

Special Council Meeting
07/19/2018
7:00 PM
Municipal Building

Gary Bauer, Lori Byrom, Don Gephart, Chad Hollon, Reilly Hopkins, and Cindy Sutton were present. Mayor presided over the meeting.

ZONING INSPECTOR POSITION

Mayor asked to table the Zoning Inspector Position discussion until the next special meeting.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Mayor brought Council's attention to recent information provided by Phil Blankenship and Jewellie regarding health care renewal proposals and costs. Mayor asked Phil questions regarding the deductibles, emergency room cost, dental cost, etc. Discussion took place as to options presented and recent history of health care for the Village employees. Don brought up importance of having a person available to solve claim issues. Phil explained the "pecking order" of health insurance within entities. Mayor inquired about how the cost would be affected if employee deductibles were raised. Phil explained the first proposed increase in deductibles would not change the grandfather status, and stated there is a lot of legislation currently in government that is being proposed that may change regulations. Jim stated that many employees work for the Village because of excellent health insurance coverage. He stated that he would suggest keeping the grandfather status for at least another year and not raise deductibles any more than necessary. Ted Sharp expressed concerns over the possibility of raising deductibles. Chad inquired about maximum out of pocket currently to which Phil answered \$1,300 for single/ \$2,700 for family. Don stated he would like to see Council stay as close as possible to the current plan to keep employees happy. Chad asked Jim what he would like to see happen for BPA employees enrolled in the plan. Jim stated he would like to see health insurance remain the same. He expressed concerns over how difficult it is to find and retain qualified employees and noted that health insurance offered at the Village is very attractive to prospective employees. Phil stated he thinks it would be prudent to reexamine the plan line item by line item next year due to impending changes in legislation and in order to increase savings. Chad stated that after reviewing options, it wouldn't be worth saving \$5,000 and risk upsetting employees by increasing deductibles.

Mayor introduced Resolution 2018.029 and stated renewal was proposed to be with Certus Serious America with no changes to employee deductibles or employee contributions.

HOLLON/BAUER: Motion to adopt 2018.029, a Resolution Renewing the Contract with Avalon Benefits Services as the Village of Blanchester's Third Party Administrator, with noted changes/additions to resolution. Roll call was made. All voted yea.

Phil stated that the life insurance fees would remain the same for the next 2 years.

EARNINGS TAX

Mayor reintroduced Ordinance 2018.021. He stated that Andrew had drafted the desired changes to the income tax ordinance to reflect a .5% income tax for 5 years. Andrew stated that the 100% credit was in the previous ordinance draft and nothing else had been changed except the requested changes by Council.

HOLLON/SUTTON: Motion to place Ordinance 2018.021, Income Tax Ordinance, on first reading. Roll call was made. All voted yea.

Resolution 2018.030 was introduced to Council regarding placing income tax on the ballot. Mayor requested Section 5 be stricken. Reilly felt the ballot language was still fairly broad and declared he would like it to be restated.

HOLLON/BYROM: Motion to adopt Resolution 2018.030, Resolution Determining to Proceed with Earnings Tax and Certifying Same to the Board of Elections. Roll call was made. All voted yea.

Additional Special Council Meetings were scheduled with topics to be discussed being Zoning Inspector and Earnings Tax. Scheduled for Monday 23rd at 7PM and Wednesday 25th at 7PM.

HOLLON/HOPKINS: Motion to adjourn. All voted yea. Meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.

Approved: 8/9/18

Mayor: John M. Carman

Attest: Julie Costello