



City of Ansonia

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Ansonia, Connecticut 06401

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ANSONIA RESCUE MEDICAL SERVICES COMMISSION

November 3, 2014

Regular Meeting

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

Absent: Anthony DeLucia

The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Rescue Medical Services Commission was called to order by Chairman Blackwell at 7:10 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.

Bart Flaherty
28 Pinecrest Ave.
Ansonia, CT 06401

Mr. Flaherty said that the Ambulance Commission is doing a wonderful job. He said the lights are too bright on the ambulance and he is asking if they could put them on low beam when the vehicle is stopped. He said there was an incident on Jewett St. where there was an ambulance on the left hand lane and a Police car on the right hand lane and a Police Officer standing in the middle of the road. He said he could not see the police officer standing there because the lights were too bright. To give a margin of safety for the ambulance and the personnel the lights should be dimmer. He dimmed his lights on his car and still could not see. The concern is for the safety of the people working the ambulance and the scene.

Chairman Blackwell said yes, he came down Platt Street hill and turned the corner onto Jewett Street and it was extremely bright and he could not see them either and he slowed down. There is a blind spot about 4 feet or 5 feet.

Chief Heon said it is the standard lights – tripple K. When you put the new ambulance in park all of the white lights go out. Only the red lights stay on because you said something before and we remembered what was said about the lights. He said the State Police lights are low – the two bottom lights are off and all the clear lights are off. The white flashing light is off. We did take it into consideration on the new ambulance.

Alderwoman Radin said Halloween night Jackson Street was blocked off and the light was so bright on the Police car that she told them you could not see.

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 October 6, 2014 meeting. Alderwoman Radin seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Bills

Chief Heon presented the following bills and requests:

Bills:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Jared Heon: reimbursement | \$2,797.33 |
| 2. Boundtree Medical | \$2,881.35 (request) |
| 3. DiGennaro Service | \$ 761.27 |
| 4. Stevens Ford | \$ 1,512.59 |
| 5. West Springfield Auto | \$ 20.70 |
| 6. Magna Kleen | \$ 54.00 |
| 7. Firehouse Software | \$ 120.00 (request) |
| 8. Airgas East | \$ 579.16 |
| 9. Wheeled Coach | \$ 504.18 |

10. Boundtree Medical	\$ 346.88
11. Bethany Supply	\$ 79.72
12. Tom Dempsey: reimbursement	\$ 149.00
13. Porto	\$ 4,560.00 (request)
14. NE Cap Co	\$ 2,008.25 (request)
15. Northeaster Comm	\$ 1,202.00 (request)

Chief Heon gave an explanation for the above. He said Item #1 - the reimbursement was for the travel expenses to the conference. He said he had to pay and then get reimbursed. Item #2 is for job shirts for the crew. Item #3 - the invoice for DiGennaro is for Car 6, MCI 6 service and repair. Item #4 - Stevens Ford is for parts and Service for Bravo 1, 10, 8 and Bravo 7 needed two alternators. Item #5 - West Springfield Auto is for muffler clamps for Car 9. Mr. Geloso said he had to weld two clamps together to make one clamp to fix the muffler. Item 7 - Mr. Geloso uses this software. Item #9 - The latches on Car 9 and Car 8 were broken due to use. They were plastic and kept breaking so the new ones are stainless steel. Item #11 – ARMS purchased new ballasts and Mr. Geloso rewired the lights and installed the new ballasts. He did four lights for the price of one. Item #12 Reimbursement to Tom Dempsey for training. Item #13 – this is for ten (10) new tires which are needed immediately. Mr. Geloso recommended they purchase all of the tires needed for the ambulances because they are emergency response vehicles.

There was a discussion on the purchase of the tires for the ambulances. The commissioners discussed the type and brand of tire that should be purchased. Chief Heon said they purchased Continental tires. They come on the trucks and Porto Tire was the cheapest for these tires. ARMS is getting twelve(12) new tires. Chief Heon said they have to get Car 10 done immediately. They are getting 13,000 to 15,000 miles on the tires which is almost a set a year. Mr. Geloso said the rubber on the new tires doesn't seem to last as long. Chief Heon said they tried all of the companies for tires and they are back to the Continental tires.

Chief Heon said Item #14 this is for caps for the crew. Item # 15 is for vehicle chargers for the new State portables.

Alderwoman Radin made a motion to pay all bills if found to be correct and to approve the purchase requests. Mr. Geloso seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Correspondence

1. State of Connecticut, Dept. of Public Health re: CT P.A. 14-217 dtd. 10/13/14
2. Richard Kearns, Director of Security, Seymour Public Schools re: Thank you for support in the mock bus crash on 10/17/14.
3. Senator Joe Crisco re: Thank you for participating the Senior Fair. Dtd. 10/21/14

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

Reports

ARMS Chief - Report

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

He said that it is not complete because this meeting is the first of the month and the report has not been received from the billing company.

There were 275 responses dispatched to.

He said the report for mutual aid from Ansonia: to Derby, to Seymour, to Shelton was not received.

He said the report for mutual aid to Ansonia: first call, second call, third call, fourth call was not received.

Below is a listing of the Hospitals:

Hospitals:

# of Patients	Receiving Hospital	# of Patients	Receiving Hospital
139	Griffin	3	Saint Vincent's
14	Yale	1	Milford
12	Yale-Pediatrics	0	Waterbury
4	Yale-St Raphael's Campus	1	Saint Mary's
7	Bridgeport	4	VA- West Haven

Alderwoman Radin suggested that when the report is given to the Board of Aldermen that there is mention of the savings from the volunteers.

Chairman Blackwell said they appreciate the volunteers and it is hard to get qualified volunteers. We need more volunteers participating to save money.

Chief Heon said it takes a lot to be qualified to volunteer. He said ARMS doesn't want to get held to an expectation month after month.

Chief Heon discussed the work being done on the ARMS building. He said there was a meeting on Wednesday and they are ahead of schedule and the roof is 90% complete. The snow retention system should be done within the next two days. Other than the canopy they are almost done and are 20 days ahead of schedule. The leaders were cut out of the plan. It would cost \$5000 to add leaders and \$2000 to tie into the drains. The drains are clogged. They will look into getting the new leaders because they were eliminated. They eliminated replacing the damaged siding and the downspouts and they eliminated the seismographs – about \$3000. The exhaust fans were eliminated and then added back in for \$10,000.

Alderwoman Radin said we voted on the money for certain things and they were to be done.

Chief Heon said in order to the pay \$30,000 to the Engineer things were cut – now we are adding some things back in. He said there are things that still have to be done – the hot water heater which ran for five minutes – PWD will repair it. The Vent for the air conditioner to the Computer Closet we were told that PWD will take care of it. There was a donation of a washing machine years ago and we were told Oatley couldn't install it because PWD will install it. They cut the replacement of the ceiling tiles and we were told that PWD will put the ceiling tiles up. On November 17th there is a company that will come in and change every light to LED in the building.

Alderwoman Radin asked who is paying for the lights.

Chairman Blackwell said it is part of an initiative for energy savings. United Illuminating is supply the lights.

Chief Heon said when it is finished there should be a significant change in the electric usage. He said the kitchen cabinets and appliances are in and PWD will work on the kitchen.

Report – Michael Hokanson

Mr. Hokanson presented the monthly Run Stats for October 2014. He said ARMS volunteers covered 58 shifts equating to 348 hours of coverage. This coverage equals to \$5606.28 in salary that is being saved. Total saved in salaries by the volunteers is \$22,135.14 year to date.

Report - Dave Geloso

Mr. Geloso said he discussed the need to purchase new tires for the ambulances earlier in the meeting. He said he is replacing the exhaust hangers on Car 9 and Car 8 suspension is up to level. There is a problem with the step and he will take it to an RV dealership to get it repaired.

Chairman Blackwell asked about the ambulance replacement.

Mr. Geloso said that Car 7 is the oldest one it is 1998/1999.

Chief Heon said there is a lot of mileage on the motor. He said he went to back up a driveway on a call and could not make it up the driveway with Car 7.

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

New Business

Chief Heon said that they received the budget submittals at the Mayor's cabinet meeting. They are asking for 2 to 2 ½ % reduction. He said that ARMS was already cut 5.29% this Fiscal Year. He said he doesn't think ARMS will be able to do that.

Chief Heon said the commission will have to hold a workshop meeting on the budget before it is due. He said they are asking everyone to start at zero and build up. Mr. Tingley and Lt. Williams are concerned also that emergency services cannot sustain any other cuts. He said the City of Ansonia had a three million dollar surplus.

Chairman Blackwell agreed stating that all city departments are running at bare bones.

Mr. Geloso made a motion to accept all new business. Mr. Hokanson seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Unfinished Business

Chief Heon made a motion to turn over ARMS older AMT 9 to the Recreation Department for use at Nolan Field. If ARMS needs it back in an emergency they will give it back for ARMS to use. Mr. Hokanson seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Chief Heon said there is old equipment and parts to three generators that haven't been used in years. There is no need for them and he would like to get rid of them.

Alderwoman Radin made a motion to allow ARMS to scrap the parts to three generators. Mr. Hokanson seconded. All in favor, so carried.

There was discussion on the Incentive Compensation Proposal. Mr. Hokanson suggested that ARMS send it to Corporation Counsel Marini. The commissioners want to take into consideration all volunteers from out of town, in town, Jr. Corps, etc. There is a provision to cover everybody in the volunteer Corps in the organization.

Chairman Blackwell said he will meet with Corporation Counsel Marini on this.

Alderwoman Radin made a motion to refer the Incentive Compensation Proposal to Corporation Counsel Marini with ARMS participation in the discussion. Chief Heon seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Any other business to come before the Commission

Chief Heon discussed the hiring process for hiring new employees.

Chairman Blackwell said that the Police Dept. and the Fire Dept. both have commissions. They are in charge when hiring for these departments. The commission goes before the Board of Aldermen for hiring. The Commissioners meet, they agree and they present the name to the Board of Aldermen for approval. Why are we the only commission that doesn't do this.

Mr. Geloso said that they had temporary hires to staff the ambulance. They had to write a letter to Mr. Perry, he signed off on it and sent it to the Mayor and then after the Mayor approved it then it went to Mr. Perry and he told Mr. Geloso. At that time I could hire as many people as the mayor approved.

Chairman Blackwell said the procedure would be the number of positions available, then ARMS puts forth the best candidate(s) to the Board of Aldermen to hire.

The discussion continued on the hiring process and procedure. The commissioners feel they should be able to participate in the hiring process because they know what is required to do the job and they would know who is the best qualified during the interview process. They would like the recommendation for hire to come from ARMS.

Mr. Geloso said past practice ARMS held the interviews. He said past practice for Full time the Chief sent a letter to H.R. requesting to hire. H.R. posted the position. The applications were taken by H.R. and H.R. forwarded the applications back to ARMS. The Chief selects and interviews the qualified applicants. They are contacted by the Chief for interviews. ARMS sends a letter requesting to hire. The Mayor signs off on the hire and sends a letter to ARMS to hire.

Chief Heon said with the Charter changes it gives the Mayor the right to hire.

Chairman Blackwell said he can still make the hire. ARMS makes the recommendation and the Mayor makes the hire.

Chief Heon said he had a request from the Comptroller for a full inventory for all assets in the department. He said he doesn't have the where-with-all to do that. He said he knows the major equipment but he was asked for a detailed complete list. He said he was told it was an FOI request.

Chairman Blackwell said he spoke to Mayor Cassetti and any other requests from Finance Dept. has to go through the Mayor.

There was discussion on FOI requests. Chairman Blackwell said FOI requests should come from the Mayor. There is no FOI request on file for inventory. Chief Heon said he met with the Mayor and Corporation Counsel on the inventory list and he advised them that he doesn't have a list yet for all of the equipment as he is organizing and sorting and cleaning out with the reconstruction of the ARMS building.

There was discussion on the Purchase Order process.

Executive Session

None

Adjourn

Mr. Hokanson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45p.m. Alderwoman Radin seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary