

**Village of North Hudson
Special Village Board Meeting
Thursday, February 16, 2017 @ 4:00 p.m.
Village Hall, 400 7th Street North
Hudson, WI 54016**

Minutes

Call to order: roll call

President Wekkin called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. Invocation read by Wekkin. Answering the call were Trustees O'Brien-Berglund, Zais, and Zappa. A quorum was present and the meeting had been duly noticed. Trustee Nelson appeared at 4:10 pm. It was noted that Trustees Head and Pike were absent. Also in attendance were; Village Attorney, Terry Dunst, Police Chief, Mark Richert; Village Administrator, Gloria Troester; and Village Clerk, Melissa Luedke.

Review EMS Contract and Service Options

Brandon Lyksett, Chief with Hudson EMS, was present. Wekkin stated that there have been discussions between the City of Hudson and the Hudson Hospital regarding the hospital taking over EMS services. As discussions progressed, it was discovered that the level of service would be less. Lyksett stated that the Hudson Hospital approached EMS about taking over services and initial discussions were that services would operate through the hospital and the level of service would remain the same as they are currently. As discussions progressed further, service would be then provided through Health Partners and be a part of a much larger combined system with Lakeview Hospital. There would not be a guarantee that there would always be a vehicle available in our area. Discussions with the hospital are still on-going, however, the City of Hudson is looking for some guidance from the partnering municipalities and if they are willing to spend more money to upgrade EMS services if they remained through the City of Hudson, instead of going with Health Partners. The City would need to spend more money to hire additional full-time staff. Lyksett stated that they are currently staffed with 4 full-time paramedics as well as paid on-call or part-time employees. They are getting busier and are no longer a sustainable model. Troester asked what the lower level of service may mean. With the current discussions, if services went through the hospital reliability and response time may be diminished. A patient may have to wait for an ambulance to come from another area. The Town of St. Joseph is currently covered by Lakeview Hospital. A vehicle is stored in the Town of St. Joseph, however, it is not staffed. An ambulance needs to come from Lakeview Hospital in Stillwater. Zappa questioned the net patient revenue loss numbers and what accounts for that. Lyksett stated that the reimbursement rate is half the amount in Wisconsin than in Minnesota. State average is about \$30.00 per capita and Hudson EMS is way below the average. They currently operate with a deficit of about \$5.00 per capita. Zappa questioned the municipality contribution amounts over the next 5 years. The amount for the Village would almost double in 5 years. The desired staffing numbers were stretched out over 5 years to help the municipalities financially. The Town of Hudson recommended against selling EMS to the Hudson Hospital. The Town of Troy is requesting more information before making a decision one way or another, but they were generally in favor of keeping services through Hudson EMS. Wekkin talked about the possibility of using the run percentage to calculate contribution amounts as is done with the Fire Department. Lyksett stated that the EMS averages about 6%-7% of runs to the Village of North Hudson. If services went through the Hudson Hospital, additional full-time fire-fighters would need to be hired to cover if an ambulance was not immediately available. Nelson asked what Lyksett expects the cost per capita to be in 2023. Brandon expects the cost per capita to increase as

more EMTs were brought on full-time. Richert asked with EMS through the Hospital, where would First Responders fall. Hudson EMS would prefer it stays the same as it is currently, but the hospital is not sure how or if First Responders would be used. Lyksett stated that every municipality currently pays the same cost per capita. Troester stated that she is currently looking for ways of funding the cost increase. If money cannot be found in the budget to fund the increases, the Village may need to go to referendum. Richert asked Lyksett how he came up with the staffing numbers. Lyksett stated that the staffing numbers he came up with are what is needed today to continue with the same level of service or better. Zappa asked about other options for service, and at what point does the Village say that we cannot continue with Hudson EMS due to the rising costs. Lakeview provides service for St. Joseph and contracting directly with Lakeview may be an option. Lyksett stated that St. Joseph has a big First Responder group which helps their level of service. The consensus from the Board was that they are ok with services continuing through the Hudson EMS if the hospital is not willing to provide the same or higher level of service that we currently have. However, there will be further discussion on this topic at a later date.

Adjournment

Wekkin declared the meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Melissa Luedke
Village Clerk