

THE CITY OF STREETSBORO, OHIO

SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 12, 2023

[Prior to the meeting three part-time fire fighter/medics were sworn in by Mayor Broska.]

[Mr. Hannan announced the resignation of Mike Lampa effective today and thanked him for all his hard work over the last few years. Mr. Hannan said Council would start the process to find a replacement for the Ward 1 Council seat right away.]

This Safety Committee Meeting was called to order on Monday, June 12, 2023 at 7:05 p.m. by Jennifer Wagner, Chairman. Mrs. Field gave an invocation and Mayor Broska led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Justin Ring, Jon Hannan, Anthony Lombardo, Jennifer Wagner, Julie Field, Steve Michniak

ABSENT: [Vacancy-Ward 1]

ALSO PRESENT: Glenn Broska, Mayor
Frank Beni, Law Director
Richard Polivka, Police Lieutenant
Rob Reinholz, Fire Chief
Matt Miller, Finance Director
Bill Miller, Service Director
Justin Czekaj, Municipal Engineer
John Cieszkowski, Planning Director
Patrick O'Malia, Economic Development Director
Greg Mytinger, Parks and Recreation Director
Caroline Kremer, Clerk of Council

Disposition of Minutes

None.

Old Business

None.

New Business

T-7428 Renew Contract w/Life Force for Ambulance Billing

Chief Reinholz said Streetsboro had used Life Force Management for ambulance billing for many years and would like to continue with them because of their excellent service, but he had obtained two other quotes for the service. Chris Knapp, of Life Force, was in attendance to answer any questions. The next agenda item about increasing ambulance billing rates was suggested by Ms. Knapp based on the current environment and inflation of costs. Mayor Broska said Streetsboro was one of Life Force Management's original customers. Ms. Knapp confirmed that Life Force had been in business about 30 years and with Streetsboro for about 26 years. She said they were doing some housekeeping on their contracts and wanted to get this new updated one in place as the current contract's term expired soon. Ms. Knapp thought the last contract was approved in 2015. Mayor

Broska agreed Life Force had done a really great job for Streetsboro over the years and kept up to date with billing procedures and Medicare policies.

It was clarified that there wasn't a term limit listed in the legislation; the contract was automatically self-renewing with a 30-day notice required for either party to cancel the agreement. Even if Life Force cancelled the contract, Life Force was still committed for six months to continue the billing until the City could get another company. Ms. Knapp added that changes could be made with addendums if necessary.

Mr. Ring asked what the most significant changes were from the old contract. Ms. Knapp said they were streamlining some of the processes and making them more automated; they were doing more things electronically and less things on paper (like the banking, etc.). Matt Miller had been involved in the conversations regarding these changes.

MOTION: TO MOVE THIS TO TONIGHT'S REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING.

Moved by Mr. Hannan, seconded by Mr. Lombardo. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

T-7429 Amend Section 141.02 Ambulance Billing Service Rates

Chief Reinholz said this was to update the fees to match better with the Medicare system on charges for types of care and treatments. The original ordinance was dated December 1996; so, this revision was overdue. Ms. Knapp had researched the fees of the surrounding Portage County communities and suggested changes to bring Streetsboro in line with the other communities. Chief Reinholz said the taxpayers already pay for the service, so the Fire Department had agreed to accept what the insurance would pay and Life Force would not send the resident/patient a bill for ambulance service. Non-residents would receive a bill for the balance of what their insurance did not pay.

Mr. Ring reviewed the Life Force Management contract and found item 4 where Life Force would bill the insurance only for residents. At the present time the residents would receive a bill and be expected to pay in full after the insurance had been processed, but that would change so Life Force would bill the insurance only for residents. Mr. Ring said it was not marked that way on the contract attached to the legislation and should be changed before it was approved by Council tonight. Ms. Knapp said the city ordinance covered the process, so that is what Life Force would indicate to an insurance company.

Mr. Ring was comfortable with the recommended rates as listed in the draft ordinance; the rates seemed to be in line with the surrounding communities.

MOTION: TO MOVE THIS TO TONIGHT'S REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING.

Moved by Mrs. Field, seconded by Mr. Hannan. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

T-7436 Authorize Contract w/Ohio Attorney General to Collect Delinquent Ambulance Billing Accounts

Chief Reinholz said the Fire Department was currently using a private company for collections. The

service had been “so so.” The Ohio Attorney General had originally had a collection agency, then they closed it. They had just recently re-opened the collection agency again about a month ago. He said the Attorney General did not charge the City anything, the 10% charge was put on to the debtor. Chief Reinholz said the other fire chiefs he had talked with that went with the Attorney General seemed to be very pleased with the process compared to a private entity.

Mr. Ring wondered how much would be saved by not paying a private entity for this service any longer. Chief Reinholz said the current company only collected about \$1,500 over the last 6-7 years. The City only paid them when they collected something, not a flat fee. Chief Reinholz added that Life Force Management did a very good job with their billing and followed up with insurance; sometimes it may take 1 - 1.5 years to resolve a particular case, and then if it could not be resolved it went to collections.

Mr. Ring asked Matt Miller if this change of collection agent would affect the Finance Department. Matt Miller thought it might be better to deal with the Attorney General and would probably result in less write-offs.

Ms. Knapp added that the Attorney General re-opened this extension of their collection process for municipalities because they saw there was a need for EMS collections. When they decided to do this, Life Force Management was kind of leery, but they now had over 50 clients using the Attorney General’s services and it gave Life Force Management a little more leverage to get the customers to pay. The Attorney General could take the money from the patient’s income tax or set up monthly payments, and they had more ability to find people. She said the Attorney General had been very easy for them to work with. There was a 10% charge added to the outstanding bill for the customer to pay; and it was only the non-residents that would be subject to this process since the residents were not billed beyond the insurance payment.

MOTION: TO MOVE THIS TO TONIGHT’S REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING.

Moved by Mr. Ring, seconded by Mr. Lombardo. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

Citizens’ Comments

None.

Announcements

A Service Committee Meeting will immediately follow this meeting.

There being no further business to be addressed by this committee, and upon motion by Mr. Hannan, seconded by Mrs. Field, this meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

ATTEST:

Caroline L. Kremer, Clerk of Council

Jennifer Wagner, Chairman