



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
EMS Commission

Minutes of the Special Meeting
August 16, 2006

Chairman McGorty called the regular meeting of the EMS Commission to order at 7:34 p.m. All those present rose and pledged allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present

Noreen McGorty, Chairman
Karynn Krill-Weinstein
Jay Francino-Quinn
Nancy Minotti

Also Present

Jason Perillo, Chief EHAC

Public Portion – None

Minutes for Approval

MOTION made by Commissioner Francino-Quinn to approve the Minutes of June 19, 2006 as prepared and distributed, seconded by Commissioner Minotti and passed unanimously.

Correspondence Stroke protocols, Richard Arsenault Retirement Party Invitation

Update from EHAC and VEMS

Chief Perillo prepared the following report for the Commissioners:

August Status Report

The below bullet points are the substantive items for report as of this date. I am available for questions via phone should any commissioners have an urgent question.

1. COMMUNICATIONS
 - a. Installation of all pertinent equipment has been accomplished at Pitney Bowes.
 - b. Testing complete.
 - c. We are in the process of tracking down the appropriate party at SBC to move phone lines from PB to NH and also to remove one line at the police department which is no longer required.

2. TRAINING
 - a. SUMMER EMT:
 - i. The Summer EMT class began on June 27 and is going very well. The class is well-engaged.
 - b. FALL EMT:
 - i. The fall EMT class will begin at the end of September.
 - c. HIGH SCHOOL EMT:
 - i. As of the end of the school year we had 13 students enrolled in the class.

3. HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT
 - a. We have taken delivery of our two MCI kits, medical shelter tents, 3 new AED's for first responder deployment, and assorted reference materials.
 - b. We have formally requested eight GPS units for our fleet. Funding would come out of remaining 2005 funds, though other agencies have requests as well.

4. CALL VOLUME:

	Jan-05	Feb-05	Mar-05	Apr-05	May-05
Total calls	331	305	313	287	322
EHAC Calls	309	288	295	272	303
Private	6	10	5	3	11
Mutual Aid	22	17	18	15	15**
W/E Tactical MA					13*
Day calls	152	146	161	144	157
Volunteer calls	157	142	134	143	142
Avg. response time	5.5	4.95	5.75	5.05	4.86
Calls per day	6.9	7.3	7.0	7.2	6.8

* Four calls done by Derby, nine calls done by Shelton

** Excludes those calls done by the Tactical MA unit

CALL VOLUME NOTES:

- Private calls:
 - There were eleven private calls during the month – it remains a problem. We are unable to track the full response time impact of this as the data from the commercial providers is not available to us.
- Mutual aid calls for May (15 total):
 - Daytime (M-F): 2
 - Daytime (weekend): 0 - all covered by EHAC and the tactical MA unit
 - Evening (M-F): 5
 - Evening (weekend): 0 - all covered by EHAC and the tactical MA unit
 - Overnights (M-F): 3
 - Overnights (weekend): 5

5. STAFF UPDATE

- a. One of our crew chiefs, Paul Wilson, left EHAC to take a new position with the New Canaan Fire Department. We wish him well.
- b. We have posted the position, received resumes and are beginning the interview process this week.
- c. We received a high number of resumes, which is a testament to the work environment encouraged by the daytime staff leadership.

END OF REPORT

Commissioner Krill-Weinstein asked if the High School students get credit for the class.

Chief Perillo stated that they do.

Commissioner Minotti asked if the students have to take the class throughout their 4 years.

Chief Perillo stated that they only have to take the class once.

Chairman McGorty asked if there were any internal applicants.

Chief Perillo stated that there were 4 internal applicants and that all 10 were excellent candidates.

In Re: to VEMS, Commissioner Krill-Weinstein questioned the financial possibility of adding an additional 2 vehicles.

Chief Perillo stated that the 2 are not related. Whether VEMS gets 2 more cars is not related to its increase in staffing. However, in order to increase its staffing, they need 2 more cars. Right now, VEMS is not able to adequately serve the Valley. There are about 100 passed calls per year. With Shelton, Oxford and Seymour becoming busier, the need to disperse the vehicles throughout the service area has gone up. VEMS has budgeted this year to add 1 additional 24 hour paramedic. They expect to pick up 90% of those passed calls. That additional revenue, plus the money they get from the towns will offset the increase in staffing costs. Historically in Shelton there has only been a paramedic available during the day. Now there will be one 24 hours a day. The application has been sent to the South Central Regional Commission and Barbara Martin has contacted the Commission members for their opinion. It is also before the State of Connecticut.

Chairman McGorty asked if that was for additional paramedics.

Chief Perillo said yes, to add 2 additional paramedic units. There is a public hearing the last week of August that he will be attending with Jerry Schwab. The Regional decision doesn't really mean anything, but the State will reference that decision.

Commissioner Krill-Weinstein suggested that Chief Perillo send that information to Barbara Martin.

Chief Perillo stated that Barbara Martin was copied in his e-mail to Commissioner Krill-Weinstein

Chairman McGorty stated that the information should come from Commissioner Krill-Weinstein as the Shelton representative. Being that Shelton is directly affected, she should send an e-mail stating you support it and the reasons why.

Chief Perillo stated he will prepare some thoughts for Commissioner Krill-Weinstein.

Commissioner Francino-Quinn asked if there had been any talk of perhaps going from 2 units to 4 units.

Chief Perillo stated that is a very complex discussion for another day. It creates a whole new tier of operational challenges as far as staffing and staffing costs. You need to make sure there is an Intermediate on every truck, not just an EMT. It is something they are interested in and can discuss further at another date.

Chief Perillo asked if it was still practical to bill the First responder program monthly, or if it should be done once or twice a year.

Chairman McGorty stated that she thought it would be easier for EHAC to have a constant inflow of \$5000 on a monthly basis for revenue purposes.

Chief Perillo stated that it really doesn't matter.

Commissioner McGorty stated that she would rather bill it on a quarterly basis. Chief Perillo agreed.

New Business None

Payment of Bills

AT&T in the amount of \$424.54, consistent with past months.

Aquarion Water Co. in the amount of \$150.31, consistent with past months.

Yankee Gas in the amount of \$182.94, consistent with past months.

CMED- Chairman McGorty stated that we owe for the month of July 2006 \$5,106.01.

MOTION made by Commissioner Francino-Quinn to pay CMED invoice for July 2006 in the amount of \$5,106.01, seconded by Commissioner Minotti and passed unanimously.

Commissioner McGorty stated that July is the first month in the new fiscal year. She will check and make sure that we have budgeted enough to cover the year so we don't run into the problem we had last year.

Commissioner Francino-Quinn asked why it is not a consistent amount.

Chairman McGorty stated they use a formula that takes into consideration the volume of towns and number of calls. She will have the information for the next meeting.

CMED Dispatch Report

Chairman McGorty stated that we have the months of June and July to review.

Chairman McGorty asked if there were any questions re: specific calls. There were none.

Chairman McGorty stated that generally speaking, everything looks great and coincides with Jason's report. Chairman McGorty doesn't do a of ours vs. Chief Perillo's. With all the Commissioners going through the reports, we would get a feel if the data was inaccurate.

Commissioner Francino-Quinn stated that he monitors calls on a regular basis and has been very impressed.

Commissioner Krill-Weinstein asked if Commercial vehicles ever transfer private calls to Echo hose.

Commissioner Francino-Quinn stated that they would if it is an emergency 911 call.

Chairman McGorty stated that would be done through CMED. There have been problems in the past with them not passing the calls.

Commissioner Francino-Quinn stated that there had been, but in monitoring the calls, there has been a big improvement.

Commissioner Krill-Weinstein stated that she noticed there really aren't many AMR calls on the report.

Commissioner Krill-Weinstein asked if Echo Hose covers Stratford for mutual aid. Are we that well staffed that we can do that?

Chairman McGorty stated that it is probably on a case by case basis, but she will ask Chief Perillo what the protocol is.

Commissioner Francino-Quinn stated that Stratford needing mutual aid from Shelton is slim to none. They tend to utilize Nelson ambulance.

Chairman McGorty stated that Echo hose is always willing to help if they need it.

Report of Chairman

Chairman McGorty stated that the new Commissioner, Beth Tiberio will be joining us at the next meeting.

Chairman McGorty stated that for the current fiscal year, we need to set some goals to focus on. Outside of Echo hose, which we will never loose focus on, we should pay more attention to VEMS. Shelton contributes money to the service and we should be a little more involved. We may want to have one of the Commissioners attend the VEMS meetings.

Also, we need to continue our focus on communications. We are in a great position and we should make sure we don't lose that. One of the Commissioners may want to meet with Echo Hose to find out where we are and where we need to go. We have a phased in plan that we agreed on 2 years ago and it's time to step back and do a little review. We need to make sure we use our budget wisely. We have one of the best communications systems in the City and we need to make sure we stay there.

Commissioner McGorty would like the Commissioners to think about these for the next meeting. Also, if they have any other goals in mind to think about them and be prepared to speak on the topic at the next meeting. We should also not lose sight of our public service outreach program. That should be part of our focus that someone might be interested in spending some time.

Commissioner Krill-Weinstein asked if it has to be one person or can it be two?

Chairman McGorty stated that it doesn't, she's open to anything. These things will require time and there will be meetings to attend. That's why an answer is not necessary tonight; take time to think about it.

Report of Commissioners

Francino-Quinn stated that at the last meeting, the question of stroke protocols came up. He did some research and found that Hartford hospital has a very aggressive Stroke Clinic and a stroke protocol for Emergency personnel. The protocol was handed out.

Commissioner Minotti asked if the local hospitals follow these protocols.

Commissioner Francino-Quinn stated that they each have their own protocols. What one hospital does is not necessarily what the other does. There are no specific regional protocols.

Commissioner Krill-Weinstein asked if it was still standard to transport a stable patient to the hospital of their choice.

Commissioner Francino-Quinn stated that it was. The paramedics can also call the hospital to get advice on where the best facility would be in re: to the patient's condition.

Commissioner Minotti asked if the paramedic can make the decision in the case of a severe accident to call for a helicopter.

Commissioner Francino-Quinn stated that they do, but it is usually the supervisor who makes that decision.

Commissioner Krill-Weinstein stated that she attended a South Central EMS meeting re: the reorganization.

Chairman McGorty asked in re: to Barbara Martin?

Commissioner Krill-Weinstein stated that it is still very confusing as to what the State wants. No one is really sure.

Chairman McGorty asked if the State is looking for feedback on how they should run South Central or is the State deciding and you just don't understand what they decided.

Commissioner Krill-Weinstein stated that she doesn't know what the State decided. They do have a say in how the future of South Central would be. Either paid personnel for the region and go directly to the state, or using our South Central Commission and keeping it the way it is.

Chairman McGorty asked if the State is saying that because the South Central Council doesn't have deciding powers, why do we have that separate group. She doesn't understand why the State would pay people to do this when they don't have deciding power?

Commissioner Krill-Weinstein stated South Central felt the same way. No one really understands what the State wants. If Barbara Martin is moved to a paid position, who will run the South Central region?

Chairman McGorty asked who is trying to get those answers.

Commissioner Francino-Quinn questioned why did the State decide a restructuring was necessary? Did they feel that they weren't doing enough?

Commissioner Krill-Weinstein stated that there are 40 towns and only 10 people show up to the meetings.

Chairman McGorty stated that they may be saying from a business standpoint there are 40 towns and it was value added when someone from each of those towns shared information. If there are only 10 of the 40, that's not a good enough sample to make decisions from. Do we need them? What kind of power do they have?

Chairman McGorty asked what is next for the Council.

Commissioner Krill-Weinstein stated that she didn't know. There hasn't been any information since that meeting.

Chairman McGorty asked if anyone from the last meeting is trying to get the answers that they need.

Commissioner Krill-Weinstein stated she will follow up on that for the next meeting.

Adjournment-

MOTION made by Francino-Quinn to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Minotti and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by: Karen Minopoli, Clerk, EMS Commission