

## **The Utilities, Safety & Environment Committee Meeting**

### **Wednesday, December 15, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Chair Mitchell  
Members: Cerra, Keys, Simmons

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Asst. Law Director Breunig, Engineer Schneider, Fire Chief Pronesti, Councilman Ken Oswald

**ABSENT:** Davis

**Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.**

**1. Approval of the NOVEMBER 17th, 2021 Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes.**  
**Mr. Cerra moved, seconded by Mrs. Keys to approve the meeting minutes as circulated.**  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**2. The matter of applying for and accepting a grant from The Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program (AFG) for the purpose of purchasing an ambulance/ rescue squad.**  
Referred By: SSD Brubaker

The matter was passed by finance committee on Monday December 13, 2021. Fire Chief Pronesti provided a brief explanation of the referral. He explained that he and former LifeCare Executive Director Dave Richards had provided information regarding the increase in call volumes. In addition they are seeing an uptick in mutual aid request for LifeCare. In an effort to alleviate some of the increased calls, Fire Chief Pronesti felt that Elyria Fire would supply the backup or fourth squad for citizens through the fire department. He explained that LifeCare was in favor of the addition and submitted a letter of support. Chief Pronesti expressed that the fire department is not going into the ambulance business, this unit will be used for backup. Mr. Cerra asked for confirmation that this unit is completely covered from a grant. The grant is a ten percent city match. Assistant Law Director Breunig added that if there are any shortcomings on call volume from our sole source vendor, with LifeCare not responding with the appropriate number of ambulances that the proper remedy would be to enforce the contract. Mr. Breunig advised that if it is for other reasons and the committee chooses to extend support, proceed, but if it is for reasons that the vendor could not supply adequate coverage as required by the agreement, the remedy is to enforce the agreement. Mr. Breunig, added, that he did believe Director Deery stated these comments at the finance committee meeting Monday as well. Mr. Oswald stated that he thinks the idea of the fire department purchasing an ambulance is a great idea, especially if they have to take it to a shootout. Mr. Oswald inquired if special training would be required of the firefighters to work on the ambulance unit. Chief Pronesti explained that no additional training is required. The fire department employs paramedic firefighters, they would provide the care needed on this squad. Chief Pronesti stated that with his current staffing needs, he can not staff the ambulance unit, but because the opportunity exist to apply for the grant, he feels he should apply. In addition, there is a huge uptick in the hospitals with covid, with no end in sight. Chief Pronesti stated what he does know is that the call volume will be here to stay for sometime. Mr. Oswald asked for further

clarification of the training needed for the employees on the ambulance unit. Chief Pronesti responded that firefighter paramedics would be assigned to the unit. As long as one firefighter emt is on the unit with a firefighter the care can be provided. Fire Chief Pronesti further explained that paramedics ride the engine. Soon the fire department will have a request out for lateral transfers to bring in additional employees. The paramedic's certificate will be good for the department. Chair Mitchell asked what apparatus would be used for future calls, the ambulance or engine? Chief Pronesti stated that he did not have an answer, however in the event of a medical emergency, for example at Lorain county Community College, the closest help is from engine company 4 at 609 Abbe Rd. Elyria Fire could deliver a paramedic quickly. An ambulance would be a back-up if LifeCare is unavailable. Elyria fire could supply an ambulance from Cedar St. Chair Mitchell stated council does not want the City of Elyria to be in the ambulance business. If this unit is being used for fire calls and it's necessary to have it on-site, she understands the requested need.

No further questions, Chair Mitchell read the committee report.

**Mrs. Keys moved and Mr. Cerra seconded to consider the matter of authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept the said grant at a 10% match, Emergency Clause.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

### **3. The matter of authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with ODOT to perform microsurfacing on State Route 57 .**

Referred By: Engineer Schneider

Mr. Schneider stated that he was reiterating what he presented Monday to the finance committee. In the past few years there have been an increase in accidents in and around the Abbe Rd. area on State Rte. 57. ODOT, (Ohio Department of Transportation) performed a micro safety study on the area. What they discovered was that in the past four years, there were about one hundred twenty accidents in that area. Some things reviewed in that area to help make the area safer were, a skid trailer, used to check the pavement. Raised pavement markings were considered to help the public pay closer attention to the road. Re-striping the pavement with higher resolution paint that provides more reflectivity. Discussion was had about also placing rumble strips on the side of the road. Safety funds will be applied to take care of the product that they have asked the city to participate in the project. The finance committee approved ten percent city matching funds for the project. The estimated total cost of the project is \$200,000.00, city portion would be \$20,000.00. The project is being done in the name of safety and the area is the curve on State Rt. 57.

Mr. Oswald asked about microsurfacing, if any of the areas will need to be redone? Mr. Schneider responded 1300 feet of the Abbe Rd. area will be redone.

Mr. Cerra asked for confirmation of the area, that guardrails were recently installed due to cars going through the fence into backyards. Mr. Schneider confirmed that is the correct area. Mr. Cerra stated that is a bad curve even if you are not traveling at a high speed, it's not a red light issue either, he believes it is simply a bad design. Mr. Cerra stated that he is all for the microsurfacing project.

Chair Mitchell read the committee report

**Mrs. Simmons moved and Mrs. Keys seconded authorizing an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into 'said' agreement with ODOT (Ohio Department of Transportation), with a 10% match from the City of Elyria.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

No further business to come before the committee

**Mr. Cerra moved, seconded by Mrs. Simmons to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 P.M.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**/RLP**