



# City of Ansonia

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## ANSONIA RESCUE MEDICAL SERVICES COMMISSION

July 6, 2015

Regular Meeting

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

### Minutes

Chief Heon made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2015 regular meeting as written. Alderwoman Radin seconded. All in favor, so carried.

**Bills**

Chief Heon said that all of the invoices have been paid from last year’s budget.

Chief Heon said there was a transfer June 18<sup>th</sup> to fund the work on the doors and the repeater for Comcast which was approved by W. Nimons and Mayor Cassetti. He said there was a shortfall in the salaries which he had to explain. He provided an explanation that they cut the budget \$50,000. He said he wrote letters to finance explaining that those funds were needed. Finance included ARMS in the transfer for payroll. The reason ARMS was short in the salary line item was because they cut that line in the budget process.

Alderwoman Radin moved to pay all bills if found to be correct. Mr. Geloso seconded. All in favor, so carried.

**Correspondence**

1. Ed Sokolnicki, St. Joseph Church: Sunday September 13, 2015 11:30 a.m. there will the Annual Blessing of the Trucks at Warsaw Park, Ansonia
2. Mark LaFortune, YMCA Thank You for participation in their road race June 17<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Reports**

**ARMS Chief - June Report**

Chief Heon presented his report to the members as follows:

There were 223 responses.

Below is a listing of the Hospitals:

**Hospitals:**

# of Patients	Receiving Hospital	# of Patients	Receiving Hospital
95	Griffin	5	Saint Vincent’s
23	Yale	0	Milford

5	Yale-Pediatrics	1	Waterbury
7	Yale-St Raphael's Campus	1	Saint Mary's
6	Bridgeport	1	VA- West Haven

Chief Heon said that Griffin Hospital was on diversion three days straight and they transported out of town. He said his staff hustled a lot and worked hard. He said they were short staffed manpower on two occurrences.

Chief Heon discussed the calls for one night that ARMS had to address. He said there were two ambulances out to an accident, one ambulance to a house call that was transported to VA hospital and they were left with only one ambulance.

A discussion followed on the number of calls that ARMS has during a given time and that there is not enough staff or ambulances to cover.

Chief Heon said that the State is changing the rules in the process for collection. You have to have an additional form signed before going to collection.

Mr. Hokanson said that two long term volunteers went to paid staff. He said ARMS is not saving money by using volunteers. One new person was recently cleared and one volunteer relocated to Washington. He said it is not right not to hire a trained certified volunteer when there is an opening for a paid person. It is hard to get an EMT to volunteer when they can work and get paid. The volunteers are down to the new people who want to get trained/certified and then they go to a paid department. He said ARMS is very close to 100% paid. He said we should not rely on volunteers when everyone is going to paid staffing. There is the cost of maintaining certification, etc.

Chief Heon said that in 2009/2010 ARMS said that you can't volunteer from home, you have to be here at Headquarters. The organization is changing with the times.

Discussion on the time and effort it takes for certification and that people have to make a living and if they hold a certification, etc. they find that they can get paid, they go to a paid department. There are volunteers who staff the headquarters along with paid staff and they step up and help out the paid staff.

Chief Heon said that two shifts a week are covered by volunteers. He is reviewing the structure of the organization. Other departments have 10 to 15 supervisors with staff that compares to the size of our staff. It is difficult to supervise as the organization is changing and we are changing.

Mr. Geloso said we now operate with good people and can operate a good organization.

Chief Heon said ARMS staffs themselves and we don't have a problem. We are doing very well, we have 230 calls a month and we passed two that says a lot for the people who are here.

Mr. Geloso said they (volunteers and staff) are doing a great job.

Chief Heon gave a brief summary of a pediatric call that he and his staff went on this week. He said that the staff did a great job and the dispatch team also did a great job. He said that there is a lot going on and there are reasons why they do things but they are Professionals. Ask them if you want to know – there are reasons. He said he met with both of the teams to talk over the events and to make sure everyone was OK.

### **Report – Michael Hokanson**

Mr. Hokanson said his Volunteer report is: 39 shifts equaling 232 hours of coverage. This has saved in salaries \$3,737.52. He said his report is attached to the monthly report.

### **Report - Dave Geloso**

Mr. Geloso gave the following report.

- Car 7 had wheel bearings installed
- Car 8 door latch was replaced
- Car 10 AEV door sticking. The internal latch is starting to rust and it needs routine maintenance.

There was discussion on replacing the ambulances that are old and not working properly. There is a 15 year old ambulance that is still going out on calls. The new ambulances are getting beaten up because they can't give it a day off because the old ambulances have to be repaired.

Chief Heon said the referendum has been pushed out to March 2016. A new order for an ambulance potentially takes about six months. He said they did not approve any Capital Improvements. He was told to wait for the referendum in November 2015.

Chief Heon said they are in favor of the 5 year capital improvements plan and it should have a normal course of action this year. He said then they will have the referendum and that will start the capital improvements schedule.

There was discussion on the purchase of the Fly Car and that ARMS was promised an ambulance. Car 7 is a 1998, Car 9 is a 1999, Car 8 is a 2011 and Car 10 is a 2013.

Alderwoman Radin said that Mr. Nimons said the Fly Car and Ambulance will be on the list this year. She said that Chairman Blackwell and she were at the meeting.

There was discussion on the wear and tear that the ambulances are experiencing. Mr. Geloso discussed the new National Fire Protection Agency's new standards that are in effect.

Chief Heon said that 2011 Bravo 8 has 46,000 miles, 2013 Bravo 10 has 20,000 miles and is on its second set of tires. They are down to three ambulances. He said the call volume is there and ARMS needs staff to do their job.

Discussion on the repairs to the existing vehicles.

Alderwoman Radin said there is an event at Nolan Field "Rock the Valley" coming up.

Chief Heon said that ARMS was asked to cover this event. He was told there is no guarantee that they would be paid.

Mr. Hokanson said no one from ARMS was paid for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event but the Fire Dept. was paid.

Chief Heon said he was told they were paid. He gave them the lists and the costs.

Chairman Blackwell invited Alderwoman Radin to a meeting tomorrow.

Alderwoman Radin said that she was not available tomorrow for a meeting.

There was a discussion on refurbishing the ambulances.

Chief Heon said they are waiting on the Crown Vic for the Fly Car. The 2003 Expedition has 196,000 miles and it may be traded in for a Ford Expedition with 50,000 miles. There is a Dodge Durango with 154,000 miles on it for ARMS use but it needs a radio and two lights. ARMS can use it for one to two months. He said he has been leaving his Expedition at ARMS headquarters for their use. ARMS brought in \$676,000 in revenue last year and they billed out 1.3 million dollars but there is a write off for welfare and hardship cases. The State allows us to bill \$600 and the State only pays \$150, the rest we write off.

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

### **New Business**

None.

### **Unfinished Business**

Chairman Blackwell asked about the bikes and how that project was going.

Chief Heon said Amity Bike donated \$1000 toward the bikes. He said they want to fund this with minimum impact to the budget. The minimum cost for a bike is \$1100 to \$1200 and you have to outfit the riders i.e. bike shirt, helmets, etc.

Chief Heon said the Police Department has a trainer for their Bike Team and they offered to work with us. They are happy ARMS will be downtown on the bikes. He said he is in the process of seeking donations. They have to get portables, uniforms, training, fanny packs and medical supplies for them. He said Mike Warhola and Myra Spellic are leading the charge and they are working with Officer Kevin Coonan and Officer Anderson at the APD.

Alderman Radin made a motion to accept the report for Unfinished Business as given. Mr. Hokanson seconded. All in favor, so carried.

### **Any other business to come before the Commission**

Chief Heon said they were called to the Renaissance Festival a few times and they were running their own medical station. They were telling ARMS personnel what to do. He said he advised the Police Dept. that they have to "back off". They have to get permission from the State to operate their own Medical Station.

Mr. Hokanson said that ARMS is at the Football games because of the ACC regulations.

Chief Heon said that they have to start thinking staffing for Friday/Saturday and Saturday/Sunday and staffing overnight. The bar activity downtown has increased and they are getting calls from the Police Dept. at 2:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. He said going forward Friday/Saturday and Saturday/Sunday at 6 hours per night, two crews, we should consider staffing two ambulances from 6:00 a.m. to Midnights and one ambulance midnight to 6:00 a.m.

Discussion on the weekend staffing. One call will cover the cost to staff a car for six hours with two people.

Mr. Hokanson said ARMS should do it for the summer and re-evaluate in September.

Chairman Blackwell said that other towns depend on us.

Discussion on the cost of adding staff for the summer. Chairman Blackwell said that Chief Heon had a Capital Plan which is now abandoned. Mr. Geloso said that one car on the weekend is tough to do. They get hammered on overnight calls and it is hard to fill the shifts.

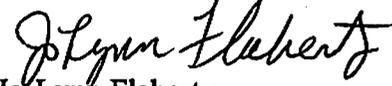
### **Executive Session**

None

**Adjourn**

Mr. Hokanson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Alderwoman Radin seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Jo-Lynn Flaherty  
Secretary