

**AMBULANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 22, 2018**

THE AMBULANCE COMMITTEE MET MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2018 AT 6:00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT THE KNISELY CENTRE.

IN ATTENDANCE WERE:

MR. ROB MAURER
MR. JOHN ZUCAL
CHAIR MR. KELLY RICKLIC
SAFETY DIRECTOR GREG POPHAM
FIRE CHIEF JIM PARRISH

GUESTS WERE COUNCIL MEMBERS MR. DEAN HOLLAND, MR. DAN LANZER, MRS. AIMEE MAY, MRS. CHERYL RAMOS, MAYOR JOEL DAY, LAW DIRECTOR MARVIN FETE, SERVICE DIRECTOR RON MCABIER, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL SAM HITCHCOCK, AND ACTING COUNCIL CLERK PATTI MCKAY

THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO DISCUSS AMBULANCE RATES FOR 2018.

MR. RICKLIC MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

THE AMBULANCE RATES FOR 2018 WERE PRESENTED IN 2017 BY FIRE CHIEF PARRISH. I REVIEWED IT. THESE RATES COVER WHAT MEDICARE WILL PAY TO PUT US IN LINE WITH THAT SO WE'RE NOT LOSING ANY MONEY THAT WE NEED FOR THE FUND. NOT TRYING TO OVERCHARGE OUR CITIZENS. I THINK IT'S A FAIR PRICE THAT HAS BEEN PUT TOGETHER AND PUTS US IN LINE WITH THE MARKET OF TODAY. WITH THAT BEING SAID I'M GOING TO ASK THE FIRE CHIEF TO JUST GIVE A LITTLE EXPLANATION AND SEE WHAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO DO.

FIRE CHIEF PARRISH MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

(HANDOUTS WERE GIVEN TO COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION) HERE'S A COMPARISON OF OTHER COMMUNITIES, DOVER AND SMITH AMBULANCE. DOVER'S IS A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT BECAUSE THEY HAVE A CONTRACT WITH DOVER TWP. FOR EMS. THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT THEY CAN'T CHANGE DUE TO THAT CONTRACT. SO, WE'RE KIND OF IN THE MIDDLE. I CAN ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE. THIS IS KIND OF ROUTINE. I WOULD RECOMMEND AS WE EVALUATE THE RATES EVERY YEAR IF WE'RE GOING TO RAISE THEM TO INCREASE A LITTLE BIT EACH YEAR TO COINCIDE WITH MEDICARE. ABOUT 40 PERCENT OF OUR PEOPLE THAT WE SERVE ARE ON MEDICARE AND TYPICALLY UTILIZE THE SERVICE THAN THE REST OF THE POPULATION. OUT OF THAT 40 PERCENT WE BILL MEDICARE, WE BILL THEIR SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE AND THEN WE RIGHT OFF THE REST OF IT. WE'VE DONE THAT FOR PROBABLY THE LAST YEAR.

MR. RICKLIC HAD THE FOLLOWING COMMENT:

SO THE BURDEN IS NOT PUT ON THE ELDERLY. IF THERE WERE A HARDSHIP CASE HOW WOULD YOUR BILLING SYSTEM HANDLE THAT?

FIRE CHIEF PARRISH HAD THE FOLLOWING RESPONSE:

WE WORK WITH THEM IN EVERY DIRECTION WE POSSIBLY CAN. I'LL ESTIMATE THERE ARE ABOUT 10 CUSTOMERS A YEAR WHO HAVE HARDSHIPS. THAT'S OUT OF APPROXIMATELY 2,000 RUNS.

AUDITOR GUNDY HAD THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

ON THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION IT SAYS IT'S EFFECTIVE 1/1/18. OF COURSE THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.

MR. RICKLIC HAD THE FOLLOWING RESPONSE:

NO, IT WOULD BE CHANGED AFTER IT GETS TO COUNCIL.

MR. ZUCAL HAD THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

WE GO THROUGH THIS EVERY YEAR. THE MEDICARE PORTION IS FREE MONEY, TO A DEGREE, ALL WE'RE DOING IS MATCHING WHAT THEY SAY THEY WILL PAY. SO, TO ME, EACH AND EVERY YEAR WHEN WE DEAL WITH THIS RECOMMENDATIONS ACHIEVED, KNOWING WHAT MEDICARE IS, KNOWING THAT WE'RE NOT ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION WITH THIS, IT MAKES PERFECTLY GOOD SENSE TO ME ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDED RATES AND TO GO FORWARD WITH IT.

MR. MAURER HAD THE FOLLOWING COMMENT:

THERE'S NO SENSE LEAVING MONEY ON THE TABLE AS WE'VE ALWAYS SAID. THAT'S A FAIR RATE TO BE CHARGING FOR THIS.

SAFETY DIRECTOR POPHAM HAD THE FOLLOWING COMMENT:

MEDICARE AND MEDICAID TO THE REASONABLE AND CUSTOMARY BASED ON THE AREA. THE REASON THAT MEDICARE RATES GO UP BECAUSE OF THE RATES OF THESE OTHER PEOPLE IN THE COUNTY THAT ARE CHARGING WHAT THEY CHARGE. SO WHEN THEY DO THAT LITTLE BUMP, THAT'S JUST SIMPLY TO MAINTAIN THAT REASONABLE AND CUSTOMARY IN THE TUSCARAWAS COUNTY AREA.

MRS. RAMOS HAD THE FOLLOWING COMMENT:

A COUPLE MONTHS AGO YOU SPOKE TO COUNCIL AND SAID SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO ANSWER CALLS TO GET WATER FOR PEOPLE. I WAS WONDERING WHAT LEVEL YOU USE TO BILL FOR THAT.

FIRE CHIEF PARRISH HAD THE FOLLOWING RESPONSE:

THE PARAMEDIC ASSIST RATE. A LOT OF OUR DIABETIC CALLS WE BASICALLY GIVE THEM SUGAR AND THEY EAT, BUT WE DON'T GENERALLY TRANSPORT THEM TO THE HOSPITAL.

MRS. RAMOS HAD THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

DO YOU HAVE A MECHANISM IN PLACE IF A CAREGIVER HAS LEFT SOMEBODY HOME ALONE, IF SOMETHING IS NOT RIGHT IN A SITUATION DO YOU NOTIFY THE FAMILY THAT YOU'RE GOING TO NOTIFY JFS? DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING IN PLACE FOR THAT?

FIRE CHIEF PARRISH HAD THE FOLLOWING RESPONSE:

WE DO. AND I THINK THE MAYOR IS PROBABLY GOING TO SHARE SOMETHING IN THE REPORT THAT I TURNED IN WITH THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. WE DO HAVE A MECHANISM IN PLACE, WE CONTACT JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES IF THERE IS NO FAMILY AVAILABLE. JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES COMES OUT AND SOMETIMES WE ACCOMPANY THEM IF HE REQUESTS US TO DO THAT. SOMETIMES HE GOES AND TALKS TO THE FOLKS ON HIS OWN. THAT DID HELP US A LITTLE BIT, IT KIND OF AIMS THOSE FOLKS AT PUTTING THEIR FAMILY FIRST ON THE CALL LIST INSTEAD OF 911. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE US LOOK TOWARD COMING UP WITH A COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE BUSINESS MODEL TO INVESTIGATE WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP KEEP SOME OF THOSE FOLKS OUT OF THE HOSPITAL. THEY REALLY DON'T NEED HOSPITAL TREATMENT. THEY JUST NEED SOMEONE TO HELP THEM MANUEUR THROUGH THE HOSPITAL SYSTEM. IF YOU'VE DEALT WITH IT A LITTLE BIT YOU KNOW HOW COMPLICATED IT CAN BE FOR US. CAN YOU IMAGINE BEING 87 YEARS OLD AND NOT BEING ABLE TO HANDLE THAT. THOSE FOLKS DON'T NEED TO BE IN AN ASSISTED CARE FACILITY, BUT MAYBE JUST NEED SOME HELP MANUEURING THROUGH THAT SYSTEM WITH DIFFERENT AGENCIES AROUND. I THINK PREVENTION IS GOING TO HELP US CURB A LITTLE BIT OF THIS STUFF.

MRS. RAMOS HAD THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

I WAS READING OVER THE AUDIT REPORT FOR 2016 AND THEY SAID ONE OF THE THINGS THAT THEY FOUND WAS THAT THE BILLING PEOPLE DIDN'T KNOW THAT WE'VE RAISED RATES IN 2016. DO YOU HAVE A MECHANISM IN PLACE TO GET THE NEW PRICE OVER TO BILLING A.S.A.P?

FIRE CHIEF PARRISH HAD THE FOLLOWING RESPONSE:

WE ABSOLUTELY DO. I WILL MAKE SURE THAT THEY HAVE IT. IT WAS PUT INTO THEIR PACKET AND IT WAS MISPLACED IN THE FIRE STATION. IT WILL BE HANDLED FROM NOW ON IT WON'T BE AN ISSUE.

MRS. MAY HAD THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

DO YOU KNOW THE PERCENTAGE OR DOLLAR AMOUNT OF WRITE OFFS THAT YOU DO?

FIRE CHIEF PARRISH HAD THE FOLLOWING RESPONSE:

LAST YEAR WE WROTE OFF \$8, 236.25

MR. ZUCAL MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AMBULANCE RATES AND MOVE IT TO THE SAFETY, HEALTH, AND SERVICES COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION

MR. MAURER SECONDED THE MOTION

5 YEAS

THE AMBULANCE RATES LEGISLATION WILL BE SENT TO THE SAFETY, HEALTH, AND SERVICES COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION

WITH NO OTHER BUSINESS BEFORE COMMITTEE MR. MAURER MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 6:15PM.