

Special Council Meeting

07/14/2020

6:00 PM

Meeting held via Zoom teleconference and streamed live on the Village of Blanchester Facebook page

Gary Bauer, Harry Brumbaugh, Don Gephart, Chad Hollon, Reilly Hopkins, and Richard Simpson were present. Mayor John Carman presided over the meeting.

Mayor welcomed Phil to speak on the Village health insurance. Gary inquired if Phil remained as agent of record if he would be able to give quarterly reports as well as renewal information much earlier in the year.

Phil stated he had prepared a statement in response of Council's questions. He read that he had listened to the Council meeting on 7/09/2020. He stated he had not received an invitation to last Thursday's meeting. He stated the email had went into his spam folder. He had inadvertently deleted all of his spam in the folder. He stated a phone call would have resolved the issue. He stated he does not receive reports to share with Council due to HIPPA laws, and said Employee Benefit Services (EBS) is under contract with the Village to supply reports with the Village. He said that he had provided alternatives for the Village in the past which sometimes were followed and sometimes not. He stated he had gotten permission with a Village employee to share the fact that he had worked with him recently to help resolve claim issues.

Moving forward he suggested any related issues for any employees to be reported to him. He stated he found out one of the EBS employees had not been sending the reports to the Fiscal Officer, and he would be happy to go over those reports, and share with Council in the future.

Mayor questioned the first email that had been sent to invite Phil to share at the 07/09/2020 meeting. Fiscal Officer shared date information for the email that was sent on 06/16/2020.

Reilly believed Phil's statement answered most of his personal questions and suggested Council reach out with any questions and issues that arise throughout the year. Reilly expressed an interest in having quarterly meetings to review health care insurance information with Council. Reilly asked why the Village funds the plan 100%. Phil answered if the Village were to have significant claims, funds would need to be available for those claims in advance. He explained expected costs are different than the possibility of claim costs which are unpredictable. Mayor stated that the Fiscal Officer had reached out to EBS to have the retention limits reduced twice in the previous year. Phil stated he wasn't aware of this.

Don considered there to be an issue with communication. He asked how many phone calls have been received by the Mayor and Fiscal Officer. Phil stated he had received none and all communication was being received through emails. Mayor stated there had been a meeting last year with Phil about aforementioned issues and Council had left matters with Phil at that time to "carry the ball". Mayor reiterated that the Village reached out to Phil to extend an invitation to the July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting and that Council was copied on said email. Phil's last email reply was he would have to wait until August to present renewal information. Don stated he felt Mayor and Fiscal Officer should be calling Phil on a regular basis. Mayor said he didn't feel that the services weren't being provided that were being paid for by the Village.

Chad stated Phil's statement had put everyone else on the defense except himself. He reminded Council many of the same issues had been expressed the previous year at renewal, and suggested if regular update meetings had not taken place during the last year after Council expressed concern, he wasn't sure update meeting would take place during the year going forward. Chad also pointed out that Council, Fiscal Officer and Mayor were not aware there should have been reports presented to the Village and therefore would not have been able to alert Phil that said reports were not being received. Chad voiced disappointment with unanswered questions and stated, "The level of service has not been there." He stated the

same speech had been used in the past 3 years of renewals and referenced keeping the same agent year after year as part of "Good ole boys club."

Harry stated when going with a new health insurance agent many times, the price might start low and then be raised down the road. Mayor stated that if Council changed agent of record to someone else at any time, then there would be no penalty fees involved.

**GEPHART/HOPKINS: Motion to stay with Phil for another year as agent of record and to get the communications better. Roll call was made. Bauer, Brumbaugh, Gephart, Hopkins, Simpson voted yea; Hollon voted no.**

In discussion of the motion, Chad made reference to evaluating services by next year's renewal to see if improvement had been made in services and communication. Mayor stated that if there was a change made to another agent, immediately there would be a reduction in agent fees.

**HOLLON/HOPKINS: Motion to adjourn. Meeting ended at 5:35 PM.**

Approved: August 13, 2020

Mayor: John M Cannon

Attest: Wendy Coebel