

THE MINNEHAHA COUNTY COMMISSION CONVENED IN SPECIAL SESSION AT 7:00 P.M., January 24, 2006, pursuant to adjournment that morning. Commissioners present were: Kolbe, Pekas, Twedt, and Zweep. Commissioner Hajek was absent. Also present were Sandy Kinder, Deputy Auditor, and Gordy Swanson, Chief Civil Deputy State's Attorney.

Chairman Kolbe called the meeting to order.

HEARING

Gordy Swanson, Chief Deputy State's Attorney, presented an overview of Ordinance MC31-02, An Ordinance for Licensing Surface Ambulance Service in Minnehaha County, and the proposed text amendments to sections 1-9 Initial and Subsequent Application Process and 1-10 Geographical Boundaries. He also reported on the state requirements for ambulance services, noting that SDCL 34-11-3 gives counties and municipalities the option to license and regulate those services. He explained that the hearing is to consider amending the ordinance to allow for an additional license. If approved, services applying would also need state licensure and mutual aid agreements with the existing district providers. Currently, no changes in districting are being proposed. The amendment would only allow for an at-large license. Jay Masur, CEO/President of Med-Star Ambulance Service, introduced his staff members and spoke in support of the amendment. He gave a brief history of his service and its availability. He supported the proposed amendment noting that it would enable an alternate service to respond when the primary service is not available and provide a faster response in some geographical areas. Rural Metro Ambulance Supervisors Tim Rave, Faron Wahl, and Scott Christensen spoke in opposition to the amendment noting that if calls are lost to another service, the existing services would be impacted financially and costs for services would increase as a result. Barbara Angerhofer spoke on behalf of the Minnehaha County Ambulance Association. She reported that the current system is not broken and that the Association is currently looking for funding sources. Changing the ordinance at this time would further complicate the issues of the existing services. She felt that the question should not be whether an additional license is needed, but how can the county best support the three licensed rural ambulance services already in place. Mr. Masur rebutted that rapid response is critical to the patient's outcome. David Atherton, Metro Communications Director, answered questions on response times and dispatch criteria. He also noted that mutual aid is already available based on proximity. The Commission thanked those in attendance for their input and noted that they will take tonight's testimony under advisement and action, if any, would take place at a future public meeting.

MOTION by Zweep, seconded by Pekas to adjourn until Tuesday, January 31, 2006. 4 ayes.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION:

Robert Kolbe, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sandy Kinder, Deputy Auditor