

MINUTES
CITY OF KEY COLONY BEACH CITY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING – FIRE AND EMS SERVICES
Friday, June 18, 2010 9:30 a.m. City Hall Auditorium

The Special Meeting of the Key Colony Beach City Commission was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Mayor Sutton followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer. *Present were:* Mayor Ron Sutton, Vice-Mayor Geraldine Zahn, Commissioner Jeff Vorick, Commissioner John DeNeale and Commissioner Mary Schmidt. Also Present: Building Official Edward Borysiewicz and City Clerk Vickie Bollinger. Public: 1

Mayor Sutton stated the special meeting of the city commission was called to discuss Fire/EMS services for the city. He introduced Monroe County Administrator Roman Gastesi who thanked the commission for the opportunity to discuss Monroe County supplying Fire/EMS service to the city. Mr. Gastesi said that any agreement would require the approval of the Monroe County Board.

Monroe County Fire Chief Jim Callahan introduced Assistant Chief Gary Boswell and Firefighter Union Chief Jeff Brandt. He then gave a description of service options for KCB which would include one fire/tanker truck, one fire rescue truck, and 2 people who were cross trained as firefighters and paramedic/EMT. These vehicles and staff could be housed in the KCB public works building, Crawl Key station at MM 56.4, or at the Marathon airport hanger. The vehicles would be reserve vehicles already owned by the County, but the people would have to be hired. The advantage is that all this would be dedicated to the city, but if any large event happened, mutual aid would be needed from Marathon or other County stations. Chief Callahan stated the County would ask for a three-year or longer agreement with costs for the first three years of \$498,000; \$543,000; and \$583,000 respectively. There would be start-up costs of \$35,000 to provide suitable quarters. After the three years, an escalator clause would provide for administrative and labor increases. Chief Callahan stated that KCB needed to cover all costs to the County to provide the service and he acknowledged that staff, vehicles and equipment are expensive.

Commissioners, Mr. Gastesi, Chief Callahan, and Mr. Brandt commented/discussed:

- Although there are few calls in KCB, there would be reliance on mutual aid, which is commonly used now and will continue to be with or without this agreement.
- If the County Board agrees with the proposed costs, they would be guaranteed for the first three years of the agreement.
- Labor is a large portion of the cost for Fire/EMS, but the proposed agreement is cost-effective for both sides. The staff and equipment will be dedicated to KCB.
- Commissioners thanked the County for their efforts to research this matter and bring this proposal to the city.
- The proposal includes all labor related costs for equipment, retirement, etc.
- Vehicles referred to in the proposal are reserve equipment, not excess equipment. When new equipment is purchased some of the older serviceable items are kept in reserve and it's those items that would be used for KCB.
- The County could provide reviews for building plans if needed, but would prefer routine annual inspections to be handled by the city as they are now.

Commissioners agreed to a short recess beginning at 10:10 a.m. All Monroe County personnel left the meeting.

Mayor Sutton reconvened the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Mayor Sutton stated he continues to research having our own department. He said he had contacted the consultant and would be meeting with him after June 23. He briefly discussed the meeting he had with Marathon Manager Roger Hernstadt. He said they discussed payments for prior years, payment for general administrative costs, replacement of vehicles, and future meetings. Mayor Sutton said that Mr. Hernstadt proposed that the two of them negotiate an agreement that would be brought to our commission and their council. In response to questions, Mayor Sutton said: he felt the meeting was positive, that the final number would be lower than the \$667,000 shown on their spreadsheet, and these issues were discussed: other measures from Commissioner DeNeale's spreadsheet, current percentage paid by KCB provides for administrative costs, advantage to deleting the opt-out clause, advantage of a long-term agreement, and lack of legal obligation to revisit prior year payments.

Commissioners commented/discussed:

- A written proposal from Marathon would be preferred so that it could be compared to the County proposal. There are time constraints to be considered.
- Commissioners would need to authorize the Mayor to conduct negotiations. The city attorney and/or city clerk could be included to help with negotiations.
- Marathon has not yet provided responses to Commissioner DeNeale's questions regarding the numbers on their spreadsheet.
- Marathon Council authorized Mr. Hernstadt to negotiate, but they may or may not approve of a negotiated agreement between our Mayor and Mr. Hernstadt. Having many meetings with Mr. Hernstadt may not be a good use of time.
- Marathon should be asked if they can match the level of service being proposed by the County.
- The Mayor should meet with Mr. Hernstadt at least once more to find out what Marathon would propose. Any concerns about level of service should not be a part of the discussion at this time.
- Including Marathon administrative cost is wrong. The current formula/agreement is fair.
- KCB is willing to discuss an increase to the equipment/vehicle reserves, but the current agreement is equitable. With some modification, KCB could reasonably pay about \$449,000 or less.
- It would be better to deal with numbers and costs for services and not personalities or politics.
- Not all of the equipment/vehicle payment would have to be from Infrastructure Funds. General Fund revenues could be used for some of that payment.
- Marathon will not lay-off staff or sell vehicles if KCB gets our Fire/EMS service elsewhere. Their council will have to make up for lost KCB revenue which is now off-setting their costs.
- Citizen input: Carol Teague agreed administrative costs should not be paid by KCB and stated that our city has no input into the operation of the Marathon Fire/EMS department.
- KCB uses the excess capacity that Marathon has available, but the County is different. The County would be specifically providing dedicated service to us.
- Paying for equipment is separate from vehicle reserves and should not be treated the same.
- Mayor should have one more meeting with Mr. Hernstadt, provide a simple proposal of what the commission will consider paying for next year based on Commissioner DeNeale's newest spreadsheets, and ask for Marathon's proposal in writing.

Motion – Moved by Vice-Mayor Zahn, seconded by Commissioner DeNeale, to authorize the city administrator to meet with Marathon City Manager Roger Hernstadt to negotiate an agreement based on the numbers provided by Commissioner DeNeale; and to have the city clerk in attendance; and to request a written response from the City of Marathon.

Discussion: A date for the response should be included due to the short amount of time available to

resolve this issue.

Motion – Moved by Commissioner Vorick, seconded by Commissioner Schmidt, to amend the motion to include that the commission would request a written response by July 14, 2010. Roll Call Vote: Unanimous approval.

Vote on the Amended Motion – Roll Call Vote: Unanimous approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Vickie L. Bollinger, City Clerk

Note: A mechanical recording has been made of the meeting of which these minutes are a part, and a copy is on file in the office of the City Clerk, as a public record.