

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON COUNCIL WORK SESSION

April 25, 2016

5:30 PM

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The Village of New Lexington held a work session regarding revising the Fire and EMS Deficit Recovery Plan with Mayor Ratliff presiding. Council Members present were Kathy Chute, Richard Anderson, Dan Bethel, Susan Boyle, Jeff Danison, and Susan Goodfellow. Also present were Village Administrator Scott Bryant, Police Chief Scott Ervin, Fire Chief Jordan Hollingshead and Finance Director Heather Rockwell.

Council President Chute gave the floor to former Councilman Trent Thompson. Thompson gave a history of the current Deficit Recovery Plan for Fire and EMS and explained how he arrived at his calculations. Thompson stated that payroll for EMS is a key factor for reaching the goals set forth in the plan. He stated that costs must be controlled and that the plan will not work if the plan is not strictly followed.

Council discussed various items that could be implemented into the Deficit Recovery Plan. The first item discussed was leasing an EMS bay to Community Ambulance Service. Thompson stated that he has spoken with Community Ambulance Service and they are still interested in leasing a space for approximately \$800 per month. The fire department expressed concerns over violations of laws pertaining to locking medications up separate from those used by Community Ambulance. Mayor Ratliff stated that we should do everything we can to implement this option and that Community Ambulance has done a lot to support the New Lexington Fire Department.

The second item discussed by Council was selling the Community Building. The latest appraisal on file for the value of the building is \$175,000. Mayor Ratliff asked if the money could be given to Fire and EMS to apply to the deficit. Councilperson Chute indicated that the law states the funds must be deposited to the fund that originally paid for the building. Councilperson Anderson concurred. Finance Director Rockwell stated that Chute is correct, however, the funds could then be transferred to the Fire and EMS Levy Fund from the General Fund. Discussion transpired as to whether or not this was fair to other departments that are in need of equipment. Chute suggested that the money be allocated among all departments. Police Chief Ervin stated that although his department needs equipment, it is more important to recover the deficit in Fire and EMS.


Council discussed reducing the pay for firemen from \$5 per run to \$0. This change would save approximately \$26,000 per year.

The allocation of the \$100,000 fee for dispatching services was discussed. Finance Director Rockwell stated that she allocated the fees based on the previous breakdown of dispatch wages used when the Village employed the dispatchers. Rockwell stated that this method was acceptable to the auditors and that nothing in the contract or during any discussions prior to the contract was mentioned about not charging Fire and EMS for the services.

Councilperson Chute stated that the Village should consider changing the allocation of the mortgage payments for Fire and EMS. Chute felt that Fire and EMS should be paying 50% of the

mortgage based on the size of the building. Thompson felt that the current method of allocating the mortgage is unfair and that it should be based on the cost to build the different sections of the building. He stated that the block Fire Department facility cost less to build than the remodeling of the older section of the building occupied by Administration and Police.

Rockwell requested that each item to be researched be assigned to a person to report back to Council so that the work is evenly distributed and there is accountability. Council agreed and requested that Mayor Ratliff, Fire Chief Hollingshead and Trent Thompson work on the lease with Community Ambulance Service. Administrator Bryant is to work on the sale of the Community Building. Fire Chief Hollingshead and Mayor Ratliff are to discuss the reduction of pay for the firemen at the next fire meeting on 4/26/16. Finance Director Rockwell is to look into the allocation of the mortgage payments and if Fire and EMS should be paying dispatching fees. All parties are to report back to Council at the May 2, 2016 meeting.


Mayor


Council Clerk