



Ravenna City Council
Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2022

The public meeting was held in person in City Council Chambers.

Council present: Council President Andrew Kluge, Amy Michael, Rob Kairis, Paul Moskun, Cheryl Wood, Tim Calfee, Christina West, and Matt Harper.

Also attending the meeting: Mayor Frank Seman; Fire Chief, Mark Chapple; Finance Director, Brian Huff; Service Director, Kay Dubinsky; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor, Mason Kaniewski, Larry Silenius, Cliff Soudil, John McFarland and Diane Smith

The Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:32 P.M. by Chairperson, Amy Michael.

The first item was Trash Ordinance.

Ms. Michael read the proposed ordinance language that was provided by Don Rose and addressed pictures that she had shared of a property with prominent garbage throughout the front yard.

Mr. Kairis stated that he was fine with the proposed language but suggested that the amendments be placed in sections 1060 and 1062 to address both garbage and recycling containers.

- The item was moved forward.

The second item was Fire Dispatch Contracts.

Ms. Michael stated that Ravenna Township and Randolph Township did not renew their dispatch contracts.

Mr. Huff clarified that the dispatch contracts are for the same rate as the previous contract amounts, and they will be for 3 years.

Ms. Michael commended the great service that the dispatch center offers and that they do a great job serving the community.

Mr. Calfee asked if a change in staffing will need to be made due to the loss of two dispatch contracts.

Mr. Kluge stated that he spoke to the Police Chief and that he does not believe they will, and explained that call volume has gone up and that they are focused on customer service.

Ms. Michael asked if there will be any impact on helping with mutual aid to Ravenna Township. Chief Chapple stated that the Township radios will change to a different frequency so they will not be able to hear the cross traffic, but stated that they will still be able to assist them if needed.

- The item was moved forward.

The third item was Ambulance Billing Rates.

Ms. Michael explained that ambulance rates have not gone up since 2013.

Chief Chapple stated that there has been a rising cost of supplies and materials. He spoke with Life Force who was able to breakdown the national averages that municipalities charge for their ambulance services, and stated Ravenna is charging below average. Chief Chapple explained that approximately 55% is charged to Medicare, 29% to Medicaid and 16% to private insurance, with the city getting a 48% collection rate which is the best in Portage County. He stated that he will have recommended rate increases for Council at the next meeting.

- The item was moved forward.

Management Update

Mayor Seman stated that illnesses are on the rise again and masks are being recommended.

He stated that the Fire Department has responded to assistance at two major fires recently, Charlestown and Kent, adding that they represent the city well and their efforts are recognized.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:11 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

**Amy Michael, Chairperson
Public Health and Safety Committee**