

Special Meeting of the Town Commission of the Town of Ocean Ridge held in the Town Hall on Tuesday, June 16, 1998 at 5:00 PM.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kaleel. Roll call was answered by the following:

Commissioner Aaskov	Commissioner Bridges
Commissioner O'Hare	Commissioner Stamos
Mayor Kaleel	

1. Discuss Emergency Medical Services
  - A. American Medical Response

Bob Eberhart, Director of Government Relations for American Medical Response, gave a brief presentation on the company including descriptions of their operations, classes offered to employees, communications department, and OSHA ratings.

He advised that the options before the Town were to remain with the current provider, provide ALS services in-house, or contract with a new provider. He explained that if a unified contract were entered into with South Palm Beach and Manalapan, a unit would be permanently placed in the limits of the three towns (probably Manalapan) and would only leave when transporting a resident.

Comm O'Hare questioned the response if someone in Ocean Ridge and Manalapan would need an ambulance at the same time. Mr. Eberhart explained that a roving vehicle would be brought in from the nearest zone to replace the permanent unit.

Comm Bridges questioned the cost to which Mr. Eberhart advised that the \$370,000 cost provided for the three towns would be for one permanent unit with the division of the cost to be agreed upon by the towns. Mayor Kaleel commented that South Palm and Manalapan have already agreed to enter into a contract with American Medical Response (AMR) and were waiting for the Town to decide if it wanted to participate.

Comm Stamos questioned how many of the units were ALS equipped to which Mr. Eberhart advised that they all were. Comm Stamos questioned what equipment they carry to which Mr. Eberhart explained that they carry everything required by the County and the State to be ALS certified. Comm Stamos questioned what extrication equipment they carry to which Mr. Eberhart advised that it would be the decision of the towns as to what specific equipment they would carry for that purpose.

Comm Stamos advised that a recent newspaper article cited that American Life Fleet was sold to AMR as an effect of a \$20 million lawsuit involving Bethesda and questioned what guarantee could be given that AMR would not be sold in the near future. Mayor Kaleel advised that any contract would include an option for the Town to opt out if new management takes over. Mr. Eberhart explained that option is always included in their

## SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COMMISSION HELD ON JUNE 16, 1998

contracts and advised that although he has been through many changes of management, he could not guarantee there would not be any more.

Comm Stamos advised that the Town currently has back-up with the County adding that he believed the response time was good with them. Mr. Eberhart advised that AMR would be willing to contract with the County for back-up. He added that a County ordinance requires that every provider arrange for back-up service when necessary so there will always be assistance.

Mayor Kaleel asked if there would always be a roving unit near the south end of Town to which Mr. Eberhart explained that the zones would have to be adjusted, but assured him that the area of Woolbright and I95 would be given a high priority.

Mayor Kaleel asked if the unit for South Palm, Manalapan, and Ocean Ridge could be guaranteed to have the newest equipment to which Mr. Eberhart replied that it would adding that AMR would discuss all of the equipment to ensure that the unit is equipped with all of the options desired by the towns.

Mayor Kaleel asked if the personnel assigned to this station would always be the same to which Mr. Eberhart advised that they would except for occasional training hours in a busier territory.

Mayor Kaleel questioned the issue of mutual aid to which Mr. Eberhart explained that they currently contract with Boynton Beach for BLS adding that they would certainly continue to contract with Boynton Beach for mutual aid.

Comm Stamos questioned the difference between ALS and BLS to which Mr. Eberhart explained that BLS is less serious, non- life threatening reiterating that all of their units are equipped for ALS.

Comm Stamos questioned the amount which is billed to the insurance companies for transportation to which Mr. Eberhart replied that he was unsure, but could research and forward to the Town Commission if they wish.

Mr. Eberhart thanked the Town Commission for the opportunity to speak adding that he was glad to see that their decision to change would not be based on quality of care as they are receiving good service now from Boynton Beach.

Mayor Kaleel asked if it would be possible to determine how many ALS calls there are annually in Ocean Ridge vs. BLS calls. Director Hillery advised that he would be able to get that information from Boynton Beach.

### B. Boynton Beach Fire Rescue

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COMMISSION HELD ON JUNE 16, 1998

Bill Gulbrandsen, Battalion Chief of Professional Training, spoke on behalf on Boynton Beach Fire/Rescue service.

Chief Gulbrandsen advised that he could not take exception to anything stated by AMR adding that the training of the employees in Boynton Beach was very similar. He advised that the staffing level from Boynton Beach Fire Rescue (BBFR) would be 1/3 more than it would be with AMR and that 60% of their fire personnel are also state certified paramedics. He commented that while the current contract between Boynton Beach and Ocean Ridge is at \$100,000 per year, there was no intent on the part of BBFR to raise that cost any more than the current CPI.

Chief Gulbrandsen advised that as a fire agency, they would only consider providing both services if they extended their services to Manalapan and South Palm Beach, thus the reason for the higher costs. He explained that in regards to the option of consolidating service for Ocean Ridge, South Palm and Manalapan, there is a higher fire risk for the northern municipalities as a result of their high rises and greater commercial areas which needs to be considered before entering into an agreement. He added that their EMS units are also equipped with a foam system to aid in fire service.

Chief Gulbrandsen explained that currently Ocean Ridge gets the same response as Boynton Beach and that a typical accident would have six respondents of whom at least half would be certified paramedics. He advised that there has never been a time when they have had to request back-up from the County adding that they are also the first response unit to the County pocket.

Chief Gulbrandsen explained that BBFR has been happy with the relationship they have had with Ocean Ridge and he only had concerns when asked to review the feasibility of adding South Palm and Manalapan to the contract as they would want the same response that Ocean Ridge receives.

Comm Stamos inquired if their units were hazardous materials (haz mat) equipped to which Chief Gulbrandsen replied that they were equipped to level one. He explained that the County has regionalized haz mat plans and that they (the County) respond to haz mat instances within the County regardless of the municipality.

Comm Bridges asked Chief Gulbrandsen to explain the option of combining services for South Palm, Manalapan, and Ocean Ridge. Chief Gulbrandsen advised that if a union were made for fire and EMS services for the three municipalities, he would want to have a three-man unit at the north and south end of the towns. He added that it would be difficult to subtract out the fire component from this equation. He advised that BBFR had determined that the cost for this would be \$1.4 million and would include the use of some equipment from the three towns.

Town Manager Lanker advised that South Palm and Manalapan have indicated that contracting with Boynton Beach would be too expensive. He advised that the two main options for the Town are continuing to contract with Boynton Beach or joining with

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COMMISSION HELD ON JUNE 16, 1998

Manalapan and South Palm to contract with AMR. He added that the County might also be an option although they have indicated that they would not want to contract with only Ocean Ridge.

Comm Stamos commented that he felt the best option would be to have the County provide EMS services and have fire services provided for by the individual municipalities' public safety departments, providing Manalapan would upgrade to a public safety department.

Mayor Kaleel commented that there was a serious accident on A1A recently and questioned the response time of BBFR. Chief Gulbrandsen explained that EMS and fire vehicles were dispatched to the scene. Director Hillery advised that the Ocean Ridge officer was there almost immediately and BBFR arrived right after.

Chief Gulbrandsen advised that although there is not currently a mutual aid agreement between Boynton Beach and Ocean Ridge for fire services, it would be included in the next contract at a cost of \$2,500 per incident.

Mayor Kaleel asked Director Hillery if he could have his thoughts and comments by the end of the month to which Director Hillery asked if he wanted the County and Delray Beach included. Mayor Kaleel requested that the responses from both be included. Director Hillery explained that he had discussed EMS services already with Delray Beach and they would be forwarding the numbers to him.

Comm Bridges advised that he would be in favor of remaining with Boynton Beach. Mayor Kaleel suggested that they wait until the final figures are submitted before making a decision.

Mayor Kaleel advised that the Town Commission would be receiving a brief wrap-up before the end of the month and the issue would be readdressed at the July meeting.

2. Ordinance No. 511: Amending the Code of Ordinances at Section 14-26, Adoption of technical codes and countywide amendments; repealing the exemption of the Town from enforcing certain countywide amendments (1<sup>st</sup> reading)

Mayor Kaleel read Ordinance No. 511 by title only.

Comm Stamos moved to approve Ordinance No. 511 on first reading, seconded by Comm Bridges.

Atty Nicoletti advised that the ordinance only eliminates two lines from the existing code. He added that the ordinance is necessary to have a contract with the County for building department services.

Roll call was made on Comm Stamos' motion.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COMMISSION HELD ON JUNE 16, 1998

Motion carried – yeas 5.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Kaleel

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Aaskov

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Bridges

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner O'Hare

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Stamos

Attest By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk