

CITY OF SUTHERLIN
Council Workshop Meeting
Sutherlin Civic Auditorium
Monday, June 22, 2015 – 8:59pm

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

MAYOR: Tom Boggs, Frank Egbert, Wayne Luzier, Karen Meier, Forest Stone, Wes Anderson
Todd McKnight

CITY STAFF: City Manager, Jerry Gillham
City Recorder/HR Manager, Debbie Hamilton
Deputy City Recorder, Diane Harris
Community Development Director, Vicki Luther
Interim Fire Chief, Rich LaBelle
City Attorney, Chad Jacobs

AUDIENCE: Holly Boggs, Greg Marlar, Bertha Egbert, Pam & Denny Cameron, Brian Burke Sr., Keith Cubic, Lisa Hawley, Scott Richardson

Workshop called to order by Mayor McKnight at 8:59pm.

WORKSHOP

➤ **Ambulance Service**

Staff Report – City Attorney, Chad Jacobs stated he would answer questions regarding the ASA with Douglas County Planning Director and Administrator for Ambulance Franchise, Keith Cubic, is available to help answer questions from the County’s perspective.

- Councilor Anderson – Requested the Workshop be held to discuss concerns and questions regarding the ASA (Ambulance Service Area) Franchise. Would like to understand how it’s configured and what opportunities there are as a city.

Questions and concerns:

- Currently contracting with Medcom, is that correct?

Jacobs – *The County runs the franchise process; the City, at this point is completely out of it.*

Jacobs provided the following information:

- ***When the City entered into the IGA 5-years ago with Fire District #2 (FD#2), it was agreed to transfer franchise to Medcom.***
- ***Medcom has contract with the County to provide services in ASA #3.***
- ***Under the IGA with FD#2, we have the right to ask for that back upon termination. They agree not to oppose that, but as we discussed there is a question about whether or not that obligation would be binding on Medcom. Even if they agreed not to oppose, there is still a process City would have to go through.***
- ***If City goes through that process, we would have to demonstrate the ability to provide those services. At this point City would have to partner with another entity to submit that to the County. That would mean entering into an IGA with another government entity.***
- ***If other entities are interested in applying, County will have to open through a bid review process. Current agreement expires in June 2019; bid process would take place about 6-months before.***
- Before going through RFP (Request for Proposal) process, a letter from Medcom would be required, stating they want out of the contract? ***That is correct, wanting out of the franchise for ASA #3.***
What are the legalities? For instance would City be dealing with unions like with FD#2? ***Should not have labor issues, City has no obligation to take back any employees. The issue is if City could provide ambulance services in a manner that would satisfy County’s criteria.***

Is there a list of ambulance companies available?

Cubic – Do not keep a list at this point in time, around eight years ago an open solicitation was done. As required upon new review of franchises, the County consults with the Association of Oregon Counties or Ambulance Association of Oregon for solicitations. That process will begin in 2018 for 2019.

Additional Information:

- **Process is County's responsibility; it is a regional need for safety issue.**
- **Franchise agreement is an exclusive agreement between County and the provider [Medcom].**
- **Voluntary transfer of service is a simpler process, competitive process is not required, but would have to be initiated by the Franchise holder and only the franchise holder, and it's upon request.**
- **RFP is a two-step process – If Medcom submits a transfer request:**
 - **City would go through RFP process to partner with someone with ability to provide the service**
 - **County would review that, however if additional providers were interested in submitting an RFP they would have to go through the entire process.**
- So the first step is an RFP?
First step is to have a conversation with Medcom; if they are not interested then it would be a waste of everyone's time until the 2018-19 process begins.
- What is the bottom line, is it the dollar?
 - **Oregon Revised Statutes and Oregon Administrative Rules provide the criteria: Response times, equipment, and trained personnel are examples among a whole series of criteria, it's all about public safety and service, fees are only one of about 10 very important components.**
 - **The review process is a big deal, proposals are very complicated and thorough, and every criterion has to be addressed by the State and County.**
 - **Would have responsibility to serve the entire ASA #3 area.**
- Why would City want to provide that service, why not put it out for RFP and let the County administrate the entire thing?
- Interested in discussing possible benefits of having an entity located here and provide revenue.
- A question was directed to City Manager – Has there been any discussions regarding the Fire Department wanting to take back the ambulance service? **Yes, new Chief asked the question, entire process and requirements were explained.**
- If that happened would there have to be union workers? **Yes, possibly.**
- So the City cannot develop its own ambulance service? **No, the State Law does not provide for this, it's a regional issue.**
- The language in contract with FD#2, states they “would not contest” the City going back and getting ASA #3. Is that only pertinent to FD#2 as a subcontractor with Medcom and not to Medcom? **That is a very good question, would need to have an executive session to further discuss options. What can be said is if they refuse and City wants to force it, then it could result in a litigation process. All service areas are different, some have different standards, tax bases are different.**
- Does tax base work better than user fee? **Emergency ambulance service does not generate as much revenue as non-emergency ambulance service. The only one regulated by the County is emergency service; it needs a supporting tax base.**
- How close does County keep track of the response times? **An annual audit takes place for one or two ASA's each year and each year all ASA's have to do self-reporting.**
- Sounds like City cannot do anything until 2018.
 - Resident, Pam Cameron – Since the ambulance portion is going to be provided separate from the fire service, does that mean that FD#2 service requirements will change? **No, the requirements stay the same.**

It was by Council consensus that the City Manager talk to Medcom to see what their interest is.

- Where will the ambulance be parked? *Not sure, but the service requirements do have to be met.*
- If City has questions regarding the ASA, who do they contact? *Contact Ambulance Service Administrator, Keith Cubic. The County Commissioners have delegated a significant amount of authority to administer the program and code.*
- FD#2 Fire Chief, Greg Marlar – Reported the 24-hour paramedic ambulance will be stationed at Calapooia Fire District Station. Have also added a 12-hour ambulance. As always requirements will be met in accordance to Ambulance Ordinance Plan requirements. However, will not be first responders anymore.
He added that Medcom meets on a regular basis; the meetings are open to the public. Can also contact them directly through the district for Chair, Tom Ryan.
- Do you feel Medcom wants keep the franchise? *Cannot speak for Medcom, but it is my understanding they have no interest at this time of transferring the service.*

ADJOURNMENT –

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Harris

Diane Harris, Deputy City Recorder

Approved:

Jerry Gillham

Jerry Gillham, City Manager

Todd McKnight

Todd McKnight, Mayor

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL JULY 13, 2015