



MINUTE RECORD
Special Council Meeting City of Haven

Meeting: SPECIAL

Date: August 14, 2017

THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING IN SPECIAL SESSION WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:00 PM BY MAYOR, ADAM WRIGHT. THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WERE PRESENT:

Council Members: Les Banman, Shauna Schoepf-Pearce, Steve Carmichael, Sandra Williams.

Absent: Philip Kauffman.

Others: Leslie Atherton, Cole Rush, Matt Fritz, Tony Troyer, Ann Chesnut, Keith Schmidt (Sumner Township), Lynn Thalmann (Haven Township), Shannin Rettig, Joey Young, Tony Troyer, Jim Schmidt (Haven Township).

Mayor Wright opened the meeting by reading the Special Meeting request, which indicated the object and purpose of the meeting as discussion of the Study Committee's proposal for restructuring of Haven Community Ambulance Service.

Mayor Wright advised that Yoder Township would not be in attendance. Troyer advised they did not know about the meeting.

Wright asked for the Townships' viewpoints on the proposed contract from the Study Committee. K. Schmidt said that Sumner Township would not agree to anything wherein the Township is not represented. For example, K. Schmidt noted, if the City took over the ambulance service and in ten years decided to dissolve it and give the building to public works, the Township would be out.

Thalmann said Haven Township hasn't taken any action on any of the proposals, and their main concern is to continue to provide ambulance service of the same or higher quality. He said that they weren't inclined to move too quickly to do anything when the status quo seems to be working.

Wright commented on the need to resolve the issues at hand and noted that to continue to have meeting after meeting with no resolution is silly. He pointed out that the Ambulance Board was asked for revised bylaws over a year ago, and nothing has been produced.

Schoepf-Pearce asked the Township Board members what positives and negatives their proposal discussions centered around. Haven Township was silent.

K. Schmidt said that all the Sumner Township Board members have read the proposal. One of the things that they liked about the contractual proposal was the downsized Board. The biggest concern about the contractual proposal is control, however.

Thalmann said their lack of action isn't "feet dragging," that it's "being careful." He advised that most of the constituents he has talked to don't see a reason for change, that they've been happy with the service provided.

Williams disagreed that the current system is working and cited Wright's example of the delayed bylaws.

Schoepf-Pearce understood Haven Township's desire to be careful and felt that was fair. In the same breath, she expressed the City's frustration with the drawn-out process when the City has gone to lengths to be open and create dialogue. She said a solution really does need to be figured out but in a responsible, timely fashion. Thalmann again emphasized the need for additional time. He said he doesn't feel like it should "be dealt with quickly." He said that it is obvious without Yoder Township here that nothing would be decided tonight.

Approved 08-21-2017



Schoepf-Pearce asked what the next step is. Thalmann said it would be to send their representative back to the Steering Committee with suggested revisions. Schoepf-Pearce noted that was the original task given to the Committee. She suggested meeting a month from now to hammer out details and try to work to end with a proposal that everyone could live with.

Carmichael expressed his frustration on the idea that everyone is "equal partners" when the City carries 100% of the risk -- financial and liability. At the April 2017 meeting, the Townships were pursuing an arrangement wherein they would take over the service. Carmichael said they found out they couldn't afford it and now they just want to keep it status quo. He understands why they want it to remain status quo because they get the ambulance service and the City carries all the risk.

Thalmann said he didn't come to the meeting tonight with the understanding that action would be taken. He noted that tonight isn't even a meeting for Haven Township.

Wright said that at this point he would recommend that the City Attorney and the Townships' attorney(s) get together instead to hammer out the details and concerns. He felt results and resolution would be obtained more quickly.

Schoepf-Pearce agreed and moved to proceed with having the attorneys work out an agreement. Carmichael seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

At 6:36 PM, Carmichael moved and Banman seconded for adjournment. Motion carried.

/s/
Adam Wright, Mayor

Attest:

/s/
Leslie Atherton, City Clerk