



MINUTE RECORD
Special Council Meeting City of Haven

Meeting: SPECIAL

Date: February 21, 2017

THE CITY COUNCIL MET IN SPECIAL SESSION AT 7:00 PM AT THE EMS BUILDING AT 120 N. KANSAS. THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WERE PRESENT:

Council Members, Sandra Williams, Steve Carmichael, Les Banman, Shauna Schoepf-Pearce, Adam Wright, and Mayor Paula Scott.

Ambulance Board Members: LD Peevyhouse, Roger Meier, Shannin Rettig, Philip Kauffman, Don Bogner, Tami Minnis.

Others: Leslie Atherton, Matt Fritz, Adam Strunk, Jessica Stussy, Tony Troyer, Scott Fritz, Darla Stussy, Perry Stussy, Brent Henderson, Reva Shepard, Jim Schmidt.

LD Peevyhouse called the joint meeting of the Ambulance Board and City Council to order then turned it over to Mayor Scott. She began by reading aloud the special meeting request, which stated the meeting's purpose was to discuss the performance of the EMS Director and the restructuring of the position of EMS Director.

Next, she praised the efforts of those that brought the EMS building into fruition. She noted that over the years Haven Community Ambulance Service has improved and grown and thus created a need for decision makers to consider making the EMS Director position a full-time job.

A proposed job description for a full-time EMS Director was handed out. Mayor Scott noted it was meant only as a starting point. She let everyone know that the City Council wishes to hear the thoughts and opinions of the Ambulance Board on this matter. At the March 6th Council meeting, the governing body will discuss proposed position description for full-time EMS Director with a probable decision point set for the April 3rd Council meeting. She mentioned that the Ambulance Department currently has one full-time position -- EMT. Discussion so far has indicated that the Ambulance Department would still only have one full-time position.

Other Council members shared their thoughts. Wright and Williams noted that there's a need for a full-time Director -- someone who can be the one go-to point for questions and answers during business hours. Schoepf-Pearce said she felt this meeting and idea was strongly a positive point and saw it as opportunity to work together on a solution to fulfill a need. Carmichael said he felt like having a full-time Director would be a needed step to take the service to the next level.

Peevyhouse, Chairman of the Ambulance Board, said the City has only 50% of the interest but he sees the City asking for 100% control. He asked for clarification of "the next level." Peevyhouse asked if it would enhance patient treatment because in his mind that's the heart of the service. Scott noted the Director is an administrative position that would be a positive, value addition to the program.

Bogner said he felt in order to buy into this suggestion one would have to buy in to the idea that the City is the sole provider of the service. In a nutshell, he wasn't buying it and felt that the "comingling" of ambulance funds with City funds, which was done at the origination of the service, was a huge mistake.

J. Stussy commented that she didn't see any of the suggested changes positively impacting patient care. She said having a full-time Director would take away his ability to obtain further certification and experience a higher number of ambulance service calls with a wider variety of scenarios.

Approved 03-06-2017



D. Stussy boasted the many fortes of the Ambulance Service -- coverage, teamwork, dependability -- all provided for a low rate of pay. She advised that none of the EMTs do their job for the money.

Discussion took place about whether ambulance staff are employees of the City of Haven or Haven Community Ambulance Service. A consensus on this topic was not reached.

D. Kauffman, Yoder Township Board member, commented that he felt this suggestion by the City of Haven was a power-grab.

Mayor Scott reiterated that the purpose of this meeting was to obtain the feedback of the Ambulance Board on the suggestion of making the EMS Director a full-time position.

D. Stussy said this suggestion feels like a personal attack on current EMS Director, Tony Troyer, and no one knows where it's coming from. She said if the ambulance staff knew the new building would spawn this restructuring suggestion, then she's sure all the ambulance employees would have preferred to stay in the old building; things were fine when the City stayed on one side of the fence and EMS stayed on the other.

Schoepf-Pearce spoke to the sides of the fence that D. Stussy mentioned and commented that everyone needs to come together to tear the fence down.

Bogner said he would talk to the people he represents with an open mind but he still felt that absolutely nothing had changed -- that the City was going to exercise 100% control. He trumpeted the accomplishments of the current EMS Director. He furthered that eventually everyone would have to realize that no entity has majority control.

Carmichael commented that the Ambulance Board and the City Council coming together to have a discussion tonight is positive. He said that no one involved wished for the ambulance service to worsen, and these suggestions are meant to improve the service.

At 7:58 PM, Wright moved and Carmichael seconded for adjournment. Motion passed with five "yes" votes.

/s/
Paula J. Scott, Mayor

Attest:

/s/
Leslie Atherton, City Clerk