



To: Mayor and City Council
From: Dylan Mulfinger
Subject: Fayette County Dispatch Contract
Date: 10/24/2022

Negotiations for the Fayette County Dispatch Contract are on their second year. The Supervisors have been limited in their cooperation to fulfill requests from the City Administrator and the Public Safety Chief. The Supervisors approved a dispatch contract and requested that the city approve it in time for November. The contract presented by the Supervisors has an unrealistic charge for dispatch and includes other cost that were not even discussed. The city has paid just under \$50,000 in the last two years for a service that we cannot oversee. The Supervisors have not provided any recognition to the city providing this service for 40 years, and they ignored the large grant that Oelwein was awarded to make this process easier on the county.

My professional recommendation is to table the decision of the dispatch agreement until the following information is provided in writing by the Supervisors:

- a) The City of Oelwein, on a number of occasions has requested the county to provide:
 - a. The dispatch budget prior to the merge.
 - b. The dispatch budget subsequent to the merge.
 - c. Wage increases provided to dispatchers due to cost of living and competition increases to improve hiring efforts.
 - d. A dispatch staffing comparison for similar counties.
 - e. The impact that funding the dispatch center on a levy would have on the levy.
 - f. The impact that funding just the increase in costs to dispatch would have on the levy.
- b) The City of Oelwein has expressed concerns over how the Sheriff's Department classifies what is a calls for service. This classification has a direct impact on a pay by calls for service approach that the county is demanding. Supervisor Tellin acknowledged this was a concern. Additionally, the county is required to dispatch emergency calls and those calls have not been extracted from their pay by calls for service approach.
- c) The City of Oelwein has advised that if this significant of an amount will be required from the three cities that have their own law enforcement, then a commission will need to be set up so that those entities have a say in the operations and quality of operations. This has gone unanswered and must be addressed prior to any agreement being approved.

The City will agree to another \$25,000 provided the county continues to work toward the city's request. Paying for this service should be done through taxation and not a fee based schedule created by the Supervisors.