

MINUTES FOR THE NEWBERG FINANCE COMMITTEE

January 31, 2000

Newberg Public Safety Building

Members Present: Donna McCain Robert Larson
Lisa Helikson Rebecka Radcliffe

Others Present: Kathy Tri, Finance Director
Debbie Smith Wagar, Assistant Finance Director
Frank Douglas, EMS Coordinator

The committee was called to order at 7:05 p.m..

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Helikson/Larson moved to approve the minutes of the November 29, 1999 meeting. Passed by those present.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ambulance Issues: Frank Douglas, EMS Coordinator, presented some background information on changes coming in health care. One change is that the large HMO's are starting to contract for hospital to hospital transports. Keizer contracts with American Medical Response (AMR), which is based in Multnomah and Clackamas counties, for transport. There are two arms of AMR: the ambulance service (AMR) and American Medical Pathways (AMP). AMP is separate from the ambulance service; sells contracts out from under AMR and operates independently. They tend to contract with local ambulance services for hospital to hospital transports, which is better for the customer. AMP has approached the Newberg Fire Department to transport patients from Newberg Providence Hospital to Keizer facilities (generally Keizer in Sunnyside and St. Vincent's). The cost would be 10% below the city's regular charge. In return the transports are guaranteed and can be scheduled at the department's convenience; AMP pays for the service quickly; and there would be no retrospective review of bills. The staff estimates about \$30,000 to \$50,000 in revenue.

Donna McCain asked if the City has sufficient staff to perform this work. Frank Douglas responded that the staff is stretched. However, with the volunteers and being able to schedule the transports at the City's convenience, the staff felt that it should be able to handle the transports. Right now, the contract would only apply to Keizer. It may be possible in the future, if there is enough volume, that the City could have enough funds to hire additional staff and other guaranteed transports.

Lisa Helikson expressed concern with having staff leave town. She also asked about the contract terms. Frank Douglas stated he wanted an easy out clause in the contract and admitted that there were several contract issues still to be worked out with AMP. He is working with Terry Mahr on the contract language.

Bob Larson wanted to know the expense side. Frank Douglas acknowledged that there would be extra expenses, primarily in vehicle costs, and the costs would be covered by the revenue. Bob Larson expressed concern about the image of the Fire Department which needs staff and volunteers, is asking for a levy and how this balances with adding work. Frank Douglas stated that adding firefighter/paramedics will make the contract easier to meet.

Lisa Helikson asked for a quarterly report. Committee members agreed that it would like feedback quarterly.

MOTION: Larson/McCain moved to recommend to the City Council that it pass the resolution with the proper contract protections. **Passed.**

ADJOURNMENT: The committee moved to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

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