



City of Ansonia

253 Main Street
Ansonia, Connecticut 06401

ANSONIA RESCUE MEDICAL SERVICES COMMISSION

June 6, 2011

Regular Meeting

Present: Jerome Fainer, Chairman
Steve Blume
Dave Geloso

Absent: Scott Nihill

Others Present: Jared Heon, Acting EMS Acct. Exec.
Ed Adamowski, Alderman
Ron Burgess, Fire Chief - arrived 6:20 p.m.
Gene Sharkey, Alderman

The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Rescue Medical Services Commission was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Fainer.

There was a quorum present.

All present rose and Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

Deviate from the Agenda

Chairman Fainer asked to deviate from the agenda to discuss an e-mail that was sent out over the weekend.

Commissioner Blume made a motion to deviate from the agenda. Commissioner Geloso seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Commissioner Blume said after the Fire Commissioner's meeting there was discussion regarding putting some rescue equipment on the fire vehicles. He said Chief Burgess said to contact Jared and tell him the Fire Dept. was putting a set of "Jaws" on the Eagles truck. He said he did not notify anyone that the Fire Dept. was going to be switching equipment - it was his fault and he

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apologizes for not notifying Jared or ARMS – he has had a lot going on and he was not feeling well and therefore he forgot to call Jared. He is sorry for the confusion and what happened.

Commissioner Blume also stated that the e-mail was a “bad” thing to do. He said that he does not want to have ARMS go backward and be like it was before. Everything has been running smoothly, there are no complaints, we purchased a new ambulance and he wants the organization to continue to move forward and not backward. He said he feels the e-mail should not have been sent and that Commissioner Geloso should have picked up the telephone and called him.

Commissioner Geloso said this is the first time in 25 years that I went on a vacation and I get a message that you are removing equipment from Rescue 2. The last meeting I had it was not discussed. No one picked up the phone to call me and tell me. I am here for the betterment of ARMS. There seems to be a lot of oversight.

Commissioner Blume said the last meeting with the five Fire Chiefs and two commissioners I thought that was the way it was going to go. I am sorry I forgot to call you.

Alderman Sharkey said there was discussion on the equipment from Rescue 2 and several Chiefs wanted to put it on the trucks. The majority wanted to remove the equipment and ARMS would train the individual fire companies. The first responsibility is to get the Ansonia Fire Dept. equipment out and we are running a squad and engine to every car accident. It was decided after the Fire Commissioner’s meeting to take a couple of tools from Rescue 2 for vehicle extrication and put it on Engine 6. A set would be put on Engine 4 because it is closest to Route 8. We are changing our way of doing things. The Fire Dept. will be handling the rescue.

The commissioners and those in attendance continued the discussion on the involvement of the volunteers with regard to ARMS rescue services. ARMS says that they would like to leave everything as is because the rescue is why the volunteers get involved. They feel they would lose their volunteers if the rescue was gone. During a call the fire department is calling for their own equipment – two engines and a squad with two tools will go out on a call. They have to pick up manpower on the way because they don’t want a lot of vehicles on Rt. 8. Pick up points have to be designated so volunteers will know where to go for pick up. If the Rescue Truck is needed the Fire Dept. will call.

There is concern that if the fire truck is called out and the rescue truck is called out that there will not be enough people to respond on those vehicles. The ARMS personnel stated they want to make sure that someone will be getting the Rescue equipment to go to the scene and there is no confusion as to who will get the equipment – the Fire Dept. or ARMS. This should be set down in a policy so everyone knows what is happening.

The discussion continued as to who will respond to the call if there is a need for an extrication. If the ambulance is dispatched and there is a need to extricate from a vehicle another truck with a second crew will be dispatched. Will there be availability for a second crew for Rescue. Mr. Heon said that they will have to move people to where they are qualified. He said there was protocol three years ago as to how the Rescue would be done.

Chairman Fainer said the Fire Department is taking over the Rescue and Chief Adamowski will make the decisions.

Alderman Sharkey said this is not done in a threatening manner; it is in the best interest of the five Chiefs who are taking responsibility in doing what they have to do. He said he just spent \$2000 to have someone look at the tools. They said it would cost \$6000 to put them back in shape. There is \$4000 worth of hose and it is leaking. He asked why when there have been funds to maintain this equipment.

Commissioner Blume said there is \$80,000 for Rescue. He asked what did ARMS fix. The jaws and rams are no good. They said the ram is no good because of lack of use. He asked why ARMS needs four Jaws.

Mike Hokanson said Rescue is in the best interest of the Fire Dept. No one said we are coming down to ARMS to get the equipment on Saturday. Andrew was on call and Doc was on vacation. We had no notice and it didn't look good. You had a meeting and all you had to do was pick up the phone and tell us.

Commissioner Blume said I apologize, that was my fault. I forgot to call to tell you.

Mike Hokanson said who communicates? There is no communication from anyone.

Eileen Krugel said she respects everything that ARMS and the Fire Dept. are doing but she would like to address the letter from Doc. She is speaking on behalf of her step-son. She said she is offended by what was said in the letter because it puts a bad light on him and he was volunteering. She asked who the recipients of the letter are so a letter can be sent to all who received the e-mail indicating Jay.

Commissioner Geloso said the person called him and that is what he was told – Jay was removing equipment.

Chairman Fainer said that Doc had an issue with Ms. Sjogren when she sent e-mails and it was wrong to put his name or anyone's name in an e-mail.

Alderman Sharkey said he read the letter and the "smoke and mirror" statement was uncalled for. The Fire Department has been up front with ARMS and Mr. Geloso. They treated Mr. Geloso with respect.

Commissioner Geloso said ARMS has been up front with the Fire Dept.

Alderman Sharkey said you say someone has been talking behind your back.

Commissioner Geloso said a meeting was held and I'm the last one to know and this has been consistent.

Alderman Sharkey said the Ansonia Fire Department has turned around tremendously and he thinks ARMS has tried to do that too. Mr. Blume has apologized for not calling, this is not typical, and he said he was sorry so move on.

Alderman Sharkey left the meeting at this time.

Chief Adamowski said this is the right move. Steve Blume and Gene Sharkey have moved the Fire Department where it needs to be and Chairman Fainer has done so with ARMS. He said the Fire Department is willing to work with ARMS. They will come down to ARMS and they welcome ARMS at the Fire Department. They are willing to work with ARMS.

Commissioner Geloso asked if all the tools are off the Rescue truck. He asked if all of the Hearst tools are coming off.

Chief Burgess said the Fire Chiefs did take over Rescue (extrication) until everyone is trained.

Commissioner Geloso said there will be no equipment in the Rescue Truck?

Chief Burgess said there will be some. Call us and we'll come down and work with you on training.

Commissioner Geloso asked do our ARMS members respond when you do extrication. Do we have information as to what we have to do as a group?

Mr. Heon said for extrication the ambulance will be there.

Chief Burgess said we will not call for the Rescue Truck.

Commissioner Blume said there are four sets of Jaws and some are bad from not being used.

Chief Adamowski said if we can work and get along together rather than call a separate truck it would make for a better situation.

Commissioner Geloso asked Chief Adamowski to send him the pickup points and procedure because ARMS personnel will be reporting to Chief Adamowski.

Mike Hokanson said he would like to see a memo sent out with all of this information.

Chief Adamowski said he will send a memo explaining everything.

Commissioner Geloso said he is sorry he got everyone "torqued up".

Tony Spigorola, Charter Hose Capt. said at no time did Charter Hose want to do anything bad. That would not happen with Charters, we are team players and we welcome ARMS people on the fire truck and at the fire house.

Commissioner Blume asked Chief Adamowski to get a list of the guys that are certified so they can get on the fire truck.

Mr. Heon said he was told about Jay. He said Scott Trembley requested inventories of Rescue 2. I asked for inventory and couldn't get it.

Chairman Fainer said Commissioner Nihill has been doing the inventory.

Commissioner Geloso said he told Scott Trembley he would update the inventory.

Chief Burgess said pick up points are Nolan Field and the Canon in Derby.

Mr. Heon said they have changed all ambulance calls for Rt. 8. They will enter via the Canon entrance to Rt. 8 north. If the accident is southbound they will circle back around.

Chief Burgess said he will put the locations on paper and get them to personnel so everyone knows what is happening.

Bob Copperthite said he is not into the rescue but he asked if the Fire Dept. has certified people to run the rescue tools.

Mr. Heon said Chief Burgess said they are not going to go against the EMT on the scene for patient care. He said he told the Chiefs they ride the call to the hospital and turn the patient over to the Doctor in charge. This is the same procedure the Town of Orange uses.

Mr. Copperthite asked if they will get their people certified.

Mr. Heon said a Firefighter II is standard for extrication.

Public Session

Chairman Fainer asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to address the Commission.

There being no one, Chairman Fainer closed the public session.

Minutes

Commissioner Blume made a motion to accept as written and place on file the minutes of the last meeting. Commissioner Geloso seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Bills

Commission Blume made a motion to pay all bills if found to be correct. Commissioner Geloso seconded. All in favor, so carried.

1. CAG: Inv. ANR-0611 for \$4,568.66

Purchase Requests

Chairman Fainer asked Mr. Heon if there were any purchase requests.

Mr. Heon said that the Commission approved the purchase of a new computer. Mr. Bshara is in the process of purchasing the computer and he will set it up in ARMS Headquarters.

Mr. Heon said there are a few repairs for the vehicles as follows:

1. Bravo 8: \$471 for Service
2. Bravo 9: \$342 to remove the chains, replace license plates
3. Car 9: replace shocks

Mr. Heon said he will overstock the ambulance supplies. They need collars and breather masks, gloves, etc. He said they also need postage and equipment (portable radio batteries). He is getting a quantity discount on the batteries.

Mr. Heon said with regard to staffing, one person resigned and four haven't worked since January 1, 2011. He is eliminating five from the staff roster.

Commissioner Blume made a motion to approve the purchase requests. Commissioner Geloso seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Correspondence

1. E-mail from Gary Stango re: C-Med contract.

Chairman Fainer said he asked Mr. Stango the time line. Mr. Stango contacted Mayor DellaVolpe in October 2010 and the draft was sent out January 2011. February 2011 the final version was sent out. He said he is requesting approval of the contract because everyone else has submitted their contracts.

There was discussion on the C-Med contract. Mr. Heon said he has no problem with the commission approving it and sending it on to the Board of Aldermen for approval.

Commissioner Blume made a motion to approve the rules and procedures in the C-Med Contract and forward it to the Board of Aldermen. Mr. Geloso seconded. All in favor, so carried.

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Other Business

Commissioner Geloso said that VEMS has requested ARMS appoint another alternate. He said Mr. Heon represents the City of Ansonia and Scott Nihill is the Alternate. He said he represents ARMS and he is recommending Mike Hokanson as the alternate representing ARMS.

Mr. Heon said he will send a letter to Mayor Della Volpe recommending the appointment of Michael Hokanson as the ARMS alternate to VEMS.

Mr. Heon said there is VEMS surplus Ford Expedition and Ansonia was given the option to purchase it. They have put a new motor in it and all we would have to do is re-letter it.

Mr. Hokanson asked about ambulance access to the Riverwalk.

Eileen Krugel said there is a 12'x12' alternate area there where you could access the area. There is also a side access along the walkway.

Mr. Heon said an ambulance would not go up on the Riverwalk.

There was discussion on the Riverwalk access and it was agreed that there would be some type of access to the area in an emergency.

Commissioner Blume made a motion to accept the VEMS offer to purchase the Ford Expedition for \$1.00. Commissioner Geloso seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Heon discussed the State of Connecticut's requirements for the medical radios. He said the PM1500 doesn't meet the specifications. As of January 1st any ambulance inspected, they will check these requirements. They will not certify the ambulance if it doesn't have the radio's done.

Adjourn

Commissioner Blume made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Geloso seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary