

Request For Board Action

REFERRED TO BOARD: February 16, 2015

AGENDA ITEM NO: 7

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Elected Officials

SUBJECT: Consideration of a Resolution Committing the Village to Rolling Back Certain Ambulance Fees if the April Referendum Passes

SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND OF SUBJECT MATTER:

Subsequent to the failure of the referendum question for the approval of an ambulance tax on real property, the Village Board tasked staff with determining the financial impact to Village operations. The Board, at the December 1, 2014 meeting, directed the Village Administrator to devise and plan for future service and budget reductions in the event that a funding source for ambulance service does not materialize.

Staff presented its recommended short-term cuts and service reductions at the December 15, 2014 Village Board meeting, which was approved. Long term budget and service reductions for the fiscal year 2016 were tabled to the January 19, 2015 Village Board Meeting.

After further discussion at the Committee of the Whole meetings, the draft Plan "B" was revised to eliminate additional costs to outside organizations, and maintain special events. The revised plan "B" was presented to the village board and approved at the January 19, 2015 Village Board Meeting.

Plan "B" originally contemplated revenue enhancements along with budget cuts. The Board decided not to pursue the revenue enhancements and the plan "B" has been revised as such. Along with this discussion a resolution was presented by Trustee Pierce to roll back the ambulance fees for residents if the referendum in April passes. The resolution states that fees will be collected from insurance and Medicare but not from the residents for uncovered portions of the bill.

Staff does not support this resolution due to the unfunded reserves, capital, equipment and other aspects of the operation that will still exist if the referendum passes.

This item was tabled from the January 19, 2015 and February 2, 2015 Village Board Meetings.

DOCUMENTS ATTACHED:

1. Resolution

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Motion to approve a resolution committing the Village to rolling back certain ambulance fees if the April referendum passes.

RESOLUTION 15 - _____

**A RESOLUTION STATING THE INTENT OF THE VILLAGE
TO ROLL BACK CERTAIN AMBULANCE FEES
IF THE APRIL REFERENDUM PASSES**

WHEREAS, approximately one and a half years ago the Village assumed the responsibility for providing Emergency Medical Services (EMS) through the Antioch Fire Department, and

WHEREAS, since undertaking that responsibility, the Village Board finds that it lacks a reliable source of adequate funding, which is necessary to pay for paramedics, ambulances, training and equipment, and that without a new source of funding, public health and safety will be greatly compromised and severe cuts in other vital municipal services will become necessary, and

WHEREAS, the Village Board has caused a referendum seeking to impose a real property tax to generate (along with a companion referendum question in the unincorporated area sponsored by the First Fire Protection District) \$1.5 Million per year, which is deemed to be a reasonable amount necessary to cover the actual cost of operations over the recoverable insurance and government proceeds, along with a very small cushion for contingencies, equipment replacement and capital reserves, and

WHEREAS, the Village Board is committed to providing EMS at a fair and equitable expense, spread fairly throughout the community and still supported in the main by insurance proceeds and payments from outside entities, and

WHEREAS, the Village Board wishes to eliminate the personal billing of residents for uninsured portions of their EMS bills, including deductibles, co-pays and the like, similar to the system that was in place prior to the Village assuming EMS responsibility, and

WHEREAS, the Village Board finds that the tax revenue produced by the referendum would be adequate to allow this reduction in user fees to occur if it passes,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Village of Antioch, Lake County, Illinois, as follows:

SECTION ONE: The Village Board states its intention to roll back billing of private individuals for uncovered co-pays and deductibles or other personal costs over and above any payments available from insurance companies or governmental entities at such time as the Ambulance Referendum is approved by the citizens, should such passage occur.

SECTION TWO: The provisions of Section One hereinabove are intended to apply only to Village residents, or to Village residents and persons residing within the First Fire Protection District in the event the District's companion referendum passes. Nothing herein is intended to express any intention on the part of the Village Board to roll back fees and collection policies for persons residing outside these territories.

SECTION THREE: This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

PASSED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF ANTIOCH, ILLINOIS,
ON THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2015.

ATTEST:

LAWRENCE M. HANSON, MAYOR

LORI K. FOLBRICK, VILLAGE CLERK

DRAFT