

MINUTES
Special Meeting of the Public Safety Committee
December 5, 2017 - 7 p.m.
Village Hall of Tinley Park – Council Chambers
16250 S. Oak Park Avenue
Tinley Park, IL 60477

Members Present: W. Brady, Chairman
B. Younker, Village Trustee
M. Glotz, Village Trustee

Members Absent: None

Other Board Members Present: J. Vandenberg, President
K. Thirion, Village Clerk
C. Berg, Village Trustee
M. Mangin, Village Trustee
M. Pannitto, Village Trustee

Staff Present: P. Carr, Assistant Village Manager
S. Neubauer, Police Chief
F. Reeder, Fire Chief
K. Workowski, Public Works Director
J. Urbanski, Assistant Public Works Director
D. Framke, Marketing Director
Rob Zimmer, Executive Assistant to the Mayor
L. Valley, Executive Assistant
L. Godette, Deputy Village Clerk
L. Carollo, Committee/Commission Secretary

Item #1 - The meeting of the Special Meeting of the Public Safety Committee was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Item #2 – CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 14, 2017 – Motion was made by Trustee Younker, seconded by Trustee Glotz, to approve the minutes of the Special Public Safety Committee Meeting held on November 14, 2017. Vote by voice call. Chairman Brady declared the motion carried.

Item #3 – DISCUSS AMBULANCE CONTRACT EXTENSION OR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - Per the direction of the Village Board on November 21, 2017, staff was instructed to explore RFP (Request For Proposals) options for the ambulance contract:

- RFP of current services
- RFP of blended contract and in-house service
- RFP contract length (3 year, 4 year, 5 year with extensions)

Staff recommends proceeding with a general RFP for more options to discuss further among staff and the Board, which would include the blended service of utilizing the Fire-based EMS to further offset costs with the ambulance contract.

For the benefit of the Board members previously not involved with the previous RFP process, Tom Vana, Kurtz EMS CEO, presented an overview of Kurtz's services to the Village. Mr. Vana stated Kurtz's accountability has included saving the village \$1,175,000,000 to date as well as implementing dispatch services within the community to avoid delays, whereas previously calls were transferred outside of the community, achieving a cumulative average of a 4.2 minute response time for years 2014-2017. Another advantage was that Kurtz suggested a cohesive working relationship with ambulance and fire services working alongside each other within the Fire Department. Kurtz also provided the Village with an Emergency Response vehicle, which is an ALS Chase vehicle, which was not required in the original RFP, as well as a paramedic supervisor, a state-certified instructor for EMS training and an on-shift supervisor.

Christopher Vandenberg, Trace Ambulance President, stated less than 4 years ago, with the previous RFP, Trace Ambulance communicated with the Village to provide ambulance services to the community for \$800,000 per year, which is significantly less than the current contract price by Kurtz. Further, Mr. Vandenberg stated per the EMA director at the time, the intent of the RFP was to provide the same services to the Village that was already in place. Mr. Vandenberg stated Trace Ambulance previously rented space to house emergency vehicles within the community and regularly move them for optimal response times. Trace Ambulance headquarters is located in Tinley Park and they also have a chase vehicle available to provide services. Mr. Vandenberg emphasized Trace Ambulance had sixteen (16) ambulances based in Tinley Park, with as many as ten (10) ambulances specifically responding within Tinley Park. Mr. Vandenberg stated Trace Ambulance gave the Village a lower price for services less than 4 years ago, reduced their price 8 years ago and expects to come in with an RFP lower than the current price Kurtz is quoting.

Motion was made by Chairman Brady, seconded by Trustee Glotz, to recommend proceeding with the approval of an RFP for current ambulance services while exploring a blended contract and in-house services to the Village for Board approval. Vote by voice. Chairman Brady declared the motion carried.

Item #4 – RECEIVE COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - Diane Galante asked the Public Safety Committee if the Village would consider having their own full-time paramedics as she has concerns with a high rate of turnover within ambulance services and their employees' qualifications. Ms. Galante also stated she does not approve proceeding with an RFP.

Nancy O'Connor asked an approximate cost of an RFP and Pat Carr stated the cost would include staff time and the timeline would be to initiate the process in January/February 2018 and mid-March for a response. Ms. O'Connor also asked why the Village would be interested in an RFP when there is a potential to save more money with the current vendor. Trustee Younker stated the priority is life safety and not saving money. Trustee Brady stated it is the Committee's duty to review all contracts and all available options for an informed decision.

A concerned resident stated the Village seems to be consistently concerned about saving money when relating to these important issues and not taking into account wages for EMS employees.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Trustee Younker, seconded by Trustee Glotz, to adjourn this meeting of the Special Public Safety Committee. Vote by voice call. Chairman Brady declared the motion carried and adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

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