

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
EMS Commission

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
May 16, 2005**

Chairman McGorty called the Regular Meeting of the EMS Commission to order at 7:36 p.m. All those present rose and pledged allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present

Noreen McGorty, Chairman
Marty Coughlin
Jay Francino-Quinn

Also in Attendance

Jason Perillo, Chief EHAC

Absent

Commissioner Karynn Krill-Weinstein

Public Portion – None

Minutes for Approval

MOTION made by Commissioner Coughlin to approve the Minutes of March 21, 2005 as prepared and distributed, seconded by Commissioner Francino-Quinn and passed unanimously.

Correspondence - Updated list of City Hall Employees by Department as of May 16, 2005. Also, flyer for the Eleventh Annual Valley “Good Scout” Award Ceremony and Employees on the move re: Bradley Brown to Custodian, City Hall.

Chairman McGorty requested to skip to item #9 (New Business) on the agenda to allow Chief Perillo time to arrive, and return to items # 6, 7 and 8 upon Chief Perillo’s arrival. Everyone was in agreement.

New Business

Approval of Payment of Bills

EHAC

Chairman McGorty stated that we owe for two months- April and May, each for \$5,000 for The First Responder program for a total of \$10,000.

MOTION made by Commissioner Coughlin to approve the payment of the EHAC Invoice for April 2005 and May 2005 for \$5,000 each month for the First Responder program for a total of \$10,000, seconded by Commissioner Francino-Quinn and passed unanimously.

CMED

Chairman McGorty stated that January, February and March have been confirmed paid. We owe for the months of April 2005 \$5,055.85 and May 2005 \$5,055.85 for a total of \$10,111.70.

MOTION made by Commissioner Coughlin to approve payment of the CMED Invoice for April 2005 and May 2005 for a total of \$10,111.70, seconded by Commissioner Francino-Quinn and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Francino-Quinn asked in re: to CMED if there has ever been any discussion to move from New Haven to South Central or South West? Would there be any cost savings? Chairman McGorty said there had not. Commissioner Coughlin stated it has always been (New Haven. The fees are based on a population basis so there would be no difference.)

Chairman McGorty stated that the SBC Invoice for April 2005 was \$392.52 and the Yankee Gas Invoice for April 2005 was \$804.15.

CMED Dispatch Report

Chairman McGorty stated that we have March and April to look at. Commissioner Coughlin questioned code marked OTHER. Chairman McGorty stated to would be looked into.

Commissioner Coughlin stated that most were transported to Griffin Hospital. Chairman McGorty stated that because it is the sponsor Hospital, it makes sense. Unless the patient requests a different hospital, Griffin is where they will go.

Commissioner Coughlin and Chairman McGorty stated the new report is easier aesthetically, however, you have to figure out the response times.

Chairman McGorty stated the response times look great. Everyone was in agreement.

Commissioner Coughlin questioned the code SAC. Chairman McGorty stated she would look into the OTHER and SAC codes.

(Chief Jason Perillo arrived at 8:10 P.M.)

Chief Jason Perillo arrived and stated that the OTHER code could have been 1) A call was made for an ambulance thru AMR and did not know which ambulance would respond or 2) they did not know which Echo Hose Ambulance was responding. The SAC code was for Seymour Ambulance Corp. who transported a patient from a structure fire on Nells Rock Road.

Update from EHAC

Chief Perillo stated everything is status quo. Membership ranks have reached 100 for the first time in 10 years. He has been tracking the amount of calls Echo Hose receives vs. actually does. In 2004, they passed on about 20 a month. Over the last 2 months, it has only been about 12. He attributes this to 1) the crews hard work and 2) the volunteer shifts are getting second and third ambulances out more quickly.

Chief Perillo stated they are changing the day to day operations a little bit. On Friday May 13, 2005, two positions of Crew chief were posted. The Crew Chief would be responsible for the day to day operations, restocking/reordering of supplies, handling administrative tasks. Interviews will start the second week of June and the positions should start by July 1, 2005.

Chairman McGorty asked if he thought there would be many internal applicants and if the position would report to the daytime supervisor. Chief Perillo stated he expected many applicants and they would be reporting to the daytime supervisor.

Chief Perillo stated that he and Joe Laucella would be acting as co-chairs for the 2006 Relay for Life. They have received many positive responses from the community. The next Relay meeting will be June 7 at 7 p.m. at the Ambulance headquarters. There will be segment on Fox 61 News at 10 p.m. on Friday May 20 re: Echo Hose and the Relay for Life.

Chief Perillo stated the plant sale went very well, better than in the past. The EHAC Open House will be this Saturday, May 21, 2005, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. It will now be done every other year. Chairman McGorty asked what the reasoning was for that. Chief Perillo stated that May is a very busy month because of the Shelton High School Mock Crash. It will be easier to alternate between the two every other year.

Chairman McGorty asked if he was still advising Seymour Ambulance. Chief Perillo stated he was. They are in the process of interviewing candidates this Wednesday and Thursday. He has also been active in their Bylaws and Constitution changes. There were several weaknesses there, but they have been rectified.

Chief Perillo stated EHAC will have an ambulance in Seymour tomorrow, Tuesday May 17 to cover while they do their mock crash for Seymour High School.

Commissioner Coughlin asked if there is still a plan in the works for an EHAC Board of Directors. Chief Perillo stated there was an Executive Committee meeting last Tuesday where it was discussed. Chief Perillo would like to see multi year staggering of terms. He stated the future of EHAC is very important and they need to plan for that future.

Chairman McGorty asked if there was anything going on with the Yellow Dot Program that required Echo Hose involvement. Chief Perillo stated that Joe Laucella sits on the Yellow Dot committee, is involved and up to date. Chairman McGorty stated she will check with him.

Chairman McGorty asked how training is going in re: to Homeland Security. Chief Perillo stated that he has 3 people signed up for Train the Trainer in Hartford.

Chairman McGorty asked if there was anything they owed to Charlene DeFilippo for the CT DHS Grant. Chief Perillo stated that there will probably be about \$120,000 to spend. Hopeful that the city will be fair in the distribution of funds to all emergency services, Chairman McGorty stated she is looking onto when the next meeting will be. She doesn't think it should wait. Chairman McGorty also learned that the Communications the Mayor had hoped to pay for through the Homeland Security Grant can't be done. Chief Perillo stated because there is no inter-operability with them so DHS will not fund it.

Commissioner Coughlin asked if Pitney Bowes has come across. Chief Perillo stated he should have a contract in hand this week. The install needs to be through New England Communications because they are familiar with the system.

Update from VEMS

Chief Perillo stated that the City has funded VEMS \$50,000 -- \$20,000 for the expansion of services and \$30,000 for bundle billing. Chief Perillo is working with Echo Hose's billing agent to get them prepared for bundle billing; hopeful they will be ready by July 1.

Chief Perillo stated VEMS is looking to add staff. Shelton is the only City who has committed formally. Verbal agreements have been made by Seymour and Oxford, Mayor Della Volpe is very interested but is not responsible for setting the budget and derby is up in the air.

Commissioner Coughlin asked if this is an all or nothing deal. Chief Perillo stated that it should be to be fair, but he would hate to see this not happen because of one or two towns, it's too important.

Commissioner Coughlin asked if VEMS and bundle billing budget items are fixed for the future or going to be rethought each year. Chief Perillo stated that there should be minor fluctuation with the \$20,000. With the bundle billing, not sure, you never know what Medicare is going to do.

Old Business

Communications

Chairman McGorty wanted to understand where we are with communications. Have they received the equipment they are waiting to install or are we on hold?

Chief Perillo stated he's spoken with New England Communications and they have 4 purchase orders and know what is needed.

Commissioner Coughlin and Chairman McGorty asked what the hold up is. Chief Perillo stated that he's not sure where we stand on the purchase orders. Chairman McGorty stated that the Mayor knows they will not be covered under Homeland Security and need to be put through. She tried to check with the Finance Dept. today, but they were not available. Chairman McGorty and Clerk will check with Sharon Scanlon to find out the status.

Chairman McGorty stated that \$2,500 was successfully moved from the Maintenance account to the Communications Equipment account and needs to be addressed. Current report is not available to see what the balances are. Finance will be contacted for the current reports to see if funds are encumbered.

Report of Chairman

Chairman McGorty stated she will be resubmitting the meeting schedule to the Town Clerk to move the meetings to City Hall.

Report of Commissioners

Commissioner Coughlin questioned if they are supposed to be periodically given the membership listing. Chief Perillo stated he would update the online version and also bring a copy to next months meeting.

Chairman McGorty stated that the meeting agendas and minutes would now be posted online, (after appropriate review/approval).

Adjournment

MOTION made by Commissioner Francino-Quinn to adjourn meeting at 8:55 p.m., seconded By Commissioner Coughlin and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Minopoli, Clerk EMS Commission