

REGULAR MEETING

DELAWARE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

APRIL 27, 2022

The regular meeting of the Delaware County Board of Supervisors was held Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 1:02 p.m. in the Supervisors' Room of the Senator Charles D. Cook County Office Building, 111 Main Street, Delhi, New York, Chairman Tina B. Molé presiding.

The Clerk called the roll and all Supervisors were present except Mr. Ellis.

Mr. Marshfield offered the invocation.

Mr. Davis led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as presented.

The Clerk noted that all communications received have been referred to their respective committees for review.

Chairman Molé granted privilege of the floor to Supervisor Vernold. Mr. Vernold introduced Jim Rotzler, Ray Baker, and Rich Strasser for a presentation on countywide ambulance coverage. He stated that at the conclusion of their presentation, Attorney Terry Hannigan will join them to answer questions Supervisors may have.

Mr. Baker went over the options they felt could help Delaware County keep the ambulance service within the county. They had presented their proposals to the Public Safety Committee as follows:

OPTION ONE:

- Sidney EMS
 - 1 BLS ambulance and 1 ALS fly car, wages and operating expenses price quote for 1 year \$814,080
- Hancock EMS
 - BLS ambulance price quote for 1 year \$523,150

Total quote for two BLS ambulances and one ALS fly car for one year \$1,337,230

OPTION TWO:

- Sidney EMS
 - 2 BLS Ambulances, wages and operating expenses \$896,848
- Hancock EMS
 - 1 BLS ambulance \$523,150

Total quote to Delaware County for three ambulances for one year \$1,419,998

They truly believe this service can be self-sustaining and they would know within a year.

It's a win-win for everyone involved to take available resources and move them around the county to have full saturation of the County. In the meantime, until this is up and running, there is an option for one year to cover the County. They produced a map that shows covered areas in the County such as in Sidney, Hancock, Margaretville, and the three ambulances they are proposing would be placed in Walton, Andes, and Davenport, thus covering the whole county. With two additional ambulances, one would be put in Walton and one in the Andes/Delhi area.

The big question is how to proceed with a Certificate of Need (CON) and he believes that the best interest of the County, no matter how they proceed, is to get a municipal CON and Mr. Hannigan will discuss that further.

Mr. Rotzler shared there is also an ambulance service working out of Delaware Valley Hospital. He introduced Attorney Hannigan to discuss the legal aspects of creating an ambulance service district.

Mr. Hannigan stated he has been an EMT since 1977 and has been involved in fire and EMS for most of his professional career. By necessity, other counties have developed regional EMS systems, and he believes Delaware County is on the cusp of that now. He remarked on the beauty of the hills and valleys in Delaware County noting that unfortunately, it is not the easiest place to get around causing some problems for the provision of EMS. The County has a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity with respect to some funding to address this matter.

He indicated he is working with the Towns of Stamford, Harpersfield, and Kortright to establish a new service through the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation, Inc. And there is a revitalization in Sidney and Hancock with dedicated people in those communities to make those systems work. Mr. Hannigan told the Supervisors they have an outstanding resource in Maggie Wilson. They are blessed to have someone with her level of expertise in the community and as an employee to be able to shepherd some of these plans through.

In answer to Supervisor Taggart, Mr. Hannigan explained the County would need to obtain a municipal Certificate of Need (CON), which is obtained essentially from an application to the State Department of Health. From his experience, he would expect the CON would be processed within a few days.

In reply to Supervisor Gladstone, Mr. Hannigan explained that Section 122B of the General Municipal Law affords the County the opportunity to provide its own ambulance or personnel or to contract for some or for the whole service to another agency. The County would be the certificate holder, but the contractor could be supplying the equipment, personnel, and complete services. He further explained that getting a county CON would expedite the progress of EMS coverage. There are options where the county contracts with multiple providers such as they do in Columbia County. All the ambulances in Columbia County have a sticker on them that makes them part of the Columbia County ambulance service. That allows them to move into areas that do not have a CON, but because they have the county emblem, they can provide service operating under the county aegis. He recommends that in order for the County to be absolved from legal exposure, they need to handle liability through contracts with the providers. He believes a county-managed system would be more efficient and morally better.

He expressed that a countywide CON will need to be kept in effect. He emphasized an ambulance service will never be a profit center. Ideally, you will break even but it will be a long-term commitment to benefit county residents and provide service to the community.

Mr. Hannigan fielded many questions and much discussion ensued. He shared that the current State budget allows fire companies to bill but he stressed that billing and realizing revenue are two separate things. Billing for an \$800 ambulance call, Medicaid will pay \$189 and Medicare will pay \$460. While billing is part of the equation, there are some agencies that do not find it worth their while to do the billing because the expense of it does not justify a small number of calls a year.

He expressed that the objective of the Board should be that every person in this County have the same level of EMS service regardless of where they are. It is up to the Board to set this objective and let the agencies meet that objective under the Board's guidance. To build a system today, he advised starting with entities that are self-sustaining. That is the core, now figure out how to serve peripheral areas that are not readily served.

In reply to Supervisor Cetta, Mr. Hannigan explained that under the Federal Labor Standards Act, the general principle is you cannot be a volunteer and a paid person doing the same job for the same entity.

In answer to County Attorney Amy Merklen, Mr. Hannigan reported there is an incentive for length of service where points are awarded for fire and EMS calls. Points are used to benefit the volunteer similar to a pension plan once they reach entitlement age.

Mr. Baker explained in response to Supervisor Wilson that this service could be set up as long as there is personnel, money, and the time to make it work. They already have the ambulances and equipment. They would need to set up a contract with the County making sure everyone is on board and start the hiring process. He estimated they could set up the service in one to two months.

Mr. Rotzler stated that his time in Hancock and whatever he has done for this County proposal is totally volunteer. He is not looking for any compensation. He is here to try to get Delaware County up and running so maybe one or more lives can be saved.

Mr. Vernold questioned if they could provide the same service or better than AMR, to which Mr. Baker said yes. He truly believes that any paid service should provide the same quality of care. If he did not believe they could do this, he would not have come to begin with. He explained that with two crews in Sidney, he has some ideas on how those crews could work to provide coverage in Delaware County.

Chairman Molé thanked Mr. Hannigan for attending and for his guidance as well as Mr. Rotzler, Mr. Baker, and Mr. Strasser.

Mr. Marshfield offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 80

**TITLE: 2022 BUDGET AMENDMENT
APPROPRIATION OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP) FUNDING**

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 appropriated funding to governmental municipalities to assist in the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Delaware County was awarded a total of \$8,572,706 from the US Department of Treasury (USDT) to be used for eligible costs incurred during the period March 3, 2021 and ending on December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Committee has done a thorough and impartial review of proposals and has approved the following projects for funding:

- Friends of Bramley Mountain Fire Tower to provide funds to rebuild the fire tower for recreational purposes and promote tourism: \$25,000.00
- Town of Tompkins Fire Tower to provide funds to rebuild the fire tower for recreational purposes and promote tourism: \$25,000.00
- Funds to be used by DTC Cable, Inc. to provide broadband services to the unserved or underserved areas in Delaware County: \$980,400.00
- Delaware County Transportation Initiative Study to hire a consulting firm to devise a plan to deal with the County’s public transportation challenge: \$50,000.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2022 Budget be amended as follows:

INCREASE REVENUE:

10-11325-44408902/1327889/888	Fed Aid Other-ARP	\$1,080,400.00
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INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

10-16326-54584000/1327889/888	Eco Dev-Friends of Bramley Mtn. Fire Tower	\$25,000.00
10-16326-54584000/1327889/888	Eco Dev-Town of Tompkins Fire Tower	\$25,000.00
10-16326-54584000/1327889/888	Eco Dev-DTC Cable, Inc.	\$980,400.00
10-18020-54584000/1327889/888	Planning-Transportation Study	\$50,000.00

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Vernold and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4646, Noes 0, Absent 153 (Ellis).

Mr. Marshfield announced that the ARPA Committee has awarded \$7,397,000 of the \$8,572,000 and there is a balance of \$1,175,000 remaining. They are considering proposals equaling \$1,108,000. They are getting to the end of the ARP funds.

Mr. Taggart expressed his gratitude to the ARPA Committee for doing a great job.

Mr. Merrill offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 81

**TITLE: 2022 BUDGET AMENDMENT
TRANSFER OF FUNDS
COUNTY INSURANCE**

WHEREAS, it is necessary to fund the County Insurance account to cover premiums on purchased policies for 2022 incidental liability claims, administrative costs and continued funding of the insurance reserve account,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following budget modification be made:

FROM:

10-11010-54350200	Board of Supervisors	\$8,114.00
10-11040-54350200	Clerk of the Board	2,426.00
10-11165-54350200	District Attorney	3,837.00
10-11171-54350200	Public Defender	2,788.00
10-11185-54350200	Medical Examiner	854.00
10-11325-54350200	County Treasurer	3,400.00
10-11327-54350200	Fiscal Affairs	2,305.00
10-11355-54350200	Real Property Tax Services	3,058.00
10-11410-54350200	County Clerk	11,860.00
10-11420-54350200	County Attorney	3,000.00
10-11430-54350200	Personnel	2,954.00
10-11450-54350200	Board of Elections	3,266.00
10-11620-54350200	Buildings	20,159.00
10-11670-54350200	Printing	61.00
10-11680-54350200	Information Technology	20,379.00
10-13110-54350200	Sheriff	45,402.00
10-13140-54350200	Probation	18,506.00
10-13150-54350200	Jail	88,728.00
10-13620-54350200	Code Enforcement	667.00
10-13640-54350200	Emergency Services	13,969.00
10-14012-54350200	Public Health Services	15,420.00
10-14310-54350200	Mental Health Clinic	34,135.00
10-14317-54350200	Alcoholism	14,691.00
10-14321-54350200	Expanded Mental Health Programs	1,441.00
10-16010-54350200	Social Services	63,805.00
10-16326-54350200	Economic Development	2,451.00
10-16510-54350200	Veteran's Service Agency	1,988.00
10-16610-54350200	Sealer of Weights & Measures	791.41
10-16772-54350200	Office for Aging	6,709.00
10-18020-54350200	Planning Department	4,907.00

10-18740-54350200	Watershed Affairs	1,258.00
22-18160-54350200	Solid Waste	82,648.22
26-15130-54350200	Highway Department	<u>151,345.15</u>
	Total:	\$637,322.78

TO:

10-19000-42280100	Interfund Revenue Insurance	\$637,322.78
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INCREASE REVENUE:

10-19000-42280100	Interfund Revenue Insurance	\$637,322.78
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INCREASE APPROPRIATION:

10-11910-54350200	Unallocated County Insurance	\$637,322.78
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any unexpended year-end balance in account 10-11910-54350200 Unallocated County Insurance be transferred to 10-19901-59990200 Operating Transfer (out) for transfer to the Insurance Reserve Fund.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Valente and adopted by the following vote:
Ayes 4646, Noes 0, Absent 153 (Ellis).

Mr. Merrill offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 82

**TITLE: 2022 BUDGET AMENDMENT
APPROPRIATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FOR 2022
PERSONNEL OFFICE**

WHEREAS, Unemployment Insurance was not budgeted for in the 2022 Adopted Budget due to a sufficient balance in the Unemployment Insurance Reserve account; and

WHEREAS, the General Fund is in need of appropriations to pay the quarterly UI claims for 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2022 Budget be amended as follows:

INCREASE REVENUE:

10-19000-42280100	Interfund Revenue	50,000.00
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INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

10-19050-58500000	Unemployment Insurance	50,000.00
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TRANSFER FROM:

66-00000-34924000	Fund Balance Reserve	50,000.00
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TRANSFER TO:

66-19901-59990000

Operating Transfer OUT

50,000.00

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Vernold and adopted by the following vote:
Ayes 4646, Noes 0, Absent 153 (Ellis).

Mr. Haynes offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 83

**TITLE: AUTHORIZATION FOR AWARDS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

LETTING OF APRIL 19, 2022

Notice to bidders and proposals received having been filed and the bidding procedures and documents having been approved by the County Attorney:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Department of Public Works is authorized to make awards to the lowest bidders meeting specifications as follows:

PROPOSAL NO. SW2-22 Tire Management Services to: Geiter Done of WNY Inc.,
300 Greene St., Buffalo, NY 14206: Casings PO Box 731,
Catskill, NY 12414

Bid Price: See Summary Sheet

All original bids and a summary sheet of the bids received are on file for inspection at the office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Cetta and adopted by the following vote:
Ayes 4646, Noes 0, Absent 153 (Ellis).

Mr. Haynes offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 84

**TITLE: CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 OF PROPOSAL SW3-21
ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 118 of 2021 authorized award of Proposal SW3-21 Electrical Construction for Cell 4S Landfill Expansion to Nelcorp Electric, 35 North Kelly Avenue, Endicott, NY 13760 for the amount of \$472,600; and

WHEREAS, in response to design adjustments and field conditions for the electrical contract work, the following changes have been made:

WCD EC-001 for a Lump Sum credit of (\$3,159) for adjustments to the electrical overhead lines for line location and materials.

WCD EC-002 for a Time and Materials with Not To Exceed Total additional cost of \$34,548 for provision of temporary power to the General Contract and alignment of construction schedule with the General Contract milestones.

Contract Time Extension for Substantial Completion from March 1, 2022 to November 25, 2022, and Final Completion – Ready for Final Payment from April 1, 2022 to December 25, 2022

WHEREAS, these changes are reasonable and provide for overall project cost savings and improved constructability;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Department of Public Works is authorized to execute Change Order EC-001 – Combining Work Change Directives in the amount of \$31,389 increasing the contract amount from \$472,600 to \$503,989.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Vernold and Mr. Kosier and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4646, Noes 0, Absent 153 (Ellis).

Mr. Valente offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 85

TITLE: AUTHORIZING THE SCHEDULING/PUBLICATION OF A PUBLIC HEARING TO OBTAIN CITIZEN INPUT REGARDING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT CARES (CV) PROGRAM DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, the New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) administers funds made available to the State by the U.S Department of Housing & Urban Development through the Community Development Block Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, as a supplement to traditional CDBG funding, HCR has made available approximately \$127 Million in program year 2020 CDBG-CV funds to prevent, prepare, and respond to the Coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Delaware County is considering the development of a small business assistance program to provide financial support in the form of matching grants to local businesses to help them in responding to the Coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, subject to citizen input regarding the CDBG program, Delaware County would potentially submit an application to the New York State Office of Community Renewal for up to \$950,000 for the establishment of a small business assistance program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors for Delaware County hereby authorizes the scheduling and publication of a public hearing to solicit citizen input regarding the CDBG CARES program and a potential application for funding to be held on May 11th at 1:00 p.m.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Vernold and Mr. Kosier and unanimously adopted.

Chairman Molé noted the public hearing will be held on May 11, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Merrill offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 86

TITLE: RESOLUTION OF THE DELAWARE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ELECTING A CENTS PER GALLON RATE OF SALES AND COMPENSATING USE TAXES ON MOTOR FUEL AND DIESEL MOTOR FUEL, IN LIEU OF THE PERCENTAGE RATE OF SUCH TAXES, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF ARTICLE 29 OF THE TAX LAW OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

BE IT ENACTED by the Delaware County Board of Supervisors, as follows:

SECTION 1. Resolution No. 144 of 1990, is amended by adding a new section 4-B to read as follows:

Section 4-B. Cents per gallon rate of sales and compensating use taxes on motor fuel and diesel motor fuel.

Notwithstanding any provision of the enactment to the contrary, commencing June 1, 2022, in lieu of the percentage rate of sales and compensating use taxes imposed on receipts from the retail sale of and consideration given or contracted to be given for, or for the use of, motor fuel and diesel motor fuel, such taxes shall be imposed at a rate of cents per gallon of such motor fuel or diesel motor fuel, in the manner prescribed by subdivision (m) of section 1111 of the New York Tax Law, provided that, for purposes of calculating the cents per gallon rate of tax, such receipts or consideration shall be limited to two (2) dollars per gallon of either such fuel. Provided that, if the average price of such fuels as described in such subdivision (m) of section 1111 of the Tax Law, the Commissioner of Taxation and Finance shall adjust the cents per gallon tax rate on such fuels in the manner prescribed in such subdivision (m) of section 1111 of the Tax Law.

SECTION 2. This resolution shall take effect June 1, 2022.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Marshfield.

In reply to Supervisor Davis, Mr. Merrill explained that the State has allowed counties to reduce the sales tax on motor fuels. The cap options are to collect a maximum amount of sales tax on \$2, \$3, or \$4. Collection time periods have to go from the onset of the tax quarter. The earliest we can do this is June 1. After discussion, the committee decided not to have an end date. They decided to give the largest break allowed which is to collect sales tax only up to \$2.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Ms. Molé waived Board Rule 10 to permit the introduction without objection of the following not-prefiled resolution.

Mr. Merrill offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 87

TITLE: PAYMENT OF AUDIT

WHEREAS, bills and claims submitted and duly audited by the Clerk of the Board’s office in the amount of \$1,509,071.18 are hereby presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval of payment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County Treasurer be directed to pay said expenditures as listed below:

General Fund	\$824,200.13
OET	\$14,968.82
Public Safety Comm System	\$6,605.00
Insurance Risk	\$0.00
CAP 97 Main	\$339.20
CAP MH	\$163.95
CAP DSS	\$0.00
Highway Audits, as Follows:	
Weights & Measures	\$115.32
Solid Waste/Landfill	\$127,364.49
Road	\$50,379.76
Machinery	\$79,098.72
Capital Solid Waste	\$87,872.72
Capital Road & Bridge	\$9,716.59
CAP DPW Complex	\$308,246.48

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Taggart and adopted by the following vote:
Ayes 4646, Noes 0, Absent 153 (Ellis).

Mr. Merrill recalled Local Law Intro. No. 14 of 2022 entitled *Salary Increase Personnel Officer*.

The local law was seconded by Mr. Cetta and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4646, Noes 0, Absent 153 (Ellis).

Mr. Gladstone offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 75

TITLE: DELAWARE COUNTY EMS AMBULANCE SERVICE

WHEREAS, the volunteer EMS agencies in Delaware County are continuing to lose members and are having trouble sustaining their response availability leading to extended wait times for patients needing an ambulance; and

WHEREAS, Delaware County Public Safety Committee and Delaware County Department of Emergency Services have examined proposals by both Countywide Certificate of Need (CON) holders as well as listening to other suggested proposals to help; and

WHEREAS, it would be in the best interest of the EMS agencies within Delaware County to offer a temporary solution to gain the needed ambulance coverage while at the same time allowing Delaware County to gather data on how it would be best to proceed with ambulance coverage in the future all while trying to be fiscally responsible to the constituents of Delaware County; and

WHEREAS, American Medical Response (AMR) provided the best proposal to fit the needs of Delaware County at this time; and

WHEREAS, American Medical Response would provide a service, consisting of 2 Basic Life Support Ambulances (BLS) and 1 Advanced Life Support (ALS) Fly Car with appropriate staffing that would be dedicated to and stationed in Delaware County 24 hours a day / 7 days a week. These apparatuses would be used as mutual aid to supplement all Delaware County EMS agencies and would be branded as Delaware County EMS; and

WHEREAS, \$1,500,000.00 has been approved from the ARP Committee to go towards an ambulance service for Delaware County; and

WHEREAS, all revenues generated by AMR from the billing of calls will be returned to Delaware County. It is anticipated that the annual revenue will be approximately \$800,000.00. These revenues will be deducted from the contracted amount that is due to AMR; and

WHEREAS, alternate funding sources will have to be utilized to cover the remainder of the contract.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Delaware County enter into a contract with American Medical Response for a 2-year period of 6/1/2022 – 05/31/2024 at a cost of \$3,800,000.00 for the contract term (\$1,900,000.00 per year).

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Merrill.

Mr. Merrill said he appreciates all the information shared over the last couple of months regarding this. They put an RFP out many months ago and they received one response to that RFP. They acted on that in good faith. He thinks the other proposals are great but they need to move forward with what they put the RFP out for and deal with these in the time given to move forward to come up with more of a long-range plan and not just hop into some other direction.

Mr. Marshfield reiterated that they could approve this AMR contract, which has a stipulation in it that it can be voided in 90 days and it would give another entity the time to study other options. He said that was the intent of the contract initially.

Mr. Gladstone read from prepared notes. “This resolution has been brought to the floor today for a vote after approximately one and a half to two years of discussions. He thanked the Delaware County EMS staff in particular Steve Hood, Maggie Wilson, and Mark Rossley for researching these possible solutions. Resolution No. 75 is for a two-year contract with AMR which includes two BLS ambulances and one ALS fly car with a 30-day no cost clause termination included. They chose this option over the presented proposal by members of the Hancock and Sidney EMS at the last Public Safety Committee meeting. The Committee felt the timeframe of this contract is a deciding factor to move forward to name a county ambulance service. This option will allow the county to learn what we need as we move forward to establish an ambulance service after the contract is over. There are comments that we are rushing into this. The last thing we want to do is rush into this. This buys us some time to understand what we need. As other fire departments and ambulance squads become established during this time, we may only need a hybrid service. This is yet to be determined.

It has been said that Otsego County setup their system in months. Otsego County has 1,000 square miles and Delaware County has almost 1,500 square miles.

Each year it becomes more clear we are down to life and death situations with less staff. It is the County’s Board responsibility to do as much as we can to preserve life and prevent death for everybody in Delaware County, not just consider those in our own towns. Relief and support for the local departments and squads and volunteers is of utmost importance. There are towns and villages that pay for services but also they have paid police departments. This will function in the same manner as the Sheriff’s Office to assist towns and villages.

For those who support this resolution, I thank you. To the others I would ask you to seriously consider it.”

Ms. Molé stated the two-year period that we are looking at would give us history and some information to go forward when we are developing a long-term plan. We are looking at it as a band-aid, a two-year learning period for us to move forward to a solid long-term plan.

Mr. Taggart said he would prefer not to pay the full \$1.5 million up front. He believes the funds would not last past 9 months and then there would be nothing left to fund a program down the road. He would prefer to divide the award over the length of the 24-month contract in order to keep funds should the County or AMR decide to end the contract. That would keep funding available that will help establish the volunteer program.

Mrs. Merklen clarified that the contract will be set up for monthly payments. The County will only pay for whatever it is that they are not getting paid by patients and their insurance.

Mrs. Scott established that AMR will bill patients and the revenue they receive will be deducted from the monthly payment. Realistically, for the first few months, they will not receive billing revenue because it takes a while to receive reimbursement. It could be six months before they have any real revenue so realistically, the first six months will come out of this ARP funding. Going forward, AMR estimates they will receive a return of half of the expenses.

In reply to Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Hood stated \$800,000 is a safe figure to anticipate for as reimbursement revenue.

Mr. Marshfield stated they have the contract with AMR. There has been no other contract to consider. He believes they should approve the contract. This would give Sidney the time to develop a plan and a contract.

Agreeing, Mr. Merrill stated that would give us time to look at the whole situation, to study it and have a plan going forward.

Mr. Cetta interjected that he has been skeptical on this but he took note when Mr. Gladstone made the statement that many of the smaller towns need help. There is a sunset clause on districts being able to bill for ambulance and there may be movement toward making EMS an essential service. If that happens, we are going to have to pay for it anyway. We will be obligated to tax the people for that service just as we do for fire departments. He would like to find an entity that could put that plan together. Whether it is the Department of Emergency Services that leads that effort or if we hire an outside entity that would incorporate all the volunteer and paid services that we already have and how we would fit everything that we have in Delaware County into a plan. He believes two years is a good time and we have the resources to do that. He shared that responding to an emergency is sometimes not a pretty sight and he knows that several Supervisors on this Board volunteer to do that. He stated he is on board for this band-aid as long as we can move on with developing or hiring an entity to develop a plan to move forward because he believes that is what it is going to come down to.

Mr. Marshfield reported that the County Finance Committee has talked about this for months. The original plan was for \$3 million to move this service. The Finance Committee is committed to putting money into this beyond this \$1.5 million.

Mr. Wilson said that Supervisors are in agreement from the standpoint that something definitely needs to be done and needs to be done quickly. If someone votes no on this resolution,

it does not mean that they do not support getting this done quickly. First of all, they are fortunate and blessed to get this grant to begin with to get things operational and off the ground. We are also fortunate to have services in towns within the County which have operated successfully that have extended their hand to help get this started. The not-for-profit organizations will be hiring the same employees that AMR will. AMR is a for-profit company. They have to make money; understand they have to answer to their shareholders. We all want this to be long-term and he agrees, but not to throw the money knowing that in a year and a half to two years, the money will be gone. There are substantial savings with the Sidney model so there will be seed money to make this grow into a long-term solution not just a band-aid. He believes they could be operational just as quickly as AMR or anyone else. From that standpoint, he does not see what a for-profit company will bring that we cannot get from working with a not-for-profit agency.

Mr. Valente believes that ultimately, the solution for a countywide ambulance service is going to end up with local providers. AMR, in this contract, is not offering to do a countywide ambulance service. They are only offering the stopgap. The local option is the first solution and the only solution on the table that does contend to take on the entire county.

Mr. Vernold revisited the issue of his taxpayers having to pay double taxes on ambulance services. They have their own ambulance service and don't wish to pay for another service.

Mr. Marshfield said everyone currently pays for fire and ambulance service and will continue to pay for it even though they will have this additional service.

Mr. Merrill stated that for the same reason they are trying to help the smaller towns, AMR might be the mutual aid that arrives for a call. He expressed that his town has a police force and they still pay for the County Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Davis shared that his residents feel the same way about the double taxation. They are concerned they will pay a very large part of a contract for services that their town won't receive. He reiterated Mr. Hannigan's earlier comment that municipalities that have ambulance service will be the ones that will be punished the most. Because they are already established, they will be called the most.

Mr. Marshfield mentioned the ARP funding is paying for the AMR contract not the residents. If the County can run this and get things going for a few months until Sidney or another service comes up with a plan, we will be covered.

Mr. Vernold recalled the presentation on the need for ambulance service that Steve Hood did three years ago, and said that quite frankly, it seems like the only thing that got this going now is the availability of the ARP money. During that presentation, Mr. Hood had also noted that fire departments are going to be coming right along after this with their problems.

Mrs. Scott said she will vote in favor of the resolution only because she believes we need to do something now, but only with the absolute stipulation that we look at the Sidney proposal. She agrees with Mr. Wilson that AMR has no incentive to make this a break-even enterprise. None. They are a for-profit publically traded company that is in it to make money. They will

charge the County what they feel is the appropriate price. Sidney EMS will charge what it cost to operate the service. She believes that it would be substantially less than AMR's costs. She sees the urgency to do something now, reiterating what Mr. Marshfield said, that every day we postpone is a life we could lose.

To explain the location of additional ambulances, Mr. Hood stated dispatchers will use system status management. The ambulances will be moved around the County depending on where the dispatchers see fit to post them based on service activity and where the need is greatest at that moment.

Mr. Valente expressed that whether Supervisors vote yes or no, the one constant here is that one option is a stopgap measure using this windfall as a band-aid, the other option is going ahead with what is ultimately going to be the solution. Nothing is presented here that does not include relying heavily on the existing services in this County like we have in Middletown, Hancock, and Sidney.

Mr. Merrill added that the volunteers we have in every community, and ambulances that will be established within the next two years in Stamford/Harpersfield and in Walton will all be relied on.

Agreeing with Mr. Merrill's comment, Mr. Valente suggested putting the money in that direction. Put the funding in what is going to be the ultimate solution. We don't need a stopgap. We have a plan that is rolling out now and we have the money to implement it. Let's take advantage.

Mr. Taggart stated Franklin EMS is very supportive of an in-county program.

The resolution was adopted by the following vote: Ayes 2834, Noes 1812 (Valente, Taggart, Vernold, Davis, Wilson), Absent 153 (Ellis).

Upon a motion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.