MINUTES OF A JOINT MEETING OF THE
AVON VILLAGE BOARD
AVON TOWN BOARD &
AVON ROTARY-LIONS AMBULANCE SERVICE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2013
6:00 PM; VILLAGE HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM B

I. ATTENDANCE

VILLAGE BOARD
Thomas Freeman, Mayor
Timmy Batzel, Trustee
Robert Hayes, Trustee
Mark McKeown, Trustee
William Zhe, Trustee

ABSENT
None

TOWN BOARD
David LeFeber, Supervisor
Robert Ayers, Councilman
James Blye, Councilman
Thomas Mairs, Councilman

ABSENT
Richard Steen, Councilman

AMBULANCE BOARD
Donald Mastin, President
Helen Zamboni, Vice President
Janis Cole, Member
Edward Coyne, Member
Lauren O'Donoghue, Member
Thomas O'May, Member
Kevin Patrick, Member
Richard J. Race, Member
James Ryan, Member

ABSENT
Thomas Bartolini, Business Mgr.
James Gerace, Member
Howard Forsyth, Member

GUESTS
Richard & Michele Cassada, 350 North Avenue
James Harrington, 157 East Main Street
Jeremy Batzel, 347 Genesee Street
Richard Neth, 287 Spring Street
David Piampiano, 42 North Avenue
Albert E. Beach, 150 Linden Street
Ericka O'Brien, 73 Temple Street
Daniel McLaughlin, 15 Valley Lane

II. PROLOGUE

Mastin opened the meeting, reading a letter from Dr. Jack B. Davidoff, the Ambulance Service's Medical Director.

The Ambulance Service had upgraded its staff by adding paid Advanced Life Support (ALS) personnel, Davidoff stated. In cardiac arrest or near-arrest cases, patients required ALS care within 4 to 6 minutes. Without it irreparable brain damage, even death, could occur. Maintaining the necessary staffing, training and equipment cost money, the doctor contended.

2012 Call Volume

Last time they'd met, the Village and Town Boards had had questions, Patrick recalled. They had asked for a breakdown of calls. Race reported there had been 460 calls in the Village, 231 in the Town and 94 outside the two municipalities last year.

Sixty-four percent of the calls had required Advanced Life Support while 35 percent had needed Basic Life Support (BLS), Race continued. Those percentages were closer to 80 percent and 20 percent this year, he added.

Responding to a question from Mayor Freeman, Race said the most expensive thing to replace in an ambulance was medication at about $100 per dose and therapy pads. The cost per trip to an emergency room ranged from $500 to $800 while reimbursements ranged from $200 to $300 depending on whether they came from Medicaid or Medicare. Response times ran from 9 minutes during the day to 14 minutes at night. Race couldn't provide numbers of calls by shift, Village versus Town.

Responding to a question from Trustee McKeown, Race said most ALS calls came during the day and early evening. If the Ambulance Service's ALS unit responded to a call out of town, only BLS service would be available in town.

Training Requirements/Funding Options

The Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course had gone from 155 to 175 hours, Race said. Training, he added, was taken over three years and paramedics were always training.

The Ambulance Service had proposed two funding options from Village and Town budgets. Option #1 called for $50,000 in 2015 and $100,000 per year thereafter while Option #2 sought $93,000 in 2015 and $144,000 a year thereafter.

Taxpayers needed them to look at both options, Trustee Batzel said

Option #2 was the cheapest way to get an ambulance on the scene with qualified help, Race claimed. The Ambulance Service was trying to provide top notch care, he pointed out, a level of care other agencies weren't providing.

The Boards had asked the Ambulance Service about an independent audit and Patrick said they were open to that, estimating it would cost between $3,000 and $6,000.

Certificate of Need (CON)

In order for an Emergency Medical Service (EMS) to gain operating authority, the service must apply to the Regional EMS Council, obtain a positive determination of public need and pass a fitness and competency review by the State Department of Health.

Who held the certificate of need in our area? Mayor Freeman asked.

We hold it, Patrick responded.

Two other agencies that could serve Avon had certificates of need, Zamboni added, Livingston County EMS in Retsof and Rural/Metro Medical Services at 811 West Avenue.

The Village would like the Village and Town to have voting members on the Ambulance Service Board of Directors? Patrick inquired.

That would reassure their taxpayers, Supervisor LeFeber said.

One of your Board members - rather than you appointing someone? Mastin asked.

Consolidation

At a March 26 meeting, Village and Town Board members had raised the prospect of consolidation, Patrick moved-on.

That would take a lot of looking into the pros and cons, Race remarked.

And, consolidation would likely involve a loss of control by the Ambulance Board as well as by the Village and Town Boards, Patrick said. Response time and cost of service would be other factors to consider. Their priorities were response time and providing the best care possible. They were competitive, Patrick said, and they wanted what was best for Avon.

They had cut medical supply costs since adding Advanced Life Support staff, Race said, adding they had a good group.

Questions & Comments

Had the Ambulance Board applied for any grants? Trustee Batzel wondered.

They were hard to find, Cole responded. William Boyd had applied for a grant for a fly car, but hadn't gotten it and they'd asked Village Treasurer Christine Quinlan to keep her eyes open.

Mayor Freeman suggested they meet again Monday, June 17.

As a taxpayer who owned two houses, Harrington said it was wrong if taxes were going to pay for the Ambulance Service then the insurance companies turned around and billed them.

Could the Ambulance Service pick-up the insurance co-pay? Batzel asked.

We would need another $40,000 per year to do that, Zamboni responded.

Some communities have "Community Cares" programs that pick-up insurance co-pays, if taxes were used to support their ambulance service, Batzel remarked, noting there was a $500 deductible for an ambulance transport.

What affect would Obama Care have on costs? Cassada wondered.

We have no idea what the impact of Obama Care will be, Zamboni responded.

About being the best, how would he know? Trustee McKeown asked.

The Monroe County Emergency Medical Service (EMS) had a matrix and the Avon Rotary-Lions Ambulance Service met or exceeded many of the benchmarks in that matrix, Race responded, but conceded it was a hard question to answer.

What do I have to compare our service to? Trustee McKeown followed-up.

There is a web site for Regional Medical Services and there was much information there, Zamboni said.

Simple facts would help answer questions, Trustee McKeown said, adding the better-armed you were, the better-served.

Trustee Batzel said he'd be interested in how much revenue wasn't collected.

The Ambulance Service might not see money from a call for six months, Cole commented.

Board members took a break at 7:45 PM, after which the Ambulance Board departed.

McLaughlin wondered if Ambulance Service rigs might respond to more calls in, say, Lima or Livonia, and be unavailable to an Avon resident having a heart attack. He didn't want to see Avon residents paying for something and not being guaranteed they'd get it.

With police calls, if the Avon Police Department couldn't respond to a call in 15 minutes, the Livingston County Sheriff's Department was dispatched, McLaughlin added, but you didn't known how long you might have to wait with the ambulance.

Does Avon have enough people to drive the ambulance? Harrington asked.

You needed hours and hours of training to drive an ambulance, Cassada commented.

You could probably find enough volunteers to drive, but not with the prerequisite training, McKeown agreed.

The Ambulance Service went to hell when they began paying people, Neth asserted. They'd be better off, if they started from scratch. Right now, they're trying to fix something that's too big to fix.

If the Village and Town give the Ambulance Service $100,000 per year, that's 25 percent of their budget, Trustee Batzel noted. The Village and Town would wind up being the largest contributor – this was about control of the Ambulance Board, he added.

(The 2013 Avon Rotary-Lions Ambulance Service budget had expenditures of $391,993, the largest being payroll for Advanced Life Support, Basic Life Support and Business Administration. The largest revenues were $210,734 from private insurance and $141,983 from Medicare & Medicaid.)

Had the Ambulance Service ever had a professional audit? Neth asked, suggesting the service hadn't had a business plan either.

The Ambulance Service Board said they'd be willing to have an independent audit, Trustee McKeown recalled, adding the cost estimate had been between $3,000 and $6,000.

The Ambulance Service Board was looking for a six to 10-year contract, Trustee Batzel noted, that amounted to $1 million.

With only two voted accorded to the Village and Town, Neth added.

That was an amazing amount of money over 10 years considering what they had come from, Mayor Freeman observed.

The Ambulance Service wasn't losing money on ALS calls, Trustee Batzel asserted.

They had lost sight of what an ambulance service should be, Neth contended, adding their response time was not good at all.

Just because you give them money doesn't mean you're assured someone is going to show up, McLaughlin said.

Was there any more notice of meetings such as this than notices being posted on the door and bulletin board? Jeremy Batzel asked. Perhaps a notice should be put in the Penny Saver to get more input from the public.

Citizen of the Year

The Chamber of Commerce would honor the Citizen of the Year during a dinner at the Avon Inn Saturday, May 11, Supervisor LeFeber noted. In the past, they hadn't always been consistent with regards to combined Village and Town recognition. If they wanted to continue that this year, they should order plaques.

Last year had slipped right by them, Mayor Freeman said, adding plaques was a good idea.

Then, they'd order plaques and go halves, the Supervisor followed-up.

Code Enforcement

Last year, Supervisor LeFeber recalled, they had talked about code enforcement and the Fire Marshall serving as their Deputy Code Enforcement Officer. Were they satisfied with things as they were now or were they going to advertise for someone?

Code Enforcement Officer Anthony Cappello was going to want to retire at some point, Councilman Blye noted, but phase II of the Royal Spring subdivision wasn't pending so, they weren't in dire straits at the moment.

They should look at when training was offered in this area, Councilman Mairs said. As opposed to sending someone down to Montour Falls, they should have someone under Cappello learning everything.

They should sit down with Cappello and see what his plans were, Councilman Blye said.

Dean O'Keefe was the Fire Marshall for both the Village and Town and he could do code, he was trained, Councilman Mairs said.

Cooperative Projects/Cemetery Road Water Line
The busy time of year for Departments of Public Works was the spring, Mayor Freeman noted. The Village and Town worked well together, loaning equipment and such, but the Town had a water line project and the Village wasn't really prepared.

They had a short piece of line on Cemetery Road that had had many breaks and they'd wanted to replace it, Supervisor LeFeber related. They might need an excavator, but the Supervisor said it had been the consensus of the Town Board that the Town would hire a contractor. They'd gotten a $1,300 estimate, had the funding and needed the work done right then.

It'd been a recurring problem that had moved the time line up for them, Councilman Blye added.

Why pay an outside contractor to do the work? Harrington asked.

For $500, the contractor would keep coming back until the project passed, Councilman Blye noted. With the Village, they'd have to keep paying them until it passed.

Besides, Mayor Freeman said, they had roads, sidewalks, brush, leaves, parks and mowing to do. If they made $500 on the Town job, it would cost them five times as much on work of their own they wouldn't be getting done.

Trustee McKeown thanked Supervisor LeFeber and the Town for conducting a tour of Town Hall during the Association of Villages meeting Wednesday, April 17.

Town Board Adjournment
Upon a motion from Councilman Ayers, the Town Board adjourned at 8.27 PM. Councilman Blye seconded the motion and it was carried by the following vote:

David LeFeber, Supervisor	Voting	Yes
Robert Ayers, Councilman	Voting	Yes
James Blye, Councilman	Voting	Yes
Thomas Mairs, Councilman	Voting	Yes

CARRIED, 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

TREASURER UPDATE

Mayor Freeman read the legal notice for the tax warrant.

Upon a motion from Trustee Zhe, the Board approved the tax warrant. Trustee Hayes seconded the motion and it was carried by the following vote:

Thomas Freeman, Mayor	Voting	Yes
Mark McKeown, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Timmy Batzel, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Robert Hayes, Trustee	Voting	Yes
William Zhe, Trustee	Voting	Yes

Alexander Crossing Foreclosure Sale
Mayor Freeman reported Lot 33 in the Alexander Crossing subdivision would go up for tax foreclosure for the amount of $1,700 Friday, May 17. The Village agreed to pay that amount and the owner, Linda Postler, had agreed to sign the property over to the Village. Either Village Atty. Reid Whiting or Treasurer Christine Quinlan would attend.

Cement Apron at the Fire Station
Mayor Freeman reported the Village had received two quotes for replacement of the cement apron at the Fire Station. Board members discussed the installation of tubes to heat the apron in winter. Mayor Freeman told Trustees it would cost $5,000 to install the tubes and another $5,000 to install the cement, $10,000 overall.

How practical is it? Trustee McKeown asked.

Is it over the top? Mayor Freeman asked. It's a nice thing to have, but practical, too, he told Trustees. Mayor Freeman asked the Trustees pleasure.

Trustee Zhe said, no.

Trustee McKeown said, no.

Mayor Freeman said they would start the project the next week and they would forego the tubing.

Village Web Site
Mayor Freeman reported the Village web site was receiving 39 hits per day with visitors typically spending 40 seconds on the site. Design FM of Livonia managed the site and the Mayor suggested inviting the firm to a future meeting to discuss how the site might be enhanced.

Water Problem/ 350 North Avenue
Richard Cassada of 350 North Avenue told Trustees he had 3-inches of water in his basement – again this year. Three weeks earlier when the Village had heavy rain, Cassada had gotten 2-inches of water in his basement.

The North Avenue Heights (D'Angelo Parkway) Subdivision was to the east of Cassada's house and Cassada told Trustees there was supposed to be a swale between the subdivision and the houses on North Avenue, but there wasn't.

Cassada said he had a finished basement with carpeting and wood paneling. He said he was "really frustrated." Measures the Village Department of Public Works (DPW) had taken the year before hadn't worked.

He had called his insurance company, but, according to Cassada, the insurance company had told him there was nothing they could do.

Mayor Freeman suggested Cassada file a claim with the Village's insurance carrier and that the Village would have their engineer take a look at the situation. He added John Barrett, DPW Superintendent, would be there the next day to take a look as well.

Trustee McKeown advised Cassada to make a list of the damaged items, adding pictures would help.

Cassada said he had put off hiring a dumpster, but the paneling would have to come down. Villagemare

Budget Adoption
Upon a motion made by Trustee Zhe, the 2013/2014 budget and tax rate were approved as submitted. Trustee Batzel seconded the motion and it was carried by the following vote:

Thomas Freeman, Mayor	Voting	Yes
Mark McKeown, Trustee	Voting	Yes
William Zhe, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Robert Hayes, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Timmy Batzel, Trustee	Voting	Yes

CARRIED, 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 9:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Margiotta

Gary T. Margiotta
Deputy Clerk