



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School Street
Bethel, Connecticut 06801 Telephone: (203) 794-8501

Robert Burke, First Selectman
Paul Szatkowski, Selectman
Kevin L. Cleary, Selectman

RECEIVED

APR 10 2008

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

7:30 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center - Meeting Room "A"

PRESENT: First Selectman Burke, Selectman Szatkowski and Selectman Cleary.
Also attending was William Hagan, Town Attorney.

First Selectman Burke opened the Public Hearing at 7:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Alice Hutchinson, Rockwell Road expressed concern as to the make-up of the commission; wondered whether employees would be compensated and whether this is included in their job descriptions, questioned the need for the commission since it would be advisory only to the Board of Selectmen, questioned who the replacements would be if members were removed.

Fred Ingram, Chief of Bethel Fire Department spoke regarding several items; should have 7 members not 5, took exception with several provisions, including concerns with the language/removal for cause, he expressed concern over the provision regarding the licenses, suggested that the two ambulance departments are private corporations and should have some representation on the commission, he offered that he is not necessarily opposed to a commission but suggested that the ordinance as written be rejected.

First Selectman Burke explained that the proposed Ordinance was written based on the State of Connecticut model in conjunction with many discussions with all the various departments, counsel, and the State of Connecticut.

Selectman Cleary suggested incorporating the definition of what EMS is into the ordinance.

Bruce Cornwall, Bethel Fire Department suggested a glossary of terms be added.

Debbie Studwell, Stony Hill Fire Department offered that no one with an EMS background is represented.

Leonard Hurgin, questioned whether this ordinance would take "power" away from the two departments.

Christopher Trodahl, Oak Ridge submitted a two page list of questions (attached)

Robert Cadella, Cindy Lane suggested that June 1, 2008 does not provide a lot of time for the commission to prepare and submit to the Board of Selectmen and the paramedic should have input.

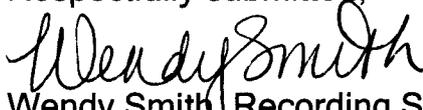
Leonard Guercia, Jr., State of Connecticut Department of Public Health, advised that the Connecticut General Statutes defines responsibilities, many communities have similar Commissions, the Fire Chiefs sign off as Chief Officers of the departments, so that, in fact, the ambulance is represented.

Ken Parsiasepe, Chief of Stony Hill Fire Department commented that the issues remain, maybe some hang-ups on the wording of the ordinance but that it is time to move forward.

Joan Bradley, Ridgedale Road offered that this is a good idea which will bring all services under one umbrella.

As there were no further comments, First Selectman Burke closed the Public Hearing at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary

CHRIS TRODAHL

56 Oak Ridge Road
Bethel, CT 06801

April 8, 2008

Mr. Robert Burke
First Selectmen
Town of Bethel
1 School Street
C. J. Hurgin Municipal Center
Bethel, CT 06801

Subject: Request for Information

Dear Bob:

At the March 17th Board of Selectmen Meeting you and Paul set April 8th for a public hearing to consider establishing an Emergency Medical Service Commission. While I personally support a unified emergency response system in the Town of Bethel, I question why you are addressing only the Emergency Medical Service and not including the Bethel and Stony Hill Fire Departments, the Bethel Police Department and all other town departments involved in emergency response or service.

Regarding the Emergency Medical Service Commission, I have a number of questions which I would appreciate answers to.

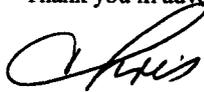
1. What prompted you to establish the commission? Was it a service need or a response to a directive by the CT Attorney General's Office?
2. What was the directive received from the Attorney General?
3. Were any studies conducted that identified problems and recommended the Emergency Medical Service you are proposing? If so, please provide the names of the individuals, and companies of any, that conducted the studies. Please provide me a copy of the studies.
4. How many ALS (Advance Life Support) and BLS (Basic Life Support) calls were made in 2007?
5. What percent of the calls in 2007 were for non Bethel residents?
6. How many hours of full time staffing do you plan to provide each day?
7. How many full time individuals do you plan to have available during the full time staffing period?
8. How many full time individuals will it take to provide that level of staffing over a year?
9. If our dedicated staff has responded to an emergency call, and a second call should come in, how will the second call be responded to and staffed?

10. How will the town pay for the full time staff and service? Will the cost be paid through taxes or will a billing system be implemented?
11. If a billing system is established, can the town bill or will we have to pay a third party provider to handle the billing and collection?
12. If a billing system is not implemented, will we then provide free EMS support for non Bethel residents?
13. Were any financial analysis conducted to substantiate the financial viability of your proposed EMS program. If so, please provide the names of the individuals, and companies of any, that conducted the financial analysis. Please provide me a copy of the analysis.
14. Have you communicated with any officials from Redding, Brookfield, Danbury, New Fairfield or Ridgefield regarding how they operate, bill and finance their Paramedic and Ambulance Service? If so, when did this communication take place and what did they say when they responded?
15. Are any local, district or state approvals or licenses required prior to implementation of your proposed EMS Program?
16. Have any or all local, district & state approvals or licenses been applied for? Which approvals – if any – have been granted at this time? Which ones have not been applied for or not yet approved?
17. At a recent Board of Selectmen Meeting, you stated this commission would be like other commissions such as Library and Park & Rec. Since neither of these commissions have full time town employees from other departments and neither have the 1st Selectman on their Board, how are they similar?
18. Regarding the EMS Commission, 3 of the 5 proposed members are town employees and the salaries & benefits of two are influenced by the 1st selectman. Is there a potential for conflict of interest?
19. Also, 2 of the 5 proposed members are not town employees and could have difficulty attending day time meetings. Could this result in flawed decision making?

My request for this information is being made under any and all applicable provisions of the CT Freedom of Information Act.

If I need a copy of any document(s), I will request that copy and pay the appropriate copy fee.

Thank you in advance for your prompt response to my request.



Chris Trodahl