



City of Ansonia

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ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

ANSONIA RESCUE MEDICAL SERVICES COMMISSION

October 6, 2014

Regular Meeting

Present: David Blackwell, Chairman
David Geloso, Vice Chairman
Anthony DeLucia
Jared Heon
Michael Hokanson
Joan Radin

The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Rescue Medical Services Commission was called to order by Chairman Blackwell at 7:02 p.m.

All present rose and Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

The secretary called the roll.

There was a quorum present.

Public Session

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

Robert Copperthite said with regard to the Tax Abatement, he feels the volunteers should be paid by call. He said he has a proposal that has all the numbers. It is important because ARMS needs volunteers. With the Tax Abatement you have to live in Ansonia to benefit. ARMS has a lot of volunteers from out of town. He said there are college students that volunteer 24 hours per week

and they are not eligible for the Tax Abatement. Ansonia and Derby have a problem getting volunteers. People need to work in this economy and if there is a stipend incentive for the volunteers we would have more volunteers and it would save money for the City. This pay by call may help to get people down to ARMS to volunteer. He said they have submitted a written proposal.

Copy of the ARMS Incentive Compensation Proposal is on file in the Town Clerk’s office.

Chairman Blackwell asked three (3) times if there was anyone else from the public who wished to address the commission. There being no one, he closed the public session.

Minutes

Mr. Hokanson made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2014 meeting. Alderwoman Radin seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Bills

Chief Heon presented the following bills:

Bills:

1. DiGennaro Service (PO 141985) Truck 4	\$ 1846.40
2. DiGennaro Service – 2Bravo9	\$ 1784.06
3. DiGennaro Service – Car 9	\$ 786.76
4. EMMS – Sept 2014	\$ 3139.96
5. D. Geloso reimbursement Cert ceremony	\$ 57.06
6. N.E. Communications Install lights	\$ 307.50
7. Calvert Lock –copies keys	\$ 62.65
8. North West Public Safety (PO141979) Dispatch	\$25902.67
9. North West Public Safety (PO141979) EMS	\$ 1899.53
10. W. Springfield Auto	\$ 254.47
11. Valley Electric	\$ 169.14
12. Stevens Ford	\$ 397.08
13. Bethany Supply(replace battery)	\$ 46.65
14. M.H.Q. (fog light replacement)	\$ 483.16
15. W.B.Mason (supplies)	\$ 229.29

Chief Heon said they were down to the minimum in ambulance supplies. He said he is stocking up on gowns and booties and masks and bleach in preparation for Winter and Ebola.

There was discussion on the Ebola virus.

Alderwoman Radin made a motion to pay all bills if found to be correct. Mr. Hokanson seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Correspondence

- 1. Notice of cancellation from the Cost Cutting Commission.

Chief Heon said that the Cost Cutting Commission sent a letter to ARMS requesting that they provide certain information and attend their next meeting. He said he was going to attend their meeting however it has been cancelled.

Mr. Hokanson made a motion to accept all correspondence and place them on file. Mr. Geloso seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Reports

ARMS Chief - Report

Chief Heon presented his September 2014 monthly report to the members as follows:

There were 220 responses dispatched to.

He said mutual aid from Ansonia: 14 to Derby, 2 to Seymour, 2 to Shelton, 1

He said mutual aid to Ansonia is: 0 first call, 2 second call, 3 Third Call, 0 Fourth Call.

Below is a listing of the Hospitals:

Hospitals:

# of Patients	Receiving Hospital	# of Patients	Receiving Hospital
114	Griffin	0	Saint Vincent's
15	Yale	0	Milford
8	Yale-Pediatrics	2	Waterbury
4	Yale-St Raphael's Campus	0	Saint Mary's
5	Bridgeport	1	VA- West Haven

Chief Heon said that Derby got their ambulance back and the calls are down for mutual aid.

Alderwoman Radin made a motion to accept Chief Heon's report as given. Mr. Hokanson seconded. All in favor, so carried.

There was discussion on the mutual aid policy that all of the towns follow. Mr. DeLucia asked where the complaint came from regarding Ansonia's mutual aid to other towns. Chief Heon said that it was brought to his attention by an Alderman.

Mr. Geloaso said there is a mutual aid agreement with the other towns and ARMS gets paid when they go on a call.

Chief Heon said ARMS agreed to help and they were down a truck. They are a neighboring community – it works both ways should we need help.

Mr. Geloaso said there is a signed mutual aid agreement with the other towns.

Chief Heon discussed the budget for ARMS explaining the first quarter is over and overall ARMS is doing good. The preventative maintenance is high but we do that every year in July – a complete checkup and maintenance on all of the vehicles. General Equipment shows the purchase of the bunk beds. He said ARMS purchased a new computer also.

Chief Heon explained the problem with the existing secretary position's salary. It was unfunded by BOAT and he was told it was a new position. He said he explained the position was always in the budget. He had a meeting with Personnel and he was told to go to BOAT or take the money from the Ambulance Crew line.

Alderwoman Radin asked what happened with the \$12,500.

Chief Heon said they funded the \$12,500. He said he wrote letters on the Full time position and he checked with Chris Tymniak on it. No action has been done yet. They budgeted for the hourly rate with no benefits.

Chairman Blackwell asked when are the benefits included in the calculation.

Mr. Hokanson said they approved the position and they should take care of it.

There was discussion on the new secretary position and when it was posted and that Personnel and Finance should have known about funding the position with benefits. Chief Heon said there were nine applicants. They discussed the ambulance crew line and the EMT supervisor line that have been cut.

The Ansonia High School football games, the AYF football games and the Emmett O'Brien football games all have to have an ambulance on the property before they begin a game. ARMS has been covering these games. Chief Heon said that they are doing all right but the salary line item is tight.

Report – Michael Hokanson

Mr. Hokanson presented the monthly Run Stats for September 2014. He said ARMS volunteers covered 52 shifts equating to 312 hours of coverage. This coverage equals to \$5026.32 in salary that is being saved. Total saved in salaries by the volunteers is \$16,528.86 year to date.

Mr. Hokanson said that 444 calls were answered by volunteers. 210 calls were Bob Copperthite and 216 calls were Krystal Bieber (cannot receive the tax abatement).

Report - Dave Geloso

Mr. Geloso said there was a DOT inspection for all of the vehicles. There were some repairs done on Car 7. Car 7 was surging into high gear when idling. They took it to Stevens Ford for repair. It took 4 hours of testing to find the problem. We have to pay the labor cost. It could be expensive if the computer runs the car and it is faulting. The car will accelerate when no one is using the gas pedal. It is not a safe condition. He said if ARMS plans on keeping that car another year or so it would be worth getting it repaired so they could use the car.

Chief Heon said there is a car in the Capital Plan to replace this one. He said we are nursing that car until we get a new one. It is the third or fourth car out but we have a problem and we have to decide if we should fix it or not.

Alderwoman Radin said if you need a car you have to fix it.

There was discussion on the problem and repairs with Car 7 and if it is the electric throttle which is a safety issue.

Alderwoman Radin made a motion to have Car 7 evaluated to see what is needed to repair it and to put the funds into Car 7 (2Bravo7) to fix the problem. Mr. Hokanson seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Geloso told the Commissioners that he is a new Certified Trainer for the Cert Program. He is a trainer to trainer in the Cert Program. He has his diploma.

Chairman Blackwell and the commissioners congratulated Mr. Geloso on his accomplishments.

Alderwoman Radin made a motion to accept all the reports as given. Mr. Hokanson seconded. All in favor, so carried.

New Business

Incentive Compensation Proposal

Mr. Hokanson presented the Incentive Compensation Proposal to the Commissioners. He asked that they review it and make recommendations. He said ARMS is volunteer and paid staff. He said the incentive program is to get more volunteers to come down to ARMS and participate. This will cut costs. He said Shelton offers money donations, educational opportunities and gear as incentives. He said the paid staff is getting paid to be here and the cost is negligible. For the volunteer to come it would be a source of salary savings to ARMS.

Mr. Hokanson said he did a survey with Derby and Seymour. He explained the paper call/paper shift (6 hour shift) system. This would be per assigned shift and on the schedule.

Mr. Hokanson reviewed the proposal and the chart with those present.

Chief Heon said he spoke to Bill Nimons, Comptroller about the proposal and about the Tax Abatement for the out of town volunteers.

Discussion continued on the tax abatement for Ansonia volunteers and out of town volunteers. Chief Heon explained how the tax abatement is paid out through payroll.

Mr. DeLucia said a person who lives in Ansonia and is eligible for the tax abatement gets the \$1000 but if we have the incentive program will the paper call stop at \$1000. The tax abatement is \$1000. He asked why anyone would take the stipend.

Chief Heon said if they get out there and volunteer, the person who doesn't live in town will get a stipend. This would make ARMS marketable for volunteers.

Mr. Copperthite said it is up to \$1000 for the stipend. I have an 8x7 I don't use, I live in Town and do 218 calls and get nothing, if I live out of town I get nothing. The outcome is no volunteers. He said the EMS people don't want to volunteer because they are a paid service, so you can get people from out of town to volunteer with the stipend.

Chief Heon said the incentive can pay for a dinner or gas or something – it is a reward to the people who are active volunteers. The people who are out there will get something.

The commissioners continued the discussion on the incentive program and the tax abatement and how they can make it work with the shifts, weekends, etc. Chairman Blackwell was concerned that the volunteers have to be active and help the paid staff in order to receive the incentive or tax abatement.

Discussion on the structure and cost savings of the program continued. Chief Heon said instead of the funds being in a tax abatement line they would be in an incentive line.

Construction Schedule for ARMS

Chief Heon said they received a communication that the low bid was \$319,000. They need \$26,000 more for the work. The costs are not material costs but engineering fees. He said they made one change from the original specifications for the roof. It is a \$3000 change in the gauge of the metal from 22 to 24 which is from heavy duty to medium duty.

Chairman Blackwell asked how the figure was off \$26,000.

Chief Heon said they forgot to include the Engineer's fees. They were short and cut \$26,000 out of the project.

There was discussion on the above. Chairman Blackwell said that Corporation Counsel should be looking at this. Chairman Blackwell said they cannot change the specifications without going back to re-bid. Chief Heon said that Attorney Coppola is reviewing this.

Chief Heon said a decision was made and they will find the funds to put other options into the plan but the gauge of the roof cannot be changed again. The other roof panels take longer to receive.

Ambulance Standby

Chief Heon discussed the Ambulance Standby Policy and Fee Schedule. He said like Shelton it covers the cost to the City Department. There are three men on the ambulance and an EMT. The rates cover the cost of the vehicle and the people on the vehicle. We pay EMT's time and a half to work the standby. We would charge like the Police Department's private duty. The City should break even. The City residents would be included in the non-profit category. He said ARMS is not out to make a profit on anyone but they can't afford not to charge for standby.

Mr. Hokanson asked whose decision is it regarding what equipment goes.

Chairman Blackwell said the Chief at the Police Dept.

Chief Heon said at our level we can't require the ambulance it is through City Ordinance.

Mr. Hokanson said the ambulance is on standby and doesn't transport.

Chief Heon said we need to get waved in to the "scene". We cannot go onto the field unless they ask for us. It is set up in the regulations.

Chairman Blackwell said other towns are doing this, we have to look into it.

Mr. Hokanson said you have to be able to cover the salaries or have volunteers.

Tom Dempsey said that the school is looking to pay ARMS for standby.

There was discussion on where the revenues would go from the standby fees. Chief Heon said BOAT can set up an income line and an expense line.

Mr. Hokanson made a motion to approve the Ambulance Standby Policy and Fee Schedule as presented. Alderwoman Radin seconded. All in favor, so carried.

A copy of the Ambulance Standby and Fee Schedule is attached and on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Unfinished Business

Chief Heon said at the August meeting there was discussion about the tripod from the Fire Department. He said that there was discussion on Truck 4 and that it was always a Fire Dept. vehicle. There was a meeting in the Aldermanic Chambers with the Fire Chiefs, ARMS personnel, Aldermen Tripp, Jeanette, Vaccaro, Blackwell, Mayor Cassetti, Corp. Counsel and Economic Director. He said Chief Mudry and Mr. Geloso spoke about the equipment that was given to the Fire Dept. that the Fire Dept. didn't know they had. He said a lot of issues were straightened out at the meeting. Chief Trembly agreed that the vehicle was never denied to anybody and ARMS maintains it.

Discussion on the Fire Dept. taking the technical rescue away from ARMS. Chairman Blackwell said ARMS handled all rescue and you need certain certification and training to do that kind of work. Chief Heon said that there will be no other requests for equipment and no other equipment given out. ARMS doesn't need an agreement because we are all City departments.

Any other business to come before the Commission

None

Executive Session

None

Adjourn

Alderwoman Radin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Mr. Hokanson seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary