

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL WORK SESSION

July 14, 2016

4:45 PM

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The Village of New Lexington held a work session regarding the contract for 9-1-1 Services with Mayor Ratliff presiding. Council Members present were Kathy Chute, Dan Bethel, Susan Boyle, Jeff Danison, Tim Fiore and Susan Goodfellow. Also present were Police Chief Scott Ervin and Finance Director Heather Rockwell. Absent was Richard Anderson.

Council President Chute called the meeting to order at 4:49PM due to the late arrival of Mayor Ratliff. Chute reviewed the terms of the current contract that are negotiable. Only the annual fee can be negotiated without giving one year notice. Councilperson Danison expressed concerns that Council wasn't involved in negotiating the contract. Chute stated that a presentation was given by Police Chief Ervin and the TAC Committee had attended several Council meetings to discuss matters with Council. Police Chief Ervin stated that the decisions on the existing contract were not made by one individual. They were voted on by Council.

Chute requested that Council decide on a direction to determine what the specific problems are with the existing contract. Danison stated he does not agree with the way the Village allocates the payments to the County. Danison stated that Fire and EMS should not have to pay for the services. Police Chief Ervin stated that the allocation was based on the way dispatching services have been allocated since the Village began dispatching in the 1980s. Rockwell stated that the allocation was reviewed and approved as a valid method by the auditors. Mayor Ratliff stated that Council determines how the breakdown is to be done. Chute stated the allocation of payments must still follow Ohio Budgetary Law guidelines and that Council can't just put numbers on paper. Police Chief Ervin reminded Council that the 9-1-1 contract was part of the deficit recovery plan for the Village. Ratliff stated that Brent Runge of the Perry County EMA stated he will get a legal opinion for Ratliff on the breakdown of the payment. Chute disagreed with the County getting a legal opinion from their attorney for a Village matter.

Police Chief Ervin stated that the Village and taxpayers are saving over \$150,000 and receiving better services because of the 9-1-1 contract. Ervin stated that if we need savings for Fire and EMS they should look at the levies that are thirty years old. Ervin stated that if Council is going to ask to renegotiate the 9-1-1 contract they should have an exit plan and the Village currently does not have the funding to perform their own dispatching services. Ratliff stated that he would like the contract to reflect something regarding the County 9-1-1 dispatchers waiting on customers at the Village window because they appear to be representatives of the Village.

Chute stated that Council needs to agree on which items they want to be renegotiated. Council discussed the level of service and EMD certified dispatchers that must be maintained under the current dispatching standards. The Village's ability to support their own dispatch services was discussed. Council agreed that the Village does not have the funding to support their own dispatching services.

Council discussed the call volumes county-wide that were gathered through a study in 2012 or 2013. The Village of New Lexington had the largest call volume at the time which was why the Village was asked to pay a fee for the services. Council agreed that they should not be the only entity paying a fee for services. Council discussed how 9-1-1 calls are answered and who answers them. They also discussed non-emergency calls that come into the 9-1-1 center. Council discussed where the \$100,000 price for dispatching fees came from.

Council agreed that they do not wish to cancel the agreement for 9-1-1 services. Ervin reiterated that they should have a back-up plan. Council agreed that Mayor Ratliff will go to a Perry County Commissioners meeting to represent the Village and express the Village's desire to revisit some of the terms in the 9-1-1 contract. Council wishes to revisit the cost sharing of fees between all entities, training of 9-1-1 employees, dealing with customers at the window, and rent for occupying the office space. Once the Mayor reports back to Council another work session will be scheduled for further discussion.

The work session was adjourned at 6:16PM.


Mayor Kevin Ratliff


Council Clerk Lisa Spohn