



City of Ansonia

253 Main Street
Ansonia, Connecticut 06401

FIRE COMMISSION &

ANSONIA RESCUE MEDICAL SERVICES COMMISSION

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Madelaine H. Bottone
TOWN AND CITY CLERK
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT.

JOINT SPECIAL MEETING

June 21, 2011

Present: Fire Commission
Steve Blume, Chairman
Ed Adamowski
Richie Bshara
Ron Burgess
Mike Eheman
Joseph Kingston
Gene Sharkey
Scott Trembley

Arms Commission
Jerome Fainer, Chairman

Jared Heon, ARMS Director

Absent: Joe Jeanette

Others Present: Mayor Della Volpe
Kevin Blake, Corporation Counsel
Tara Kolakowski, Government Liaison
Bob Copperthite, ARMS Volunteer

The Special Meeting of the Fire Commission and the Ansonia Rescue Medical Services Commission was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Blume.

All present rose and pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

The secretary called the roll. There was a quorum present.

Commissioner Sharkey made a motion to accept the call of the meeting. Commissioner Burgess seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Public Session

Chairman Blume asked three times if there was anyone from the public who wished to address the Joint Commission meeting. There being no one, Chairman Blume closed the public session.

Rescue Certification

Chairman Blume said the reason for the meeting this evening is to discuss certification and licensing with regard to rescue. He said there is discussion that the Fire Department is not certified for rescue.

Chairman Blume said that Jared Heon is the Chief of ARMS and the Director. The Fire Department has taken over the Rescue.

Commissioner Burgess said he spoke with Paul Wilson, Shelton's Chief and he was told that Shelton has the same situation as Ansonia with Echo Ambulance and Echo Fire Department. There is no license for the Fire Department to carry rescue equipment.

The discussion continued with Commissioner Burgess explaining the Fire Department is doing what Shelton (Echo Fire Department and Ambulance) is doing with regard to answering calls. Ansonia Fire Dept. is not seeking a supplemental license for medical. If there is a certified EMT there on the scene he has the duty to act as the first responder. If ARMS doesn't respond to the call the Fire Dept. can call for Mutual Aid back up. The Fire Truck has no oxygen, boards, collars, jump bags, etc. they can stabilize only until an EMT is on the scene. The Fire Dept. will ONLY do extrications. The Fire Dept. has the rescue tool for extrication only.

Mr. Heon said everyone at ARMS was aware that the rescue was going to the Fire Dept. but they were caught off guard because they were not notified when the equipment would be removed. ARMS volunteers were doing drills, etc. He said he feels that there should be a SOG (Standard Operations Guideline) in place for rescue so that everyone will know the procedure. He said there is a lot to rescue. He said not every extrication is simple. There are hydro tools, etc. involved with this type of rescue. Mr. Heon said he is concerned and wants to be sure that the City of Ansonia is covered. We have a rescue truck sitting there in service with equipment and it doesn't get to the scene fast enough, is the City liable.

Commissioner Burgess said there is a verbal agreement with the City of Derby. They can handle high angle, confined space, etc. Derby will come and they have people who are certified if we don't have enough people. He said Scott Trembley is getting a training program together for Ansonia.

Mr. Heon said ARMS has a mutual agreement in place and signed. The rescue is volunteers and there are some volunteers that want to continue to do rescue.

Corporation Counsel Blake said that all agreements for Mutual Aid between other cities and towns and our departments must be in writing and incorporated into the SOG and become part of the protocol for the departments (ARMS and Fire). He requested a copy of the written agreements for his review. His concern is the liability and protection of the City.

Chairman Blume said he told the volunteers at ARMS they can ride with the Fire Dept. but they have to be certified and must have their turn out gear on. We also told them where the pick up points were.

Chairman Fainer said the Chief was asked to put together a memo advising the ARMS volunteers what was needed if they wished to ride for a rescue.

Chief Burgess said he has sent out all of the information that was requested from him at the last ARMS Commission meeting.

Commissioner Sharkey said there was some confusion because we keep saying "rescue" and the Fire Dept. will begin with extrication only. The only equipment that was moved from the Rescue Truck was the extrication equipment. The Fire Dept. has had all of the equipment serviced and made up to date. ARMS is limited with regard to volunteers and the Fire Dept. will work towards taking over the rescue. Right now the only thing the Fire Dept. is taking over is extrications.

Mayor Della Volpe asked how they transferred the rescue equipment to the Fire Truck.

Commissioner Sharkey said there was miscommunication when this event happened. The Fire Dept. wanted to make sure ARMS was aware they were going to remove the equipment from Rescue 2 and put it on the truck however the ball was dropped and they were not notified. The individual apologized for not calling to give ARMS the proper notice that someone was going to be down there removing the equipment from the rescue truck. The Fire Chief's were in a meeting when it was agreed that one (1) set of tools would be removed that Saturday.

Commissioner Sharkey said the second time a full set of tools was removed from Rescue 2 and put on Engine 4 there was adequate notice given to ARMS.

Chairman Fainer said he was present when this was done. The Chief was not there.

There was discussion regarding rumors that the equipment was taken in the middle of the night.

Scott Trembley said it was 10:00 p.m. before the equipment was removed and put on Engine 4.

Commissioner Sharkey said Engine 4 was at ARMS Headquarters for repair and the rescue equipment was put on Engine 4 before it left ARMS Headquarters. After the

equipment was on Engine 4, it left ARMS Headquarters and went back to Charters Fire House. He said Jerome Fainer and Jared Heon were present.

Mr. Heon said he received a text from the Chief that the equipment was being removed.

Mayor Della Volpe asked if the Fire Department will be going out on medical calls.

Mr. Heon said the original intent was to apply for an R1 license. If the Fire Dept. did that they would have to go out on a medical call if ARMS couldn't get out on the call. R1 means First Responder.

Corporation Counsel Blake asked what types of licenses are required and if there are certificates or certifications that are required if a City or Town has these licenses.

Mr. Heon explained the licenses required to ride the ambulances, do rescue, and perform EMT/paramedic. He said certain towns Fire departments hold a R1 license which gives them the right to practice as EMT's. He said the Ansonia Fire Dept. did not want to go in that direction. He said Ansonia can't have the Fire Department running around with EMT badges and not being licensed. There should be protocol. ARMS will respond for medical calls.

Chairman Blume said the Fire Department will only do extrication. They will not do any medical because they are not certified.

Mayor Della Volpe said we should have all personnel certified so everyone riding the rescue truck or ambulance or fire truck are certified and the liability for the City is covered

Corporation Counsel Blake said the Fire Department is taking the equipment off Rescue 2. Is an R1 license held by ARMS.

Mr. Heon said ARMS has an R1 license. A call comes in, ARMS is obligated to respond as the First Responder.

Corporation Counsel Blake said does an R1 license have any part with extrication.

Mr. Heon said our vehicle (Rescue 2) is listed as the First Responder. He said he is concerned because equipment was removed from the vehicle. His concern is a call comes in and is ARMS rolling the right equipment to the scene to get the job done. It would be up to you (Fire Dept) to decide what you want to send. This is why we all need an SOG in place, so everyone will know what to do. You have to get on the scene right away and you can call for back up and/or mutual aid if you need to.

Corporation Counsel Blake said he has to see the certification certificates for the extrication.

Commissioner Sharkey said every piece of extrication equipment is on Rescue 2. The Fire Dept. put one (1) tool on the Fire Truck because Rescue 2 wasn't rolling to the scene when needed with a crew when needed to do extrication. The Fire Dept. went as far as they could with their own equipment. The Fire Commission decided the extrication equipment would be put on #6, #4, #5 and on the Squad. Should there be a car accident, the Squad and one engine will roll and they will have extrication equipment on four engines.

Mayor Della Volpe said the Squad goes out on all calls now.

Commissioner Sharkey said no, not to every car accident. Only if it is needed.

Corporation Counsel Blake said he wants to see the certifications.

Chief Burgess said he will provide the information to Corporation Counsel Blake.

The discussion continued on the certifications needed, the liability to the City if the proper certifications are not held with the tools being put on the Fire Dept. Engines.

Mike Ehemann said the Fire Dept. was led to believe they had to have an R1 license. There would have to be an AD on every truck going to every medical if ARMS dropped if the Fire Dept. had an R1 license.

Commissioner Sharkey said the Fire Dept. removed the medical from the Fire Trucks. They are not going for the medical license. He said Ansonia Fire Dept. spoke with the Shelton Fire Dept. that is currently operating like this and the Shelton Chief's told us don't do a R1 or supplemental R2 license.

Joseph Kingston asked about the R1 and R2 license.

Mr. Heon said the R1 no one wanted so ARMS took it. He said the only truck inspection by the State of CT is for the three ambulances. When it is listed as the First Responder they inspect it if it has advanced life support.

Mr. Kingston said the ARMS vehicle is a First Responder.

Mayor Della Volpe said the ARMS members are aware of this and what is changing with Rescue 2. He said they are volunteers and he wants to be sure everyone knows about it and they are comfortable with the changes. He said he wants what is best for the residents of the City of Ansonia.

Bob Copperthite said the volunteers need to have some clarification as to what is happening. The Rescue is strictly volunteer. Most of the volunteers at ARMS are for Rescue. He said that some type of procedure should be put in place so everyone knows what to do in an emergency.

Chairman Blume said Chief Ron Burgess and Jared Heon will write up the procedures and protocol for ARMS and the Fire Dept.

Mayor Della Volpe said the membership should know what is happening. This should be for the betterment of the residents of Ansonia.

There was discussion on what happened with the E-mail that was sent out by Chief Geloso. Chairman Blume said that incident was straightened out and he apologized. He said he was aware that there were hurt feelings and he was sorry for what happened.

It was agreed that the Commission and the volunteers all know what is happening with regard to the rescue operation. The Fire Dept. has invited the ARMS rescue volunteers to join them.

Mayor Della Volpe said there is history at ARMS between the volunteers and the City of Ansonia. He said he wants to keep that and he would like the volunteers to stay at ARMS and continue to help.

Chairman Blume said he pushed to keep the volunteers at ARMS. They had to do something with the rescue because ARMS was not answering the ambulance calls. The Fire Dept. is only doing extrication. If there is a bigger rescue they will call Derby for mutual aid. There will be a procedure written down so that everyone will know what is going to happen. He said that Jared Heon has done a great job at ARMS. ARMS hasn't dropped any calls. All of the ambulances are on the road. He said there are people who make comments and create problems. If there are problems they should be directed to the ARMS Commission or the Fire Commission. They should go to the meeting and voice their concerns. He said the last incident was his fault and he said he was sorry. Everyone is back on tract and it is over.

Chairman Blume said that the ARMS volunteers that want to do rescue don't have to join the Fire Dept. per say. They can join us when we roll. There are pick up points and if they are at the pick up points in their uniforms the Fire truck will stop and pick them up. We welcome them and we acknowledge their knowledge with regard to rescue and we welcome their help.

Mr. Heon said the ARMS volunteers can support the rescue and they can ride the Rescue truck and the ambulance also.

Chairman Blume said the ARMS volunteers have a lot of knowledge with rescue.

Mr. Heon said that ARMS did not know their role with regard to the rescue operation. This has to be made clear to everyone.

Commissioner Sharkey said at the Fire Commission meeting it will be discussed and voted on that they (ARMS Volunteers) are welcome at any accident scene.

Chairman Blume said that Jared Heon is Chief of Operations at ARMS.

Mayor Della Volpe said that it is up to ARMS personnel to meet with the membership and explain the procedure. He asked if everyone will be cross trained.

Commissioner Sharkey said they will. There are two different manufacturers of the tools and they plan to set up a City wide training event for everyone who wants to attend. There will be a certified instructor for the Saturday course for the Hearst equipment. Any member of the Fire Department and ARMS can attend this training course.

Chairman Blume asked that the ARMS volunteers be notified by telephone of the date of the training so that everyone will know and can attend.

There was discussion on notification of car accidents by pager. Commissioner Sharkey said no one is receiving pages at this time.

Commissioner Kingston said that for Rt. 8 calls if ARMS members want to ride that would be OK as long as they have their gear on. They will pick them up on the way.

Corporation Counsel Blake said he has to see the Certification documents.

Commissioner Mike Eheman asked the liability as far as ARMS volunteers riding on the Fire Truck.

Corporation Counsel Blake said they are covered under the City of Ansonia Worker's Comp. insurance. The procedures will have to be changed.

Commissioner Sharkey said that the SOG will have to change for the Fire Department and ARMS.

Mr. Heon said that Shelton and Derby will cover Ansonia if called in for mutual aid. There is an agreement in place with them and ARMS.

Chief Burgess made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m. Commissioner Kingston seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary



Ansonia Fire Department

253 MAIN STREET
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT 06401



06/20/2011

To: All Fire Department Officers and Members

On any accident scene, if any Members of ARMS arrives in full ARMS issued gear. They are to be allowed to assist with the operation under the direction of the Fire Department O.I.C.

Ron Burgess-FD1

**FIRE COMMISSION AND
ANSONIA RESCUE MEDICAL SERVICES COMMISSION**

JOINT SPECIAL MEETING

June 21, 2011

5:00 P. M.

Erhlinghouser Room

AGENDA

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Public Session
3. Rescue Certification
 - a. Discussion
 - b. Take appropriate action
4. Adjournment.

James Della Volpe
Mayor

*Certifications
licensing*