



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
EMS Commission

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Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
May 15, 2006

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Chairman McGorty called the regular meeting of the EMS Commission to order at 7:30 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 March 20, 2006 as prepared and distributed, seconded by Commissioner Krill-Weinstein and passed unanimously.

**Correspondence**

Yankee Stadium Bus Trip, June 11, 2006, Heart Safe Community News release.

**Update from EHAC and VEMS**

Chief Perillo stated that they are ahead of schedule with the Communications change over. There are a few areas that are of concern, but they are going to try it anyways. A remote receiver would relieve this problem, but it was not allotted for in the budget. They are waiting for SBC to move some phone lines, and are looking to go forward with this in early June.

Chairman McGorty asked what impact this has on the fire department with their equipment.

Chief Perillo stated that they did not need any new equipment for the trucks, their current equipment will be reprogrammed. They will continue to cross patch and send out over both systems for a while.

Chairman McGorty asked Chief Perillo to ensure that the Fire Department was notified of the changeover ahead of time and to reiterate that they would continue to cross patch for a period of time.

Commissioner Francino-Quinn stated that he is very impressed with the coverage of the new system.

Chief Perillo stated that areas they were concerned about, such as Huntington Center, Pine Rock Park and Indian Wells State Park have not been a problem. Summer EMT Classes are planned for July 5. People who just completed the standard EMT class will begin testing at the State level in a few weeks.

Chairman McGorty stated that she would like to know how they perform on those tests.

Chief Perillo stated he will let her know. There is a new EMT Instructor, John Digiacomo. He recently ran a refresher course which everyone passed. There are 3 others that will be undergoing Instructor training. They are really focusing on the training aspects.

Chief Perillo stated that they are squared away with the Homeland Security Grant. The equipment has been ordered and they are awaiting delivery.

Chief Perillo stated that the call volume numbers for April were low. The private calls from nursing homes have been steadily declining. There were only 3 for the month of April. They are continuing to work with the nursing homes on the protocols of calling 911 vs. private ambulance service. There were 15 mutual aid calls, 8 were during the overnight hours.

Chief Perillo stated that the weekend mutual aid program is underway. It has been very successful. The participating towns have been very cooperative and there have been no problems.

Chairman McGorty asked Chief Perillo to clarify how the program works.

Chief Perillo stated that there is an additional ambulance available on weekends that is either an Echo Hose or Derby Storm Ambulance. It is posted in the Derby Shop Rite Plaza for logistic purposes, very easy access to the surrounding areas.

CMED is onboard with this; they have dispatched it well and been very supportive of the initiative.

Chief Perillo stated that he has been keeping an eye on the Avian Flu. He has been in touch with Naugatuck Valley Health to speak with Jason Bashura, their Emergency Management Coordinator. Chief Perillo attended a seminar given by President Bush's Assistant for homeland Security re: the Avian Flu. This brought several concerns to his attention that he would like to concentrate on.

Commissioner Krill-Weinstein asked if there have been any cases identified in the US.

Chief Perillo stated that there have not. The concern however is with the amount of world travel that it could make its way over here.

Chief Perillo stated that he is also keeping an eye on the potential for flooding. Right now there is no concern, but he is closely watching the reports.

Commissioner Minotti asked about the potential for the reservoirs overflowing.

Chief Perillo stated that has never been an issue and the Hydraulic Company can control the level of water in the reservoirs if the need arises.

Commissioner Krill-Weinstein stated that she really likes the call volume numbers report that Chief Perillo has put together.

Chief Perillo stated that he will continue to include that monthly.

Chairman McGorty asked Chief Perillo for an update on VEMS.

Chief Perillo stated that the new contract they were waiting on with AMR has been completed. They are working on logistics with AMR on the number of paramedics available and who has hospital clearance. VEMS is working on adding new vehicles to the fleet, but that could take awhile. The supervisor is in place during the day. They do not have the 2<sup>nd</sup> paramedic for the overnights and a 3<sup>rd</sup> paramedic on for the day yet.

Chairman McGorty asked if there was a goal for that to take place.

Chief Perillo stated that it would probably be at the end of summer.

**Old Business** None

**New Business** None

**Payment of Bills**

ATT in the amount of \$376.65, consistent with past months.

Yankee Gas in the amount of \$626.30, consistent with past months.

Aquarion Water Co. in the amount of \$152.36, consistent with past months.

EHAC -Chairman McGorty stated that we owe \$5,000 for the month of April for the Echo Hose First Responder program.

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Francino-Quinn to approve payment of the EHAC Invoice for the month of April in the amount of \$5,000 seconded by Commissioner Krill-Weinstein and passed unanimously.

EHAC -Chairman McGorty stated that we owe \$5,000 for the month of May for the Echo Hose First Responder program.

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Francino-Quinn to approve payment of the EHAC Invoice for the month of May in the amount of \$5,000 seconded by Commissioner Krill-Weinstein and passed unanimously.

EHAC- for member EMT class reimbursement per contract for Cindy Butkus in the amount of \$400 and Jocelyn Butkus in the amount of \$400.

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Francino-Quinn to approve payment of the EHAC invoice for a total of \$800, seconded by Commissioner Krill-Weinstein and passed unanimously.

CMED- Chairman McGorty stated that we owe for the month of April \$5,291.58.

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Francino-Quinn to pay CMED invoice in the amount of \$5,291.58, seconded by Commissioner Krill-Weinstein and passed unanimously.

VEEMS-payment for bundle billing in conjunction with Senior Citizen ALS payment relief for residents of the City of Shelton for FY 2005-2006 in the amount of \$30,000.

Commissioner Francino-Quinn asked for clarification on what this is for.

Chief Perillo stated that Medicare does not pay for paramedic intercept services. Seniors were getting a bill that they couldn't pay and were refusing to

call 911 in the event of a future emergency, which is a very dangerous situation. This has been set up to help pay the ambulance bills that they can not afford.

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Francino-Quinn to pay the VEMS invoice in the amount of \$30,000, seconded by Commissioner Minotti and passed unanimously.

### **CMED Dispatch Reports**

Chairman McGorty stated that we have the months of March and April to review. She had walked Commissioner Minotti thru the CMED dispatch report and how it operates. The Commissioners get the report 2-3 weeks prior to the meeting and have time to prepare any questions re: specific calls.

Chairman McGorty stated she has no specific calls to review.

Commissioner Francino-Quinn stated he had no specific calls, but did have one concern re: CMED. He has monitored calls that the crews have had to call CMED several times before they get a response and it really disturbs him.

Chief Perillo stated that it is a common occurrence and it is something that all of the Chief's are aware of. Chief Perillo stated that he has a good safety net in place with supervisors monitoring calls. There are a few ways to deal with this. One is to work with CMED to provide better service. The second option is to use another CMED system. Another option is to go back to dispatch by the police department. The last option is to work with other departments and towns and do a regional dispatch system. These are all things to think about and continue talking about monthly.

Commissioner Minotti asked what CMED means.

Chief Perillo stated it is for Central Medical Emergency Dispatch. There are a number of CMED centers through the state. Shelton is in the South Central CMED region. As the system has gotten busier, South Central CMED has not gotten bigger. Unfortunately the quality of service has waned. The big issue is that crews sometimes need help confirming an address, a location, or get a cross street. If those calls are not answered, it is a problem.

### **Report of Chairman**

Chairman McGorty stated she would like to mention the Relay for Life and have Chief Perillo give an update.

Chief Perillo stated that the Relay is taking place June 3 and 4<sup>th</sup>. They are making a lot of progress and have many teams in place. He encourages everyone to stop by and visit.

### **Report of Commissioners**

Commissioner Krill-Weinstein stated she attended the South Central EMS meeting. She provided some information re: a focus group planned for ambulance service providers by the Commission for Fire Prevention Control. She also attended a Household Antibiotic Dispensing Program training session on April 19. It went well and was very organized. It was held to rehearse the protocols in the event of an outbreak of pneumonic plague. There are some concerns of cross-contaminating non-ill individuals. A possible solution to this would be to have people stay in their cars and be directed to different areas, keeping the interaction to a minimum.

Commissioner Francino-Quinn questioned who would be responsible for storing the medication, checking expiration dates, etc.

Chief Perillo stated the question is what the EMS role is and there really isn't one other than to stand by for transports. There have been discussions in the past in re: to events like this using Shelton High School as a shelter and the EMS role discussed was to stand by.

Chairman McGorty welcomed Nancy Minotti to the Commission. She will be a great addition to the team!

### **Adjournment-**

**MOTION** made by Francino-Quinn to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Krill-Weinstein and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by: Karen Minopoli, Clerk, EMS Commission