

The Council for the Village of Monroeville held a work session on Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at 6:00PM at the Administrative Offices.

Present were: Fiscal Officer Bonnie Beck, Administrator Tom Gray, Solicitor Jim Barney, and Council Members Chris Raftery, Bob Whitacre, Sam Wiley, Craig Franklin and Sue Rogers.

Also attending were Russell Leffler, Ashley Ballah and Joseph Micheletti from NCEMS, Deb Ewell, Chief Gary Lyons and Lt. Troy Kimball.

In the absence of the Mayor, who was attending a school function, President pro-tem Chris Raftery opened the meeting, and asked Mr. Leffler if he would like to speak. Mr. Leffler stated that Chief Lyons had approached him about being the **hearing officer** for the traffic enforcement camera appeals. He stated that the issues involving this matter were a mess and he doesn't know what will happen. He briefly reviewed the current law regarding the requirement for appeals to be heard in municipal court. Jim Barney also noted the enjoinder in other municipalities regarding the new law, adding that our hearing will be this Thursday. Municipalities are confident that a big chunk of the law will be overturned, but it's a process so it's probably years away. Mr. Leffler said he would be willing to be the hearing officer with the same terms that Doug Clifford had. He submitted a resume for that purpose, adding that he thinks Mr. Clifford did the hearings pretty fairly. Gary said he had already talked to Mr. Leffler on the side about responsibilities, and briefly gave some examples of procedures. He stated that Mr. Leffler would have complete discretion. At this time there are no more hearings – all of the scheduled ones have been dismissed. Mr. Leffler left the meeting at 6:09PM.

Tom introduced Ms. Ballah and Mr. Micheletti. Ms. Ballah presented a handout to everyone that contained information regarding the run volume stats for the EMS services. She noted that for the gross charges all Medicare and Medicaid portions of an invoice are written off, and right now there is not enough income to cover their expenses any more. Our area is not like Cleveland where runs are consistent. Rural settings essentially require availability fees due to the low amount of runs. If there is no transport made, there is no pay. They recently entered into an agreement with Norwalk, who doesn't have to pay availability fees because they are housing a unit (truck). Tom asked if they had any mid-range plans. Ms. Ballah said they are working on being stronger, not expanding, and she believes they are the size they need to be to cover all of their services. They are hoping to decrease the 911 calls. Their relationship with Metro Health is growing, and FTMC now has trauma specialists on staff. Ms. Ballah said she took on her role on 7-12-18 and has worked hard to bring things into balance. Even if NC went away, the hospital knows they need to have available transportation. NC is here to stay, with the financials on track with where they want her to be. Craig asked her if there would be a 24/7 squad available to Monroeville under the agreement. She said no, they will put a squad here, but it will also be a resource for Norwalk and Bellevue. They will be shifting around their resources so the response time will be better because they will be here. Craig asked what will happen to the township if they can't pay, to which Ms. Ballah replied that their services would be limited. Since NC is private, they are under no obligation to respond. Craig asked about the call volume for the HRJFD if the township couldn't pay. Ms. Ballah said if the township chooses not to pay the \$15,000 for their contract, then the call volume for the HRJFD will go up. The Village's contractual amount is higher due to availability. Bob asked about the township's levy, and Tom stated that they have had the medical/ambulance levy in place since 2007. Our inside millage has gone toward that levy. The township has collected those fees, but we haven't received any direct benefits from that. Craig reiterated his concern about the increase in call volume for the HRJFD. The township is saying that they can't afford to contract with NCEMS, but NC can't afford to not contract with them. The Fire Dept. needs to tell this to the trustees, Ms. Ballah stated. Debbie commented that as the Fiscal Officer for the FD, she has seen the calls triple over

the past few years, which means there is a lot of money being spent on wages. Ms. Ballah stated that much of the dispatching isn't done by NC. Each FD has their own criteria for call outs, and the HCSO dispatchers call according to that criteria. She said that every FD makes that comment about increased call volume, but the auto dispatch is not done by NC. Specific examples for call criteria is very helpful, and she would be happy to work with the FD on those examples. Sam asked about how payments be effected if there were an early termination. Ms. Ballah said we would not owe for any time past the month we paid for, and there would be no penalty. Discussion about use of squads and potential lack of coverage when multiple calls are received. Mr. Micheletti replied that this would depend on their resources and which trucks are available. Their goal is to keep the same coverage by moving vehicles. They are proposing a truck with crews quarters be "stationed" here. After a few more comments were made, Ms. Ballah asked if they could have a firm commitment by the first of the year. She and Mr. Micheletti left at 7:00PM.

Jim Barney stated that he had looked into the township's levy issue, and there is no statutory obligation to do this. The levy is specifically for medical/EMS services, and it's on the November ballot for a renewal, which means it will increase. If we're paying into it, he doesn't understand why we're not getting the benefits. The township cannot exclude incorporated portions from those services. He said he can't find a reason why we shouldn't benefit from those taxes. They pay \$90 per run, and there were 23 township runs in 2019 (\$2070) yet they get thousands of dollars from the levy.

Bonnie asked for Council's consensus to excuse a portion of sewer charges from a resident's utility bill due to a water leak in which 78 thousand gallons of water was lost. She will ask for a formal motion at the next Council meeting, which will be after the due date for the bill. Council agreed to excuse \$724.26 of sewer charges from account #01*89*1.

Gary said he reached out to 3 attorneys for the hearing officer's position. Mr. Christophel felt it would be a conflict of interest, and Mr. Galea from Murray & Murray said he would get back with him, but it's been over a week. Mr. Leffler is the only viable candidate now. Gary referred to the policies and procedures drafts he had distributed and asked if there were any questions. He said there wasn't as much time to look at all of them, but he thinks the evidence room and the asset forfeiture ones may be more important to get passed. Discussion about accountability for money confiscated from drug busts. Gary said the money is counted by 2 people before going into evidence, and then it's periodically counted. The evidence is all sealed. Bonnie asked if there were forms to complete when this is done, and Gary said there were. The previous cases involving the \$20 th and \$7 th were making their way through the court system. Regarding the truck that was taken as evidence, the wife is saying it's in her name. They are looking into the titles. He doesn't anticipate going to trial soon. Tom asked about the statute for the length of time, and Gary said the defendant waived the speedy trial. Troy said there has been a lot of back-and-forth between her attorney and the prosecutor.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:16PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Beck, MMC, Fiscal Officer