

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT**

Trumbull Emergency Medical
Service Commission

William Schietinger, Chairman



TEMS
250 Middlebrooks Avenue
Trumbull, CT 0661
203-452-5146

Joseph Laucella, Chief

Trumbull Emergency Medical Service Commission Meeting
July 28, 2015 7:00 pm
Trumbull EMS Headquarters

Present: Chairman William Schietinger; Commissioners Matthew Wheeler, Diane Mayo, Joel Hirshfield, Dr. Shea Gregg

Also present: Chief Joseph Laucella

Absent: Commissioners Philip Lukianuk and Thomas Kiely, Jr.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Schietinger at 7:12 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Past Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Hirshfield, to approve the minutes of June 23, 2015 as written. Ms. Mayo requested clarification of a line on Page 2, first paragraph – Chief Laucella noted this could be an option but the town would need to agree to all that would be involved. Mr. Schietinger noted that there are a lot of stipulations in running your own paramedics and the town would need to be on board with that. Chief Laucella noted it would include worker's comp and different types of liabilities including malpractice. Ms. Mayo abstained as she was not present; all other approved the motion.

Old Business

Mr. Schietinger noted over the last few months there has been much discussion at the state level regarding the Medicaid/Medicare crossover. After discussions, it seems to be going in the right direction. The DPH and OPM have agreed to eliminate the Medicaid/Medicare crossover for billing purposes at the same time. That 20% crossover would have been eliminated and the EMS services would not have been able to collect. A plan was discussed with Aetna through the CT Ambulance Association, AMR and Chief's Association (all three fought for this). It was agreed to eliminate the crossover and then increase the ambulance rates on the UCR side. Right now

OPM and DPH are agreeable to it. The increases were targeted for July 15, 2015 but he did not think they made that deadline. This deal works out for those services that do emergent Medicaid trips. The services that don't do emergent Medicaid trips, their rates will be decreasing.

At TEMS, we will have to wait to see what the rates will be and we may have to refile for that change. At this point, things can still change. The EMS services would stand to lose \$6 million dollars across the state with that cut so this is a huge save. Hospitals would have lost millions also.

Chief's Report

Chief Laucella distributed his report and noted the following:

1. The final budget numbers are not in, but last year we brought in \$1.24 million which falls short approximately \$18,000 from the \$1.26 million projected. We will probably turn back into the town budget approximately \$35-45,000. We saw an increase in Medicare and a decrease in BC/BS which can explain the revenue numbers. Our July deposits to date have been \$125,000 with one deposit due the end of the week.
2. The second paramedic is going well. For the month so far, we have utilized one ALS intercept as compared to last July when we had 18 intercepts. Thirteen of the eighteen were done during the weekday hours, which is when the second paramedic now covers. We should see some additional revenue from this coverage. 307 calls to date.
3. Ambulance Status – for the last month, the service has been down to two ambulances due to major repairs, body work and delays at the repair facilities. At one point, the service was down to one ambulance. There was a recurring problem with 901. At this time, there is no bonded funding for replacing 901. This funding may need to be considered in the budget preparation this fall. New ambulance is expected to arrive the week of August 10 which will relieve some of the stress.
4. Graphics for the new ambulance will be done prior to its arrival in CT. The Finance Department approved the request to forgo the three quotes as this graphics company gave us a very good price. The local company has been difficult to contact.
5. The ambulance has been wired for radios and will be sent directly to Northeastern Communications for installation of equipment when it arrives. Inspection dates have been set up.
6. Commissioner Kiely was instrumental in securing pricing from PC Richardson for several items discussed at the last meeting.
7. Ride along programs are going well. UNH will be starting their program in the fall which, hopefully, will be a source of volunteers through their paramedical program. AMR ride time starts next week. Easton has completed their ride time. The Trumbull students have now started to ride.
8. The Vibes is scheduled to start on Thursday. Additional overnight crews are being requested for Thursday, Friday and Saturday to help with call volume.

New Business

1. Chief Laucella noted that an agreement was made with Vintech to supply instructors for the EMT class at Trumbull. Lead instructor receives \$30/hr and instructors for practicals receive \$25/hr. All class fees are deposited into the Special Agency Account and all class expenses have been paid from that account in the past. The Finance Department has

requested the Commission approve the expenditure of funds from the Special Agency Account to cover the invoices for the instructors. We deposited \$10,000 in class fees and have a total of \$9,725 in expenses. The Chief requested approval up to \$8,000 for the eight week course for instructor fees. An additional fee for the state proctor of \$125.00 will also be required. Motion was made by Ms. Mayo to approve up to \$8,000 for instructor fees and \$200 for the state proctor. Motion seconded by Mr. Wheeler and approved unanimously.

2. Barbara Crandall noted there are currently 8 volunteers who are eligible for the tax abatement for 2014. Two additional member's hours are being reviewed. There is a 40 shift/120 hour minimum to be eligible. Discussion was held by the commission as to whether they should review and revise the current requirements. Chief Laucella noted he is working on a revised procedure for their review. Approval was tabled until hour verification has been completed.
3. Chief Laucella distributed several draft policies for the commission to review for the next meeting. He noted he is working on completing a Standard Operating Booklet which will include the new rehab policy for the fire departments. This is currently being reviewed by the EMS Coordinator at Bridgeport Hospital. When this is completed, it will be distributed to the three fire departments.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Hirshfield, seconded by Ms. Mayo, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Executive Administrative Assistant

These minutes are considered a draft until approved at the next meeting of the TEMS Commission.