

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ZION CITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2020, AT 3:30 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 2828 SHERIDAN ROAD, ZION, ILLINOIS**

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Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer called the Emergency meeting to order.

On call of the roll the following answered present: Commissioners McDowell, Holmes, and Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer. Commissioner Frierson and Mayor McKinney attended the meeting by phone. A quorum was present.

Also present: City Administrator David Knabel and Fire/Rescue Chief John Lewis.

**AGENDA CHANGES**

It was moved by Commissioner Holmes seconded by Commissioner McDowell to approve the Agenda as presented. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Frierson, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Ken Langley, Senior Pastor Christ Community Church stated he has been a citizen of Zion for 23 years. He has been to many City Council meeting to open the sessions with prayer but has never participated in Citizen Comments. It is the first time he has come to a meeting to voice his opinion. He asked that during the Council's discussions in response to the Corona virus that they be very slow to impose strict measures on the people of Zion. He has been a Pastor for 40 years and believes he knows a little bit about human nature. People don't like to be told what to do and Americans love their freedoms. Most are willing to restrict them voluntarily for a short period of time specifically in a crisis, but when the government tries to impose restrictions that seem to be unreasonable they can be counterproductive.

**2020/2021 HEALTH/DENTAL/LIFE INSURANCE RENEWAL**

Administrator Knabel stated he has received the renewal package from the City's Insurance Broker, Assurance Agency who goes out to market every year to get quotes on Health, Dental and Life Insurance. The results have come back very favorable. Initially Blue Cross Blue Shield's quote came back with a 3.89% increase in premiums. The Broker went back to Blue Cross to negotiate on the City's behalf and the revised renewal resulted in a 0.07% decrease from the prior year. The only change to coverage is the increase in the individual and family out of pocket amounts for the out of network benefit. They had received notice in February that the current plan was no longer offered. Once they reviewed the plan they discovered the out of network was the only noted change. They also offer an Health Savings Account (HAS) plan which currently does not have anyone enrolled but they will be looking to market this plan moving forward. The majority of the fire department is currently enrolled in an HSA and is hoping to use them as a model to promote the plan. The renewal numbers are good news for the Plan and Budget. The Dental renewal came in flat with no changes. The life insurance has a rate guarantee until April of 2021. He recommends approval of the renewals for Blue Cross Blue Shield for health insurance, Guardian for dental insurance and Dearborn for life insurance.

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, to accept the proposal of Assurance Agency for the renewal of employee medical insurance with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBS), dental insurance with Guardian Dental, and life insurance with Dearborn National, effective May 1, 2020. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Frierson, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT/ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTHCARE AND FAMILY SERVICES**

A memo (20-DOC-20) was received from Chief Lewis requesting approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services. At the October 15, 2019 City Council meeting he requested that the City of Zion enter into a revised IGA with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (DHFS) to participate in the Ground Medical Emergency Transport (GEMT) program. That request was approved and the IGA along with the required Cost Report was submitted to the HFS. As a refresher, the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association (IFCA) has been working with the Illinois DHFS to provide financial assistance under the GMET to agencies which provide ambulance service associated with Medicaid reimbursement. Through the IGA and the appropriate filings, the City could receive additional Medicare reimbursements for their transports. The impact of this change was estimated to bring in approximately \$200 million dollars annually for governmental entities throughout the state, large and small, rural and urban, volunteer through fully paid and career departments who provide emergency medical transport services to all types of Medicaid recipients. Based on reports from our ambulance billing vendor, we have approximately 75% of our transports billed to Medicaid/Medicare which should allow us to receive a sizeable reimbursement through this program. On March 18, 2020, he received correspondence from the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association that the State of Illinois DHFS is requiring agencies to sign a new IGA that will replace and rescind the previous IGA that governmental signed back in October 2019. The reason for this is because changes have been made between the State and the Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) to review a new State Plan Amendment (SPA) that is being prepared along with this IGA. He was told that CMS was delaying the plan (unsure the reason) and the state Medicaid office decided to pull the plan and enact their own rate increase. The updated IGA reflects that there will be a change in how the money is shared. In short, the EMS agencies will not collect the total sum and remit back to the state as previously designed. Overall it will be a cleaner process for most agencies. The attached revised IGA must be signed and returned to the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association designee no later than Monday March 30, 2020. The IFCA has also asked that EMS agencies urge their local government officials, and other contacts to communicate strong views of support for this action and urge our local and state elected and appointed officials to petition the Federal and State entities to act on this as quickly as possible especially considering what we are currently experiencing with the COVID-19 pandemic. It is imperative that this funding be fully approved for the City of Zion and all agencies to continue to serve the Medicaid community and the needs associated with that population base related to ground emergency medical transportation services through a public entity.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner McDowell, to approve a revised Intergovernmental Agreement between the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and the City of Zion. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Frierson, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

**MASTER POWER SUPPLY AGREEMENT/ELIGO ENERGY LLC**

Administrator Knabel stated at the last meeting the Council approved an agreement to continue the Electrical Aggregation program with the rates and quotes provided and to move forward to participate in a Green Energy program. This would be at ComEd's rates with 25% going towards Green Energy and a Civic Contribution of \$129,462 to the City. The proposed agreement solidifies the terms and the rates with Eligo Energy. Commissioner McDowell asked Administrator Knabel if he had any ideas on how they might use the civic contributions. Administrator Knabel stated the contributions are for unrestricted use and will be part of the budget discussions.

It was moved by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, to approve the extension and amendment of the Master Power Supply Agreement between Eligo Energy IL, LLC and the City of

Zion. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Frierson, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

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### **AGREEMENT/BLACKBOARD INC/EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SERVICES**

A memo (20-DOC-21) was received from Chief Lewis requesting approval of an agreement with Blackboard Inc. for Emergency Notification Services. In the past the City had an emergency notification system called Code Red that individuals could sign up for to get emergency notifications. He and Chief Lewis have been working with Blackboard on getting a system back in place. The system was cut in the past for budgetary reasons but are looking at bring it back. They have realized that the savings was not justifying the lack of being able to communicate with the public. Due to the current situation surrounding the coronavirus and being able to keep the public informed they are looking to accelerate the process and get the system up and running. As members of the Northeast Lake County Consolidated ETSB (NLCETS), City of Zion and Village of Gurnee, the joint ETSB fund will pay for 50% of an emergency notification system. The remaining funds (\$6,000-\$7,000) will come from the City's general fund budget. The previous system cost was about \$12,500 which in the past was covered by the E-911 funds. He is recommending approval of the agreement as presented. Commissioner Frierson asked what type of technology would be used. Chief Lewis stated it is a Cloud platform and residents will have the ability to access it from a cell phone or PC and once logged in it goes to their servers the data goes out to all the phone numbers in the data base. Commissioner Frierson asked if residents will have to register. Chief Lewis stated they have not gotten that far but in the few discussions they have had initially they will not have to register as they will go off the national data base for phone numbers. With Code Red it was done two ways; through the national data base and register an additional phone number. Once the agreement has been approved they will discuss the details. He hopes there will be an opportunity to register an additional phone number. Commissioner McDowell asked if it would include cell phones as most residents use cell phones in lieu of home phones. Chief Lewis stated the national data base is based off of home phone numbers. Commissioner McDowell stated the City ended the Code Red program due to budgetary reasons. Chief Lewis stated in 2015 Zion Solution gave the City 12,000 a year to cover the costs of Code Red which stopped in 2017. How it works in Gurnee is JETSBS pays for a portion and for the remainder each department that uses the service will contribute a portion. Commissioner Frierson asked if Gurnee will cover the expenses for three years. Chief Lewis stated the agreement that was made for Zion will be Gurnee will pay fifty percent and will be covering it for the three years. Commissioner McDowell stated if approved, the program could not be cut from the budget because they will have a signed three year contract. He believes it would be a great program to have but knows what they are facing with the budget. Commissioner Frierson stated with the donations coming back from the Commissioners it can help fund the program. He stated it is a necessary benefit to be able to communicate with the residents.

It was moved by Commissioner Frierson, seconded by Commissioner Holmes to approve and agreement between Blackboard, Inc. and the City of Zion for emergency notification services. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Frierson, aye; McDowell, aye; Holmes, aye Mayor Pro-Tem Fischer, aye; and Mayor McKinney, aye. Motion carried.

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, it was moved by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Holmes and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 3:53 p.m. Motion carried.

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City Clerk