Minutes of the EDIT Meeting of September 10, 2026
Town Hall, Trumbull

Present: Jonathan Tropp, Chair; David Rosenburg, Rodney Gray, Samantha Miller
Absent: Challa Flemming, Rick Bolton, Chris Powell
Also Present: James Cordone, Town of Trumbull Attorney (via telephone); Jennifer Winschel, Town Council Liaison; Colin Bassett, Chief of Emergency Medical Services, Town of Trumbull; Joanne Glasser Orenstein, Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Tropp at 7:35

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Roll Call was completed.

There was no correspondence.

No Public Comment.

Ms. Miller made a motion to approve the August minutes, Mr. Rosenburg seconded. Mr. Tropp made two corrections, to remove the second “H” in Ms. Flemming’s first name and the second “L” in Ms. Winschel’s last name. Ms. Miller seconded the amended motion. VOTE: All in favor of the two corrections. VOTE on the motion as amended: Mr. Tropp and Mr. Rosenburg in favor; Mr. Gray and Ms. Miller abstained.

New Business

Mr. Tropp thanked Mr. Bassett for coming. Mr. Bassett will be Chief of EMS for three years in November. He was a Paramedic for 13 years in Greenwich and has been in Emergency Medicine for 20.

He considers the general public’s lack of understanding of what EMS does to be an obstacle, but that is understandable since it has only been established for about 50 years. It was established in 1973 by Congress, and the orange and blue Star of Life was then created by the Department of Transportation.

The department are not all volunteers; it is run like a business. Mr. Bassett manages the budget. It is a Town department. He also does the purchasing, payroll, hiring, and billing. They run certified ambulances.

He does a lot of data analysis regarding crew performance, response times, calls requiring mutual aid (support from other towns). He has added an additional paramedic at night, resulting in the need for less mutual aid, thus saving the Town money. 5% or less mutual aid is the goal. All the ambulances are at Middlebrooks, well situated in the middle of Town; the goal is under 8 minutes to call.

He is proud to now have whole blood on the ambulances, as there are certain emergencies where saline is not enough as it can't carry oxygen. The blood comes from Bridgeport Hospital.

Patients have the right to refuse care.

The staff gets a couple dozen hours of continuing education each year, a lot on special populations; some cultural or ethnic groups specifically refuse care. Mr. Bassett believes in never forgetting the humanity of everyone you're dealing with.

The most common calls are falls and shortness of breath and are mostly elderly from nursing homes or places with people with lots of co-morbidities.

They have 7 full-time paramedics, 7 EMTs, 2 Captains, a lot of volunteers, plus part-time and per diem EMTs. People apply from all over the state and outside. Trumbull is a desirable place to work. Full-time employees are in the National Association of Paramedics and go through the Civil Service. Part-time people include Field Training Officers.

They do a lot of work with the Police Department, the Fire Department, and other departments like TPAUD.

They get a lot of reimbursements from Medicaid and Medicare. The department bills.

The EMT is an entry-level position into emergency medicine after 3-6 months of training. A Paramedic has 1-2 years of school, a lot more hours include on depth training in cardiology; they can intubate people and give medications. There is no emergency a paramedic can't handle.

Ambulances may carry any combination of two paramedics or EMTs, depending on the call. They currently have 4 operational ambulances and 2 fly cars. Fly cars can carry equipment but not patients.

They do training on emotionally charged situations regularly, with the PD, with the PD Social worker. They are mandated reporters.

911 determines who is dispatched.

1 paramedic is a person of color, one captain is. The ratio of men and women is pretty even.

They have used NARCAN for 40 years. The incidence of overdoses has decreased somewhat after a high during COVID. They see suicide infrequently but memorably. There is a higher rate of attempts in the winter, during the holidays.

They do health fairs at the schools and recently did a CPR training at the High School.

Old Business:

Survey

Mr. Tropp reported he sent the survey to Cindy Katske for assistance with distribution. Once distribution is in motion, he will reach out to Dr. Semmel to request distribution assistance through the school system, as well as to the Trumbull Times.

Book Club

The next book club meeting is during Banned Book Week on October 5, “Good Talk” by Myra Jacobs, which is often a banned book. The Library has the books.

Adjournment: Mr. Rosenburg made a motion and Ms. Miller seconded. VOTE: All in favor at 8:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Glasser Orenstein, Clerk
September 12