



Ravenna City Council
Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2023

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; Economic Development Director, Dennis West; Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor, Chris Knapp, Larry Silenius, Cliff Soudil, John McFarland and Diane Smith

The Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:50 P.M. by Chairperson, Amy Michael.

The first item was Chris Knapp to explain ambulance billing.

Ms. Michael introduced Chris Knapp from Lifeforce Management to answer questions about ambulance billing regarding Medicare, Medicaid and soft billing.

Ms. Knapp explained that Lifeforce processes ambulance bills for over 150 communities in Ohio and stated that she noticed that many clients hadn't raised their billing rates and they were below the national average. She said that some clients then raised rates, some raised them slightly and some did nothing at all. Ms. Knapp explained that approximately 53% of the City's billing comes from Medicare, 29% Medicaid and the remainder being private insurance or self-pay. She stated that with the increase in billing rates, Medicare and Medicaid will still only pay a certain dollar amount.

Mr. Kairis addressed adding language to the City's codified ordinances addressing Medicare and Medicaid billing amounts, but Ms. Knapp stated that she has concerns about that and did not recommend the addition.

After some discussion, Ms. Knapp clarified that Medicare and Medicaid clients still pay an additional percentage towards their ambulance bill, and explained that, that was why she was not in favor of any additional language to describe what they pays towards services. Ms. Knapp stated that residents paid approximately \$36,000 out of pocket towards their ambulance costs for 2022.

Mr. Huff explained that all the money collected goes into the EMS Fund for the Fire Department. Ms. Knapp added that counties are starting to collect from auto insurance companies for certain situations where money can be recouped for EMS services.

- The item was for discussion only.

The second item was a SAFERS Grant.

Chief Chapple stated that the SAFERS grant will be opening in February to pay for 3 additional fire fighters and said that the Fire Department did not get the last grant that they applied for, adding that additional staffing is still not being addressed. Chief Chapple explained that the Fire Department would not hear back about the grant until October and stated that hiring them would be delayed until the first of the year.

Mr. Kairis suggested someone on the City's staff could be trained to help write grants.

- The item was moved forward.

The third item was an Assistance to Firefighters Grant.

Chief Chapple explained that the item is a 5% matching grant to assist with the cost of two new cots and cot loading systems for the ambulances. He said that the cost of the items is approximately \$146,000 and the 5% city match will be approximately \$7,000, adding that a 4-year maintenance plan will be covered under FEMA.

- The item was moved forward.

The fourth item was a Firehouse Subs Grant.

Ms. Michael stated that the grant opened on January 9th and that there is no match required. She said that the grant assists with fire equipment.

- The item was moved forward.

The fifth item was a donation of \$1,000.

Ms. Michael explained there was a generous donation from Julie Piccone Beach and her husband Jerry Beach in the sum of \$1,000 for the installation of the 9/11 memorial at the Fire Department.

- The item was moved forward.

Management Update

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:23 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

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