

# **TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA**

## **TOWN COMMISSION**

### **WORKSHOP MEETING**

#### **MINUTES**

Town Commission Meeting Room

*4501 Ocean Drive*

*Tuesday, March 11, 2008*

*4:00 p.m.*

## **March 11, 2008 Workshop Minutes**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER. MAYOR ROSEANN MINNET**

Mayor Minnet called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Mayor Roseann Minnet, Vice Mayor Jerry McIntee, Commissioner Jim Silverstone, Commissioner Birute Ann Clotey, and Commissioner Stuart Dodd were present. Also present were Town Attorney James Cherof, Town Manager Esther Colon, and Town Clerk June White.

### **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Mayor Minnet recommended hearing public comments at the end of the Workshop and to set a time to end the meeting. Vice Mayor McIntee advised that the Sunshine Law stated that public comments were not heard at Commission Workshop meetings. He suggested the Commission hear the comments prior to the Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Dodd suggested the Commission overrule the Sunshine Law as he preferred to hear from the public.

Mayor Minnet polled the Commission and with a vote of 5-0 it was agreed to allow public comments at the end of the Workshop. The Commission set a three minute rule for speaking and set the time to end the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

### **3. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **a. Public Safety**

#### **1. Emergency Medical Services - RFP# 07-12-01 Proposers Presentation**

Brooke Liddle, Operations Manager of Broward County AMR (American Medical Response) gave a PowerPoint presentation. He said they were located in 38 states and were one of the largest Paramedic Training Institutes.

Doctor Joseph Nelson, Medical Director for AMR Florida reviewed AMR's profile as the leading ambulance service provider with over 4,000 vehicles nationwide, with 18,000 Paramedics, EMTs, nurses, and support professionals.

Operations Manager Liddle explained that AMR's local EMS (Emergency Medical Service) included over 150 licensed ambulances in the tri-county area, including 28 serving Broward County. Dr. Nelson explained that their EMS education program had national recognition and said advance life support medical transport was used.

Dr. Nelson advised that AMR provided critical care, neonatal and pediatric medical transport, and bariatric medical transport. He added that AMR also provided event services

Operations Manager Liddle reviewed disaster response through a historical video regarding their assistance at St. Tamanny Parish Hospital in Covington, LA after hurricane Katrina.

Operations Manager Liddle said they were awarded the National Contract with FEMA as their national EMS provider. He reviewed an outstanding FEMA evaluation of Hurricane Dean. He said they met requirements for Compliance & Execution; said AMR was committed to partnership and community involvement.

Operations Manager Liddle introduced Dr. Joseph Nelson, Medical Director; Rich Bartus, District Chief Operating Officer; Bill Hall, General Manager; Mary Ellen House, Clinical Educational Manager for the State of Florida; Mike Cooper, Field Paramedic, Supervisor and Registered Nurse; Kathi Annese, Communications Manager; Mike Fulton, St. Lucie Assistant Manager; Sarah Kirkwood, Business Development Manager; and Don Anderson, Field Paramedic Supervisor.

Commissioner Clotley asked Operations Manager Liddle whether AMR serviced Boca. Operations Manager Liddle replied that AMR provided ALS 911 service for Palm Beach County Fire Rescue in the Boca Raton area, and a First Response contract with Boca West. Commissioner Clotley asked whether AMR did the full EMS services and Operations Manager Liddle said they did not as they were the secondary provider to Palm Beach County Fire Rescue. Commissioner Clotley asked Operations Manager Liddle whether AMR was an ambulance service and BSO (Broward Sheriff's Office) was an EMS provider. Operations Manager Liddle said that EMS provider was emergency medical service. He said

AMR provided first response 911 medical rescue services. Operations Manager Liddle said he proposed to place two (2) Advanced Life Support Paramedics and one (1) EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) on each ambulance.

Commissioner Clotney asked who was involved in the call center and how many people were available to answer a call. Communications Manager Annese said they had a staff of twelve (12) during peak times, and four (4) during non-peak hours.

Commissioner Clotney questioned whether the auto pulse device would be available. Dr. Nelson said during his evaluation of the device research made him concerned as to whether the device would meet their needs. He added that there was a competitor to the auto pulse device that showed promise and was willing to put one of those devices on their unit.

Operations Manager Liddle agreed with Commissioner Dodd that 3 personnel on ambulance would be readied in Town with a backup at Holy Cross Hospital (if awarded the contract) and a backup to the backup at Commercial Boulevard and Powerline Road. He added that the 24-7 contract would cost approximately \$680,000. Commissioner Dodd asked whether people would be charged for transport. Operations Manager Liddle said the RFP proposed that the billing in collection would be done by AMR for the first set period of time and after that period of time expires it would be open for discussion and negotiation between the Town of Lauderdale By The Sea and AMR.

Commissioner Silverstone stated that the AMR contract for \$670,000 plus \$260,000 for transport totaled \$930,000 as opposed to \$1.9 million from BSO. He believed the difference in the transport fees were not that different. Manager Colon stated that the most money the Town received from BSO for fire transport fees was \$132,000 in a fiscal year.

Vice Mayor McIntee questioned Rich Bartus, Divisional Chief Operating Officer, as to why 167 cities hired AMR as their first responder? Chief Bartus explained that when 911 was called they were the first to arrive to provide treatment, cardiac tribulation, medication and life saving treatments. He added that they arrive at hangings, suicide, stabbings and major trauma occurrences regardless where they are located in their zone. Vice Mayor McIntee asked if the contract would stipulate that if the Town was not happy with the individuals servicing the Town that AMR would replace them. Operations Manager Liddle said that if the Town was

not satisfied, AMR would consider removing the unsatisfactory individuals from the ambulance.

Vice Mayor McIntee asked Operations Manager Liddle whether AMR ambulances had sirens and whether their drivers went through a defensive driving course. Operations Manager Liddle responded in the affirmative to both inquiries. Vice Mayor McIntee asked how long it would take to get thirty (30) ambulances should a disaster strike. Operations Manager Liddle said they would be dispatched immediately. He added the situation would be triaged and preference would be determined and Lauderdale-By-The-Sea would get what they needed. Mr. Hall specified that the Town would get whatever they needed and in case of disaster as AMR were allowed to pull other resources.

Vice Mayor McIntee asked how long it would take to remove a disorderly individual from an ambulance. Operations Manager Liddle stated that he would reprimand or remove any individual from an ambulance if circumstances deemed it necessary.

Mayor Minnet asked why AMR was asked to leave other cities and Mr. Hall said it was not due to service issues. She asked the response time and he said AMR met the six (6) minute response time. Mayor Minnet said she had backup that stated AMR did not meet that requirement. There was no further discussion on that issue.

Mayor Minnet asked how many providers were available and Mr. Hall said there were 25 personnel in Palm Beach County that would serve the Town. She asked Mr. Hall if he could guarantee that there would be two (2) paramedics and one (1) EMT on each unit that serviced the Town. Mr. Hall said their backup vehicle would not. He added that the backup vehicle would have one (1) EMS technician and one (1) paramedic.

Mayor Minnet asked whether AMR submitted an RFP that did not meet the requirements and whether he was given the opportunity to revise his bid. Mr. Hall said AMR submitted only one bid. Mayor Minnet asked whether Mr. Hall was in any discussions with anyone from the Volunteer Fire Department and who was present and represented the Volunteer Fire Department in discussions. Mr. Hall said he spoke on the telephone with Vice Mayor McIntee. Later, Mr. Hall added that he also spoke with other Commissioner's, the Town Manager, and to Mayor Minnet herself. Mr Hall explained that he had misunderstood Mayor Minnet's question.

Mayor Minnet inquired as to whether AMR could hold the bridge and Mr. Hall said they have the capabilities to do so. She stated that she did not know how a 911 call would go directly to AMR. Mr. Hall explained that an agreement between the Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea and BSO would be made to dispatch engine 12 no matter who manned the vehicle. Mayor Minnet pointed out that at this time there was no agreement and no communications between AMR and BSO.

Mayor Minnet questioned Mr. Hall further regarding the necessary qualifications to be hired and whether training was required. Mr. Hall explained there was no firefighter training for an EMT and Ms. House stated that there were scenario based drills yearly and field training along with FEMA required training.

Manager Colon asked Mr. Hall questions she received from the public. The questions were answered in the following manner: Mr. Hall said his response time was that which was said in the RFP. Communications Manager Annese said that if there was a medical emergency the resident would be instructed to call 911. Mr. Hall said the backup vehicle to the vehicle at Holy Cross Hospital that was located at Commercial Boulevard and I95 would arrive in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea in just less than five (5) minutes. He stated that AMR did not service other communities in Broward County at this time. Mr. Hall said AMR had a 21% turnover of employees in the area of service between Palm Beach, Broward, and Dade Counties. Mr. Hall said at this time the auto pulse equipment was not available. Mr. Marcus, Chief Operating Officer indicated that it was standard practice to hold the Town harmless should there be a liability or law suits. Mr. Hall said two (2) paramedics and one (1) EMT would be on each vehicle. Dr. Nelson said any procedure would be performed on an ALS ambulance that was allowed by State law and EMS protocol that would include anything from a splint to breathing insertion and cardio fibulation. He explained that Paramedics could perform advanced life support procedures and EMTs could provide emergency medical care.

Manager Colon asked Mr. Hall if equipment was not State mandated would they add it and whether a daily check was done. Mr. Hall said equipment would be added if needed and daily checks were performed before and after each shift and transport. Manager Colon asked whether Mr. Hall had a meeting in Town Hall with one of the Commissioner's. Mr. Hall said that he did not, but another member of his staff may have. She asked if an RFP had been given to anyone besides the Town Clerk. He said not to his

knowledge. She said that Mayor Minnet made a reference that another RFP had been submitted and wanted Mayor Minnet to put that in writing as her staff did not operate that way. Manager Colon was shocked that Mayor Minnet would suggest that staff did business that way and took offense to it. She asked Mayor Minnet to provide further information on that issue. She also asked that the Commission make a sound decision and do what is best for the Town.

Chief Lello pointed out that Broward Sheriff's Office was the largest EMS provider in Broward County. Chief Sievers reviewed his PowerPoint presentation. He pointed out that BSO-EMS had over 600 Divisional members with full-time flight medics. He added that BSO-EMS had sixteen (16) full time units along with advanced medical bike and motorcycle teams, and air rescue. Chief Sievers said BSO-EMS offered free CPR/AED programs and 526 of 612 employees are EMS Paramedics.

Training and EMS Chief Steve Krivjanik stated that the State of Florida Department of EMS awarded BSO-EMS an Exemplary Inspection and Model EMS/OI provider award in 2006. He added that they were the most experienced EMS ALS-911 provider in Broward County.

BSO-EMS Medical Director, Nabil El Sanadi, M.D. talked about air rescue with two (2) licensed paramedics on board could accommodate two (2) patients. He said BSO-EMS had cutting edge care with the addition of auto pulse, hypothermia and other life saving techniques. He added that BSO was local and minutes and seconds count.

Chief Krivjanik emphasized that a fleet of three (3) helicopters were involved in air rescue and 2 licensed air rescue paramedics with dual patient capabilities.

Chief Sievers reviewed Transport Revenues and referred to the chart handed out at the meeting. He explained from left to right the number of transports, charges, and said real figures 2006 - 2007 was \$128,000 and the year prior was \$148,000. He referred to item # 12 in the RFP and explained that the first box was a three person rescue in 2008-2009. Chief Sievers recommended a two (2) to three (3) person EMS unit. He added that the box below was a two (2) person.

Commissioner Silverstone referenced the helicopter water rescue and asked whether BSO would respond should that service be required by AMR. Chief Sievers said it was a Broward County Service funded by tax payer dollars.

Commissioner Dodd asked if BSO would give better treatment in an ambulance than AMR. Chief Sievers said he was not aware of the equipment that AMR carried but indicated that BSO had the most advanced and state of the art equipment in Broward County. Commissioner Dodd asked where the backup ambulance would be located if needed. Chief Sievers said just doing EMS and with no ALS engine required, the ALS engine would be their backup responder. He added that if that was gone they would have two (2) dedicated rescue units with three (3) paramedics on each. He continued to advise that under Town wide service the ALS engine would be the backup unit. Commissioner Dodd asked whether a fire fighter was a paramedic. Chief Sievers believed it was a natural blend to have the advanced life support justify additional costs to the town. Deputy Fire Chief Todd LeDuc said if the decision was to be based on cost then BSO was not their provider.

Vice Mayor McIntee asked Chief Sievers that if only one (1) ambulance came to Town it would cost \$1.9 million but would not come to Town with only one (1) ambulance as BSO would have to take two (2) ambulances and the cost would be \$3.8 million? Chief Sievers replied that was correct as BSO would need a backup vehicle. Chief Krivjanik said as long as the patient was stable they can go to whatever facility they wanted within Broward County. He added that permission would be needed for transport outside Broward County.

Commissioner Clotney asked if BSO got the contract would they rebate the Town \$3 million. Chief LeDuc said that the numbers BSO provided were their full costs as well as whatever BSO would rebate. John Yanni stated that Sheriff Lamberti said that approximately \$1 million dollars would come back to the Town leaving the Town with approximately \$900,000. He added that Sheriff Lamberti indicated that AMR could keep the transport fees which could amount to \$1 million dollars. Mr. Yanni said there was a \$200,000 difference.

Commissioner Clotney was concerned as to who answered the phones at the 911 center and was not pleased with that the criteria was a high school education. She was not pleased that the position had a very high turnover. Chief Lello said on a grander scale there will always be issues and human error. He added that that position was a high stressed position and therefore, a high turnover resulted. Communications Manager Annese said high school was not the only place they recruited. She said the average age for that position was 30 years old. Communications Manager Annese said training and certification was also required.

Mayor Minnet inquired as to whether BSO and AMR had Mutual Aid agreements. Chief Sievers said BSO had Mutual Aid agreements with every provider in Broward County. Mr. Hall said AMR did not have any Mutual Aid agreements. Mayor Minnet asked Dr. Sanadi about auto pulse and he replied that it was a machine that squeezed the chest to get circulation and oxygen from the heart to the brain.

Manager Colon asked Chief Sievers how many fire/water rescues took place in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea and Chief Sievers said three (3) to four (4). Manager Colon asked Chief Sievers to clarify that the Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea did have a county wide helicopter service with BSO as the City of Lighthouse Point did. Chief Sievers agreed and added that an agreement would have to be made as to how AMR would call the center for the service.

Manager Colon inquired of the number of vacant positions. Chief LeDuc explained there were about 15 vacancies in communications and about 83 vacant positions in Fire. He said the filling of those position depended on future revenues. Manager Colon asked the Chief how many frozen positions did BSO have. Chief LeDuc said there were not any frozen positions. Manager Colon said the Town received \$131,000 in fire transport fees. She asked Chief Sievers why BSO did not say they would negotiate fire transfer fees, rather than say they were throwing out \$1 million. Manager Colon said it averaged anywhere from \$110, 000 to \$133,000. She said the Town had not received any fire transport fees and put forth a formal request for refund.

Manager Colon said a BSO contract would cost the taxpayers \$2 million and the taxpayers did not want increased taxes. Dr. Sanis asked what price would you pay to save a life? Manager Colon asked what the State mandates were. Dr. Sanis said State mandates were the minimum. Dr. Nelson stated that there was a distinct difference in providing inner facility transport and 911 services. He added that it did require different equipment. Dr. Nelson stated that AMR has provided the same level of care as BSO.

Mayor Minnet suggested taking a 20 minute recess and return to the Workshop to see how much the Commission could complete. Attorney Cherof advised that if the Commission wanted to continue with the Workshop they could start the Regular meeting, then recess the Regular meeting, resume the Workshop, and when that was complete the Commission could end it and start the Regular meeting.

Vice Mayor McIntee made a motion to adjourn the workshop until 5:00 p.m., March 25, 2008, allow a 15 minute recess, and begin the March 11, 2008 Regular Commission meeting at 7:15 p.m. Commissioner Dodd

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seconded the motion. In a roll call vote, the motion carried 4 - 1.  
Commissioner Clotey voted no.

Mayor Minnet adjourned the workshop at 6:54 p.m.

**2. Fire Protection**

**b. Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)**

**c. Debt Management**

**d. Town Property**

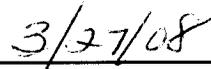
**4. ADJOURNMENT**



Mayor Roseann Minnet

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk, June White

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date