

Chairman Philip Curran called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21, 2008, in the Caucus Room, 3rd Floor, Danbury City Hall, 155 Deer Hill Avenue. Present was Committee members Jack Knapp and Fred Visconti. Ex Officio member: Gregg Seabury. Also present were DHCA-Matt Cassevechia, W. Chief Wiedl, Mike McLachlan of the Mayor's Office, Assistant Finance Director Dan Garrick, Fire Chief Geoff Herald, Head of EMS and the Fire Department Rey Rodriguez, Corporation Counsel Laszlo L. Pinter, Corporation Counsel Eric Gottchalk.

Chairman Curran explained the purpose of the evening's meeting was to review and consider approving the proposed ambulance/advanced life support contract with the City of Danbury for the next five (5) years.

Chairman Curran introduced everyone present at the meeting.

Chairman Curran asked Corporation Counsel Gottchalk to provide everyone with some background regarding the request before the Committee. Attorney Gottchalk explained that the agreement reflects significant changes. The first being the term which has been extended to five (5) years with an additional option for another five (5) years pending agreement of all parties. The second was to arrange for DHCA to acquire insurance to cover a \$100,000 deductible in the event of an accident. This change came about as a result of a motor vehicle accident in which the City paid the \$100,000 deductible. In doing this, the City's exposure is limited. The emergency personnel operate City-owned vehicle and when an accident occurs, the City is responsible. In all other respects, the agreement before the Committee is the same agreement as has been used for the past ten (10) years.

Chairman Curran asked if the City was reimbursed any monies. Assistant Finance Director Dan Garrick explained that there has been a transfer of fund balance back into the general fund. For fiscal year '07/'08, there was \$500,000 budgeted and in '08/'09, \$750,000 is being budgeted. This is the first time that this has happened as a result of the fund balance growing over the past several years.

Mr. Garrick expressed concern with the language currently being proposed regarding the \$100,000 deductible. He discussed the matter with the City's insurance carrier. Coordination of the coverage is an issue. He suggested possibly using language under the hold harmless clause rather than under the insurance clause.

Councilman Visconti expressed concern with the City's future exposure and having adequate coverage. Attorney Gottchalk has not explored Mr. Garrick's concerns before the meeting. In terms of overall coverage, the City has excess liability policies that would fill in the gap—\$10 million excess coverage.

Councilman Knapp asked whether or not the agreement contained language that would allow changes prior to the expiration of the agreement. Attorney Gottchalk explained that if the need arose, the Common Council could approve any amendments to the agreement. The Ordinances provide the Common Council with the flexibility to decide whether or not an item needs to go out to bid. The agreement before the Committee has been in place for a number of years.

Fire Chief Geoff Herald was comfortable with the language contained in the agreement. He did point out a few items: Section I, Part 3, Page 6 of 29, regarding accommodations for all paramedics, the housing of the ambulance, his desire was to find more permanent housing for the ambulance. The airport location has been outgrown and the location is too remote from the hospital. Also, in the agreement, there is a section which involves an oversight committee, the committee has yet to be fully encapsulated in the agreement, the committee is flexible which can change over time. A department liaison needs to be appointed. Mr.

Cassevecchia pointed out that for the past fifteen (15) years, the liaison for the City has been the Director of Finance.

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Fire Chief Geoff Herald pointed out the fire department's first responder system is a fire truck which is dispatched with trained medical personnel. The truck houses similar equipment to that of an ambulance. The City and the hospital need to come to an agreement regarding the exchange of equipment in the field.

A motion was made by Councilman Knapp and seconded by Councilman Visconti that the Committee recommends to the Common Council that they approve the ambulance/advanced life support contract as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Visconti and seconded by Councilman Knapp. The motion carried unanimously at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip Curran, Chairman

Jack Knapp

Fred Visconti