

APPROVED MINUTES
VILLAGE OF ANTIOCH
BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SPECIAL MEETING
Municipal Building: 874 Main Street, Antioch, IL
May 23, 2013

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hanson called the May 23, 2013 special meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:03 PM in the Municipal Building: 874 Main Street, Antioch, IL.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Mayor and Board of Trustees led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the following Trustees were present: Pierce, Sakas, Poulos, Dominiak, Crosby and Johnson. Also present were Mayor Hanson, Attorney Long, Administrator Keim and Clerk Folbrick.

IV. REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Update by Chief Nixon on the planned fire department staffing and operations effective June 1, 2013 – Chief Nixon presented his plan for the delivery of emergency medical services (EMS) effective June 1, 2013. He stated that they will ensure high-quality fire and emergency medical protection for all citizens by taking the existing staffing plan and modifying it so that it will deliver EMS in concert with fire protection services. He reviewed current services provided by the fire department, and services that will be added effective June 1, 2013. The First Fire District will continue to work with Antioch Rescue Squad (ARS) in unincorporated areas, and use Advanced Life Support (ALS) engine responses as necessary. A Village ambulance service will be provided by the Fire Department using a contractor. Chief Nixon reviewed staffing at the fire stations and call volume for the Village and District Fire and Village and District EMS incidents. Trustees discussed ALS and Basic Life Support (BLS) services and the costs and protocol associated with each. Chief Nixon further reviewed current and proposed personnel costs.

Trustee Crosby asked if the anticipated costs are \$445,000 as stated in the contract. Chief Nixon replied that it is a six month term, and would provide equipment and services necessary for Emergency Medical Services (EMS). He added that the amount could change in an extended contract with personnel only, and that is still to be determined. Trustee Crosby asked if costs would be similar if services were provided by fire and not contracted. Chief Nixon discussed commensurate pay, and additional costs including insurance, equipment, training, maintenance etc. The first goal is to make a smooth and seamless transition for the residents. Once settled, future services will be discussed with the vendor.

Trustee Pierce stated that he is not interested in continuously extending a contract as was done with ARS. He would like necessary data and reports in order to assess the service and enter into a long term contract. Chief Nixon said it is the intention to have a permanent arrangement in place at the end of the six month term. Trustee Pierce said he is more interested in the Village Fire Department providing the EMS and not an outside provider. Trustee Poulos reminded the board that even ARS contracted with an outside provider, and that option should not be discounted. Chief Nixon discussed the different options that may be available to provide those services, and will present them in data format when the contract is up for review. Chief Nixon will be at the service of the board and make reports and data available.

Mr. Mike Nowakowski, Autumn Drive resident, thanked the board for the action they took at the last Village Board meeting. He indicated that he heard that ARS has asked to be considered again for the contract to provide EMS to the Village, and he asked that the board not consider their request. He does not believe that public safety is their number one concern. He stated that his father and grandfather both died in the line of duty as firefighters and does not believe that ARS will make the same sacrifice. Trustee Poulos said while there was mismanagement at the higher level of the organization, there were plenty of good intentioned staff that responded to calls and did provide that level of service.

Mr. Jay Jozwiak, Hennings Court Resident, discussed his involvement with this issue as a Village Trustee and commended the board on the action they took. He is glad that the issue is finally resolved.

2. Consideration of a Resolution directing the Village Administrator to approve a contract with Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Services, Inc. – Administrator Keim reviewed the work that has taken place the last couple of days, and acknowledged Chief Nixon's involvement in creating a plan with such short notice. Administrator Keim indicated that he has focused on the budget, discussed revenues, and foresees more discussions in the coming months regarding the other variables included in the contract. He spoke of collection rates and forgiveness policies, but does not have enough data at this time to predict those costs. He explained that the amount of \$445,000 specified in the contract will be offset by their collections. For instance, if Superior collections are short of \$445,000 the Village

APPROVED MINUTES

would owe Superior the difference. If the amount exceeds \$445,000, the profit would be split between Superior and the Village. He provided examples of collections based on the rate models, and what the Village could owe at the end of a six month term. Administrator Keim indicated that there is a contingency built into the budget, which could tolerate a certain amount. If projected revenues continue their previous trends, there should be enough to offset those costs. Chief Nixon indicated that he will not proceed with the \$50,000 bunk room capital project until costs and revenues are better understood. Administrator Keim explained that the Fire Department has a relationship with Condell, as does Superior, and Superior also has the proper authorizations to work with Medicare and Medicaid and has setup a billing operation and system. He invited representatives from Superior Mr. Mike Tillman, Vice President, and David Hill, President and CEO, to present the services they offer to the board.

Mr. Tillman reviewed the proposal, and history of Superior Ambulance and Metro Paramedics. He discussed personnel qualifications, wages, benefits and compensation packages, workload management, scheduling practices, and training programs for public and first responder agencies. He further discussed the integration of services with Antioch Fire Department, costs, and level of services expected. Two types of ambulance can be provided, and they will work with Chief Nixon in order to select the proper vehicles for the Village of Antioch. Mr. Tillman spoke of risks involved with emergency medical services and equipment outfitted on each ambulance. Mr. Hill explained that the business was built by doing a good job and exceeding expectations. He said they run an open book operation, and costs and revenues can easily be seen. He indicated that they have refunded other communities, and welcome outside audits requested by the municipality.

Trustee Crosby asked if the organization supported ARS, and if they are currently in litigation with ARS. Mr. Tillman replied that they did previously contract with ARS, and are currently in litigation. They provided services in Antioch for 18 years. Trustee Crosby advised Metro representatives that the board will be looking at the contract in six months. Mr. Tillman reviewed the operations in their Elmhurst office, stating that the entire 3rd floor of the building is responsible for the billing process. He assured Trustees that reporting will not be a factor, and they simply need to know what variables should be included in the reports requested by the board. Additionally, they offered to make a presentation showing their costs for services.

Trustee Pierce reviewed the ARS budget for 2013, and said the board will have to address costs that will be passed off to residents. He asked staff to see if ARS expenses are absorbed in the contract with Metro, and what the bottom line will be in the next six months. Administrator Keim said it will be up the Village Board if costs are passed along to residents or if they will be absorbed by the general fund. The goal moving forward will be to provide all of the data to the board and work with the organization to help the board make the necessary decisions.

Trustee Dominiak asked if patients can be transported to Wisconsin. Mr. Tillman said they are affiliated with a number of organizations and can file a system plan with other hospitals if necessary. Chief Nixon said a plan has been filed with IDPH that includes Kenosha County, and other nearby communities. Mr. Tillman said there are also protocols in place to help provide the necessary services to the residents.

Administrator Keim said the proposal before the board is what is up for consideration this evening, and the resolution authorizes the administrator to execute the contract.

Trustee Dominiak asked if the contract was with Metro or Superior. Mr. Tillman said it is solely with Superior, and Metro would not happen by June 1. She asked if metrics and certification will be required as a part of the contract. Administrator Keim said that the proposal is before them, but the contract will include metric requirements, insurance requirements, etc. Trustee Dominiak asked what incentive Superior has to collect if the Village pays the difference. Mr. Tillman replied that their incentive is to collect additional amounts above the contracted amount and share 50% of the excess revenue with the Village. She asked if milestones could be built into the six month contract. Administrator Keim said monthly reporting has been discussed. Auditing will go beyond the six months because it will not all be collected by that time. She further discussed insurance coverage on vehicles, and liability of employees.

Trustee Crosby moved, seconded by Trustee Sakas, to approve **Resolution No. 13-39**, Directing the Village Administrator to approve a contract with Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Services, Inc.

Trustee Crosby asked for a rough estimate of the annual cost to the taxpayers of Antioch for ARS services. Administrator Keim replied that if ARS was charged customary fees for dispatching and fuel, the cost would be close to \$70,000 annually. Taxpayers paid \$500,000 over the last 10 years for ARS Services. He added that those costs have not disappeared, and there will always be costs associated with these services.

Trustee Dominiak read aloud her statement into the record which stated:

APPROVED MINUTES

"The health and safety of all of the resident of Antioch, zip code 60002, are extremely important to me as a registered professional nurse. I know that I am not alone on this dais in having this concern and end goal. I believe that all parties involved in the provision of EMS in Antioch share this focus as well.

It is unfortunate that the common goal has been obscured by comments, opinions and actions that have not been productive to the achievement of that goal. Verbal assaults targeting various members of the ARS past and present have not supported achievement of that goal. While I may understand somewhat the reason for the action of the ARS on Monday night, making that statement and then exiting the room without further dialogue did not support that goal. Dueling press releases do not support this goal.

The sub-committee on safety has made considerable strides over the past several months on multiple levels:

- 1). Team effort has moved forward as evidence by inter-operability and support for the goal. Trustee Johnson attended a meeting and afterward expressed his surprise that there was no rancor, which he had expected.*
- 2). Better understanding of the complexities of providing EMS including billing, collections, reimbursement, staffing needs, etc. that would drive EMS revenues and costs to aid in deciding how to provide EMS cost effectively, at the level that we believe the residents deserve, and for sustainability.*
- 3). An understanding of the policy decision that would need to be made by both the VOA and the FFPD in order to assure that sustainable quality EMS system.*

To have all of the work to be for nothing is quite distressing to me. There should not be any finger pointing and one upmanship on anyone's part. In thinking about comments made by some of my fellow trustees on Monday night regarding their perception of the lack of information, I, as part of the sub-committee will take ownership for not bringing some of the financial information forward. This decision, while made with the concern that we did not have all the I's dotted and t's crossed and thus would serve to confuse rather than inform, in retrospect was not the right decision and for that I apologize. Perhaps it could have altered the outcome of Monday night's meeting. Perhaps not.

At the end of the day, I believe, and I know that I am in a group of 1, that all parties involved, including VOA, FFPD and ARS, should step back, take a deep breath, and set aside the rancor, the emotions, and our egos and hash this out in a more productive manner. I believe that this is the best option for the residents of Antioch, village and township, where we are all neighbors, rather than to finalize a decision to split permanently from ARS.

It is for this reason, and this reason alone, that I will vote no on the resolution to contract with Superior for temporary EMS services."

Mr. Tom Poulos, Village resident, asked the following questions be read into the record and considered by the Village Board:

- 1. The Antioch Rescue Squad previously would provide EMS services to patients, if you couldn't pay your bill the ARS would not obligate you to pay for these services. Will this be the case with the new provider? There are people in the community, (elderly on fixed incomes, low income families) that are financially strapped for cash and may not be able to pay for EMS services. This may be something for the village board to consider.*
- 2. What is the Fire Departments long term goal for providing EMS services to the community? The FD currently has 32 paramedic on the roster, would be a great idea to utilize these individuals skills and abilities.*
- 3. Would the FD consider buying used ambulances?*
- 4. Will the FD provide EMS services to the district should the ARS need assistance?*
- 5. Has the board considered creating a village fire board rather than over burdening the village board. This board could report to the village about the fire department day to day and long term progress?*

Administrator Keim replied to question #1, stating that the Village does not know the answer today. In response to question #2, he replied that cross utilization will continue. He indicated that the Village will consider all options going forward, and the FFD will assist ARS if necessary. He stated that the separate board referred to in question #5 sounds similar to a fire district. He said continued conversations will be held on how to optimize the services to both the Village and District.

Mr. Nowakowski discussed recouping expenses and insurance coverages. Trustee Pierce said he will look closely at the forgiveness policy and encouraged staff to look at the fact that ARS may have members that will want to be involved in alternate models presented.

Mr. Butch Zehren, Antioch resident, discussed the railroad tracks and delay caused by long trains. He said two ambulances are needed on both the east and west sides of town. Administrator Keim stated that both stations one and two will be staffed 24/7. Chief Nixon discussed the staffing and vehicles at the stations. Trustee Crosby added that the staffing is a recent change and was a hugely positive event for the village. He also stated that subcommittee concerns included collections and sustainability. Trustee Crosby said the past issues with ARS were never with their rank and file, but mostly management issues, and welcomes their support and service to the village. Chief Nixon indicated that they are sponsoring 7 new employees that are actively members of ARS.

Upon roll call of the motion to approve **Resolution No. 13-39**, Directing the Village Administrator to approve a contract with Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Services, Inc., the vote was:

YES: 5: Pierce, Sakas, Poulos, Crosby and Johnson.

NO: 1: Dominiak.

ABSENT: 0.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

3. Consideration of a Resolution Directing the Village Administrator to approve the purchase of one 2013 Chevrolet Tahoe for the Antioch Fire Department under the state bid contract from Miles Chevrolet of Decatur, IL in the amount of \$31,167.60 – Administrator Keim said this purchase was budgeted, and under the current circumstances believes expediting the purchase is in the best interest of the Village. He indicated that the current fire chief vehicle is owned by the First Fire District. The plow option for the Tahoe has been deleted at this time.

APPROVED MINUTES

Trustee Sakas moved, seconded by Trustee Dominiak, to approve **Resolution No. 13-40**, Directing the Village Administrator to approve the purchase of one 2013 Chevrolet Tahoe for the Antioch Fire Department under the state bid contract from Miles Chevrolet of Decatur, IL in the amount of \$31,167.60. Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 6: Pierce, Sakas, Poulos, Dominiak, Crosby and Johnson.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 0.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Trustee Crosby moved, seconded by Trustee Dominiak to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori K. Folbrick
Village Clerk