

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON WORK SESSION

September 26, 2017
MUNCIPAL BUILDING
5:30 PM

The Village of New Lexington met for a work session on September 26, 2017 and the meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM with Mayor Ratliff presiding. Council Members present were Kathy Chute, Dan Bethel, Richard Anderson, Jeff Danison, Susan Goodfellow and Susan Boyle. Also present were Village Administrator Bo Powell, Finance Director Heather Rockwell, Fire Chief Jordan Hollingshead and EMS Coordinator Gary Jones.

Finance Director Rockwell presented Council with the 24 Hour EMS Study. The study covered May 15, 2017 to September 16, 2017. Rockwell stated the run volume from last year under 12 hour shifts was 362 runs. The current run volume for the same time period under 24 hour shifts was 371 runs which is an increase of 2%. Rockwell stated the revenue was 16% less for the 24 hour shifts compared to the 12 hour shifts the prior year. Rockwell informed Council that the expenditures were up by 11.2% during the 24 Hour study. Rockwell stated there were 108 open shifts during the trial study. Rockwell stated there was a 36% labor loss (1 person crew) and a 51% open shifts.

Fire Chief Hollingshead asked Rockwell if the study was labor losses only or if equipment was included. Rockwell stated it was labor only.

EMS Coordinator Jones passed out shift schedules to Council. Jones stated he posts the schedule for employees to give him their availability on Sunday. Jones informed Council a lot of employees do not contact him with availability until after the schedule has been prepared. Jones stated that he and Justin Morrow have interviewed four new candidates for EMS.

Mayor Ratliff suggested putting in a contract for a new employee that they are required to work 24 hours a month.

An EMS employee asked if there was a way around the 29 hours a week. Finance Director Rockwell and Councilperson Bethel both stated no and that this is due to the Affordable Care Act requirements.

Councilperson Bethel stated if higher wages were paid for EMS employees that the Village might get more people to work. Bethel stated he did not understand why the 12 hour and 16 hour shifts worked but the 24 hour shifts were not working. Rockwell stated expenditures were up and explained to Council the study was run volume revenue only and not levy money.

Finance Director Rockwell stated the forecast with a \$1.00 raise puts the Fire/EMS deficit recovery at 2021. Trent Thompson stated EMS would have to do two transports a day to break even.

Councilperson Chute asked who was going to submit a plan to the State. Councilperson Bethel stated he spoke with a representative from the state and that everything was fine.

Fire Chief Hollingshead stated he is looking into doing another Fire/EMS levy but he is hearing they may be putting a 911 levy on the ballot and he does not want to confuse the citizens. Janie Depinto stated if he puts a new levy on and it fails then it would revert back to the old levy.

Village resident Steve Coffman asked Council if they were putting the cart before the horse. Coffman stated at a previous meeting they were having trouble deciding on spending money for the squad. Coffman stated they should be getting a reliable squad before giving raises.

Councilperson Chute stated she wanted to clarify to everyone that raises did not get swept under the rug. Chute stated the Finance Committee asked the department heads to do a pay restructure, which does not necessarily mean raises for everyone, and bring back to the committee.

Mayor Ratliff asked Hollingshead if the pay raise does not help the situation what they plan to do. Hollingshead stated they would go back to 16 hour shifts. Councilperson Bethel stated he wants more accountability.

Councilperson Chute asked what the recommendation to Council was going to be for the pay raise. Councilperson Bethel stated he was going to motion for a \$2.00 an hour raise. Chute stated the forecast was for a \$1.00 an hour raise and that was what Finance Director Rockwell was instructed to do by the Finance Committee.

Council is also going to make a motion for a squad.

Mayor Ratliff entertained a motion to adjourn.

Councilperson Goodfellow made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.


Mayor Kevin Ratliff


Council Clerk/Lisa Spohn