

LARGO City votes to bargain over EMS cut

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City commissioners here voted unanimously Tuesday to take the county to the bargaining table over proposed cuts to Pinellas emergency medical services system. The vote triggers a conflict resolution process that state law requires before a lawsuit is filed. Should the mediation fail, the Largo commission could vote to sue Pinellas County. Former Pinellas County Administrator Bob LaSala has proposed cutting about \$2.3 million over the next three years from the overall \$116 million EMS budget. LaSala wanted to slash the budgets of the five departments - Largo, Clearwater, Pinellas Park, St. Petersburg and Lealman - that answer 70 percent of the 150,000-plus fire and EMS calls in the county. Seminole would also see a reduction.