.

Q: Steve Wright asked about revenue vs. costs. Thought it was important to highlight what happens to the balance of the revenue once the expenditures are meant vs. a private entity.

A: The money will be reinvested back into the system.

Q: Mr. Haney said Council may ask Julie to put a line item in the budget.

Q: Mr. Kohler asked about the difference in charges between Uhrichsville and outer region.

A: If we are taking squad to other areas our citizens are paying for it. He sees it.

Q: Mr. Crouse – As far as Smith Ambulance, there is still plenty of need for them in the County, discharges from the hospital, and other resources that they will be needed for, he thinks there is still a place for them in the community.

Q: Mr. DiDonato say they have to look at numbers.

A: There are a bunch of different variables.

Q: If Uhrichsville goes out of the mix, the reduction of calls goes down dramatically.

A: We are already here. It doesn't make sense to shop outside.

Q: Mr. Dorland said we need to go forward. Discussed at finance and needs to make some decisions. Asked out other proposals.

A: Mark said the committee did not get the proposal.

Q: Between Smith and the City, correct.

A: He believes the proposal for Smith is for everyone that was covered before.

Q: He requested the proposal be submitted. He will call and get it.

Q: Julie asked New Phila, and overtime, who were you talking to?

A: Mr. DiDonato said Sandy Cox was chair of the finance committee.

Q: Did you talk to anyone recently.

A: No, just saw an article.

Q: Did you follow up. Were there unanticipated costs?

Q: Mr. Harmon read from the paper, and asked what is our estimate of overtime?

A: Overtime will stay consistent as it is now because will be changing minimum call back.

Q: Mr. Crouse – overtime is not just guys come back in for raising pay. They are coming back in to provide safety for the community. The citizens expect it and wants it. That's why they are voting yes for the levies. There is no comparison to New Philadelphia.

Q: Mr. Haney said the contract will have to be corrected.

A: Everyone supports the issue. The finance committee can run every scenario there is

Q: Mr. Dillon asked Council if they could think of any way to hire three full time firefighters without running EMS.

A: Mr. Haney said no. He and Joel were part of the committee that wanted firefighters to be EMS and they were stopped.

Q: Mr. Haney said the best way to do this is as a collaborative effort.

A: Carl Kohler said he didn't disagree just didn't know how to justify. If Mr. DiDonato doesn't want to go along with, five years from now they will be knocking on the door. It's not going to get any cheaper.

Q: Mr. DiDonato agreed costs will go up, but they are in the business to run the whole town. He doesn't get calls from residents about ambulance.

Q: Mr. Haney said Dennison doesn't have to take the gamble.

A: Mr. DiDonato said that cost is important to them.

Q: Joel Peterson said it was talked about years ago and appreciates Council's consideration and expects them to do their homework and make the right decision. The firemen will be doing more work, not less. He appreciates the time and effort put into it and wishes them good luck with it.

A: Chief Edwards said we want to be part of the solution. He's proud of his department. They are concerned about the City of Uhrichsville being compensated and good quality care for the residents.

Q: Mr. DiDonato said there is not we or they. Dennison is struggling with can we afford how we live and balances our needs. Uhrichsville bears the risk and has it the toughest.

A: He wants everyone to dig through the proposal and ask any questions or point out any problems.

Q: Mr. Baker – You will have to subsidize someone somewhere. In the Village of Dennison, you will still have to budget it, and its relatively important to people.

A: Mr. DiDonato said it is managing it. There are only so many times you can go back to the voters.

Q: Chief Edwards said only half of their services make money.

Q: Mr. Miller said he has been talking to the people he lives around. They want good service and he is going to review the information and make the best decision he can do.

Q: Mr. Harmon said all of his questions had been answered and he will contact him if he thinks of anything further.

Q: Mr. Ong said this is the introductory phase and is sure Council will have questions about figures. His suggestion is keep in mind the other communities need to be involved. You probably need to send formal invitations to the other township trustees and council members to the next meeting.

Q: Mr. Cottrell said we do need them here.

Q: Sgt. Hickman said you are going to pay Smith Ambulance a service subsidy and provide one ambulance. What happens if the Uhrichsville Fire Department says we not going to do the EMS and sit back here and get the same amount of pay. Private ambulance provides one ambulance for the region. If that ambulance goes to Rush, who is going to cover our City. These guys are hired as firemen/paramedics. They have two ambulances. They have well trained and have the equipment they need. You are paying someone that they are trained to do. Let them do it. They will make the same amount of money as they do now. You already have the people in place. You require them to be firemen/paramedics.

Q: Mr. Harmon said he gets that we are paying people to be here, but we have to spend money for equipment.

A: They will invest money back into the City so the residents have the best equipment.

Q: Joel Peterson said we didn't have everything in place then, but we do now. There is a good group of guys that are all paramedics and have the ambulances.

The committee will take it under advisement and will schedule another meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Trisha Addison
Clerk of Council

Mark Haney
Council President