

December 17, 2007

To: Members of the City of Sheboygan Common Council

From: The Greater Sheboygan Committee

Subject: City of Sheboygan Fire Department Proposal to Provide Ambulance Service to the Town of Wilson

Honorable Common Council Members:

Whereas the Common Council will be reviewing the City of Sheboygan Fire Department's (CSFD) proposal to provide ambulance service to certain parts of the Town of Wilson:

Whereas the Board of Directors of the Greater Sheboygan Committee has concerns about the reasons and assumptions for this proposal;

Therefore, The Board of Directors of the Greater Sheboygan Committee respectfully submits the following questions and concerns for the Council's appropriate consideration, with the hope said questions and concerns will be fully addressed and discussed prior to the Council's taking any formal action in regard to this matter.

1. Will the CSFD be charging the residents of the served area of the Town of Wilson on the same basis for ambulance services as the CSFD plans to charge the residents of the City of Sheboygan? If the charges to the residents of the Town of Wilson will be the same as residents of the City, then it would appear the residents of the City are in essence subsidizing the Town of Wilson, as the City residents will bear the expense of all of the fixed costs that will exist for the CSFD to be ready to serve the Town of Wilson.
2. In the past, Orange Cross has dispatched an ambulance to the Town of Wilson on a standby basis when there was a SWAT call out, or an extended fire situation. The CSFD appears to propose to simply deal with medical calls from the Town of Wilson. Will the CSFD send an ambulance to the Town of Wilson in a stand by situation as Orange Cross has done in the past? If so, and there is no medical transport, who will bear the cost of the stand by run?
3. Why is a quick decision to establish ambulance service to the Town of Wilson necessary? The CSFD will have significant demands on it just to establish the proposed service to the City, no less starting to expand in other areas. Certainly the City service should be functioning well before moving on to other service areas.
4. Are the current actual and planned expenditures, by the CSFD for equipment, personnel and training, within the original authorizations provided by the Common Council?
5. Did the CSFD negotiate, in any manner, with the Town of Wilson prior to receiving authorization to engage in such negotiations by the Common Council?

6. Does the CSFD have authorization from the Common Council to offer, formally or informally, ambulance services to any municipalities in Sheboygan County?
7. Will the CSFD be instructed to maintain separate financial records that will indicate the profit or loss from operations related to providing ambulance service to the Town of Wilson, with said financial records to include a portion of the fixed expenses necessary to operate the entire CSFD ambulance service?
8. On a public policy basis, does it seem appropriate for a tax subsidized City department (CSFD) to actively compete, for more service territory, against a private non-profit organization (Orange Cross Ambulance)? This is of particular concern, as the CSFD's original ambulance proposal indicated only the City was needed as a service area.

It is hoped that the Council will give the above stated issues a complete and thorough evaluation in a deliberate and careful manner, taking as much time as necessary and with all public input and review possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Hereby submitted,

The Greater Sheboygan Committee

Gary Maples

President

Mick Anic  
Eldon Burg  
Dave Gass  
Mike Leibham  
Shawn Rice  
Greg Weggeman

Board Members