



EMS COMMISSION – TOWN OF BETHEL

CJH Municipal Center – 1 School Street
Bethel, CT 06801

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, September 16, 2008
5:00 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

RECEIVED

SEP 19 2008

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

PRESENT: First Selectman Robert Burke, Director of Health Laura Vasile, Bethel Fire Department (BFD) Chief Fred Ingram, Stony Hill Fire Department (SHFD) Chief Ken Parciasepe and Fire Marshall/Emergency Management Director Thomas Galliford. Also in attendance was William Hagan, Town Attorney and Matt Cassavechia, Danbury Health Care Affiliates.

Discussion with Leonard Guercia, State of Connecticut, Director of OEMS regarding the Paramedic Program

At the last EMS meeting, it was agreed to have Leonard Guercia come to the meeting to address concerns previously raised by EMS members and to clarify the direction the town is taking.

Chief Ingram requested that Public Comments be placed on the agenda. As this was a Special Meeting, the agenda was not modified.

Members asked for clarification on the vehicles; Mr. Guercia explained that essentially any vehicle could qualify as long as it is properly outfitted.

Mr. Guercia clarified that the two fire department PSA's are at Basic Life Service (BLS) not Advanced Life Service (ALS). A license to operate is required in order to apply for a PSA. Mr. Guercia said that the Department of Public Health reviews ALS applications and assures that proposed applications meet all required regulations prior to approving applications because EMS is a regulated activity.

First Selectman Burke advised that he has had several conversations with Mayor Mark Boughton (Danbury) over the last few days. They have assured each other that neither have any intention of opting out of mutual aid.

Discussion took place regarding the data that is required to be reported to the Commissioner of Health concerning basic level EMS and ALS (paramedic first and

second calls). Several different data sets have been discussed by the Commission including Danbury Ambulance Company information, information from the two Fire chief's and data reviewed by Len Guercia, Director of DPH OEMS, which was submitted to the State by both BFD and SHFD. Mr. Guercia advised that the regulations require the data be reviewed with Dr. Broderick at Danbury Hospital for quality assurance purposes and he recommended that action be taken to review the data collection and analysis system and review process with the Medical License holder to assure compliance with the CT Public Health Code EMS regulations. Mr. Guercia further recommended that use of the paramedic services be monitored to assure efficient effective use of advanced level resources targeted to EMS calls that warrant this resource use. Tom Galliford volunteered to be the liaison with the Police and Fire Department to coordinate the call data information.

Chief Ingram explained that one of his major concerns was that it did not make sense (to him) to accept a different provider; the current provider could provide service at a lesser cost.

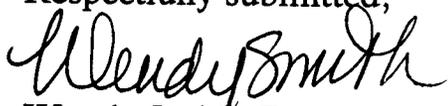
First Selectman Burke explained that by the town holding the PSA, Bethel would be able to bill and the revenues would more than offset the cost. The current situation does not provide for billing and/or revenues. He reiterated his responsibility as the First Selectman/Chief Elected Official to assure the safety of the residents and that this plan is good for Bethel. He offered that he has great respect for our volunteers and will continue to do so; this plan enhances what we already have.

Chief Ingram offered his concern that First Selectman Burke never brought the ALS issue to the EMS Commission. First Selectman Burke offered that he had no choice but to take the leadership role; he had spent over 2 ½ years on this issue with the two Fire Departments (PSA holders) and the two separate organizations were unable to provide a recommended solution that assured town side service.

Discussion continued. First Selectman Burke advised that basically, this new advanced program is a done deal; it was a decision of the Board of Selectmen to move in the direction which they did, the contract has been awarded DHCA; Bethel will have its own dedicated paramedic with back-up.

As there was no further discussion, Tom Galliford made a motion, which was seconded by Chief Parciasepe, to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary