

FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS & COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING – EMS CONTRACT
MEMORANDUM & MINUTES
JANUARY 24TH, 2011 @ 9:00 AM
COMMISSIONERS/COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING ROOM

Those Present: County Commissioners: Thomas Wilson Tom Linkel Scott McDonough
 County Auditor: Erica Hudson
 Commissioners Secretary: Carol Westerman

Thomas Wilson opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Followed by a moment of Silence for the passing of Don Short.

EMS CONTRACT

Franklin County EMS presented a contract to the Commissioners for \$75,000 and County Council only funded \$50,000. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss this and the EMS secretary for 2011. A couple of meetings ago, the public were asked if they would consider a tax hike of around \$40 a year to help fund EMS. There was not much feedback because this idea was not advertised in the paper. Becky Oglesby stated as a taxpayer, she is all for EMS but as for the contract, before doing any tax rate increase we need to see the books to make sure they are financially stable. Becky doesn't believe the secretary should be paid by the County. Tom stated EMS is a volunteer service and sometimes people have to wait 30 minutes for help and wouldn't you rather have a full time EMS person available to you? Thomas Wilson thinks the estimated annual \$40 tax increase on each parcel would generate approximately \$800,000 which could possibly enable 3 full time paramedics in Franklin County; however it would actually take around \$1,000,000.00 to fund this. Carroll Lanning is all for EMS but County Council had to cut \$600,000 from the budget for this year and we need to keep the County afloat in 2012 and 2013, we need to watch our money carefully since we won't have anything extra coming in. We are one of the few counties that run on a 6 million dollar budget and we need to work together to keep jobs going, and the County just doesn't have any extra money to give. Daryl Kramer wants to see where the additional \$25,000 is going. Is there something that EMS can do to improve services with the additional money? Having a full time EMS might be seen as a long term goal, but what can EMS do now with the additional money as a short term goal in 2011? Thomas Wilson said that EMS could come up with a business plan for the future of how they would like to progress to a full time 24 hour a day paramedic service, but for now at \$50,000 we get 4 ambulances to respond 24 hours a day in Franklin County. Roy Rosenberger (EMS) understands where everyone is coming from, but it costs a lot to run EMS and without help, there is no way that Council would be able to fund a paramedic service in this county without a tax rate increase. The truck we just replaced was a 1996 and needed to be replaced. Bill Schirmer stated that the new truck was around \$108,000 but EMS spent an additional \$15,000 more for a more advanced level EMT vehicle. The new building provides us to have accommodations to keep someone there unlike the old building. Expenses keep increasing but the budget stays the same. Becky Oglesby said that people are struggling now to pay taxes and it would not be a good idea to raise taxes. Scott McDonough would like to see what EMS would do with the additional funds, and what improvements will be made. The burden should not be just on County Council for the additional funds. There is no reason why the Townships couldn't help contribute to the EMS contract. Aaron Leffingwell stated the difference between EMS and a paramedic is the EMS only takes you to the hospital if you can't drive. They can do very little. A paramedic is able to start IV's, do evaluations, help cardiac patients, etc. If taxpayers don't want the additional tax, they are going to continue to get what they have now. Carroll Lanning asked Roy Rosenberger how much they owe on the building & truck. Roy said EMS approximately owes \$80,000 on the building and \$100,000 on the new truck. Scott McDonough suggested signing the contract for a temporary 6 month period and see how it goes. Once the contract is signed, the secretary is included in EMS and not as a county employee. Tom Linkel said the money is already allocated to pay the secretary and it is not fair to give EMS the money and then make them pay for the secretary. We are at \$75,000 and we need an additional \$25,000. We are almost there. If the secretary is not considered a County employee, who does she answer to? Roy Rosenberger mentioned that the secretary currently follows the County's rules but according to State Board Of Accounts (SBOA), the current setup or function within may be a legal issue. We need to find a way to do something to resolve this problem so we are within the guidelines of the State. Tom Linkel asked if everything is kept as is, can we sign the contract and work on the additional funds for next year. We need to get the contract in place. Roy Rosenberger said he will go to his board and present the ideas of keeping the \$50,000 contract, and leave the secretary under the supervision of the Franklin County Commissioners as a County employee, and he will be able to show where the additional money is needed and why at the next meeting. Tom Linkel would like the Townships to come up with extra money. Art Defossett (Highland Twp) said he doesn't have the funds. Scott McDonough said that no promises have been made today. The option is keep it as is right now or look at future contingencies. Bill Schirmer asked if they would consider a 9 month contract and see if any extra monies are available in August or at budget time. Thomas Wilson said it was a good discussion, however nothing has been settled.

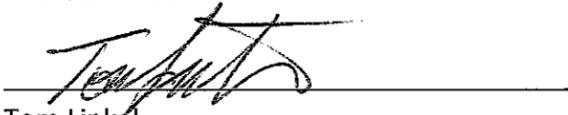
Meeting ended at 10:15 a.m. and continued into the weekly Commissioners meeting.

Others Present: Ray Lohrey Bill Schirmer Sara Duffy Carroll Lanning
 Kathy McDonough Darrell Smith Becky Oglesby Daryl Kramer
 Hollie Maxie Bill Doig Mike Bruns Haroline Ison
 Roy Rosenberger Aaron Leffingwell John Worth Arthur Forick

AYE



Thomas Wilson



Tom Linkel



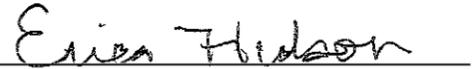
Scott McDonough

NAY

Thomas Wilson

Tom Linkel

Scott McDonough

ATTEST: 
Erica Hudson, Franklin County Auditor