



# City of Ansonia

253 Main Street  
Ansonia, Connecticut 06401

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*James H. Blackwell*  
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## ANSONIA RESCUE MEDICAL SERVICES COMMISSION

November 7, 2016

Regular Meeting

Present: David Blackwell, Chairman - 7<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman  
Jared Heon, Chief  
Joan Radin, Vice-Chairman - 5<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderwoman  
Lorie Vaccaro - 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Alderman  
David Geloso

Absent: Michael Hokanson

The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Rescue Medical Services Commission was called to order by Chairman Blackwell at 7:05 p.m.

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. There being no one, he closed the public session.

### Minutes

Alderwoman Radin made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2016 meeting with the following corrections. Alderman Vaccaro seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Page 4: 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph should read:

Chief Heon said that Valley Transit *should* pick up any senior citizen or resident and bring them down to ARMS for the meeting.

The corrections are in italics.

Page 4: 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph should read:

Mr. Hunt stated that the service contract that Chief Heon has on the ambulance *power stretcher* equipment is excellent.

Page 4: 7<sup>th</sup> paragraph should read:

Chief Heon discussed the service contract and that it covered the new battery and a new board for the Power Loader at a cost of \$1700 with no charge to ARMS. He said they received great service from the company. The new *stretcher* will be on the service contract. The service contract is locked in for three years. They pay each year a fixed cost.

## **Bills**

Chief Heon reviewed the bills with the commissioners.

1. EMMS	October Billing	\$4,231.59
2. Webster Procurement	Target-Halloween Candy	\$ 36.67
3. MagnaKleen	November Services	\$ 79.50
4. DiGennaros	B9 Alternator	\$ 196.65
5. Stevens	B8 & B10 Service	\$ 172.44
6. Comcast	Cable 10/19-11/18	\$ 132.66
7. Boundtree	Uniform Winter Job Shirts	\$2,325.54
8. Boundtree	November Supplies	\$2,850.12

Chief Heon explained the charge for Bravo 9 for the Alternator was for the labor. The warrantee covered the other expense. ARMS is still paying the Comcast invoice. He contacted Comcast and gave a copy of the bill to Mr. Dziekan. He said ARMS was paying \$89 and the bill increased to \$132. His question is if this amount applies to all City departments and if ARMS is the only department that pays their own cable bill.

Alderman Vaccaro advised Chief Heon to send Mr. Bshara an e-mail with those questions.

Chief Heon stated he has scanned the bill and sent e-mails to him.

Alderwoman Radin stated that Mr. Bshara is serving as Acting Comptroller along with his other duties and suggested Chief Heon re-send the information.

Chief Heon said he purchased some new job shirts for the new employees and replaced the worn ones as requested by the crew members. ARMS had to purchase 10 new oxygen bottles due to a recall.

Chief Heon advised the commissioners that Bravo 10 needs new tires. The cost is \$2536.00 for six (6) new tires, balanced and rotated and aligned. Bravo 8's tires are the same age but in better condition than Bravo 10. He will see if any of the tires removed from Bravo 10 are any good and can be used on Bravo 8. Proto Tire, State St., Hamden is replacing the tires and Superior Spring will do the alignment of the tires. We need a big truck garage that is able to do the alignment of the ambulances. He would like to get this work done before the winter season. He said the tires are the only bigger purchase.

Alderman Vaccaro made a motion to pay all bills and approve the new purchases. Alderwoman Radin seconded. All in favor, so carried.

### **Correspondence**

1. Thank you from Keefe Family for assisting Mr. Keefe on 10/26/16 at the Assumption School and Parish dedication. ARMS Crew carried him up four flights of stairs so he would be able to view the new 3<sup>rd</sup> floor restoration. Mr. Keefe was a donor for the restoration project. He was very appreciative.

Chief Heon said that the Parish Priest took some old wood he found and gave it to his nephew who carved a Crucifix for the Church. He said it is beautiful. The dedication ceremony was very nice. The family donated \$100 to ARMS.

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

### **Reports:**

#### **ARMS Chief – October 2016 Report**

There were 261 responses.

Below is a listing of the Hospitals:

**Hospitals:**

# of Patients	Receiving Hospital	# of Patients	Receiving Hospital
133	Griffin	9	Saint Vincent's
17	Yale	0	Milford
6	Yale-Pediatrics	1	Waterbury
3	Yale-St Raphael's Campus	0	Saint Mary's
10	Bridgeport	0	VA- West Haven

Billing revenue for the month: \$65,101.36

Chief Heon said ARMS provided a lot of football standbys. He said they passed two overnight calls and one third call. He said Griffin Hospital was on diversion due to an environmental issue. ARMS actually transported 179 patients. He said he and D. Coy came out from home to cover a call at night. It was a busy month.

**Report - Dave Geloso**

Mr. Geloso said Bravo 8 and Bravo 10 had service done and Bravo 9 and Bravo 7 will be going out for service. There are no major breakdowns. He would like to get the tire chains back on the cars before winter.

Chief Heon discussed the issues with the Bay 1 garage door. He said that a car goes out at 2:00 a.m. on a call and the door gets stuck. He has called Crawford Door to repair the doors. He spoke to the Mayor and Michael D'Alessio regarding switching companies to Overhead Door.

Chief Heon explained the sensors on the doors are not working and the remotes are broken. The receivers are the original receivers and are 16 or 17 years old. He explained that the ambulances are backed into the garage and therefore may need the antennas on the outside. There are no timers on the doors so they don't automatically close after the ambulance leaves the bay.

Discussion on using Crawford Door for service continued and Chief Heon said they don't have 24 hour service. Chief Heon said he calls Crawford every time the doors don't work. The emergency release doesn't work. These are big issues with the bay doors and we have to get a new company to take care of all of them. The doors cannot remain open once the ambulance leaves the garage.

Chief Heon advised the commissioners that nothing has happened with the building HVAC system. Corp. Counsel Marini told him to get a price and an evaluation on what was done and what has to be done. He asked for three quotes. None of the departments want to pay for this. The building was never tested for mold and they were cleaning the stock room and pulled a shelf out and the wall was covered in black mold.

### **Report – Michael Hokanson**

None

### **New Business**

Chief Heon said the request has been received from Finance for the new budgets. He said he is waiting to see how the Referendum does and he will begin his budget process. The biggest request for ARMS this year will be staffing. He said PWD is advertising for a laborer at \$23.60 per hour. ARMS starting salary is much lower.

Chief Heon shared a copy of his Schedules for the week with the Commissioners. He explained how the shifts are arranged and what type of coverage is needed to cover all shifts. He said two people make up a legal ambulance crew. He said it is nearly impossible to run ARMS with the people they have. The commissioners are looking at a staffing model that has grown and they are very busy at ARMS (3200 calls a year). They require more money and they need to get more people here to work.

Discussion continued on the staffing of ARMS to cover all shifts. Chief Heon said it is an ideal situation on the sheet and there is a lot of part time hours. It is costing a lot of money to maintain all of these people. It is a work in progress. He said no one received an increase in wages.

Chairman Blackwell asked if ARMS hires six full time people to begin with what will happen.

The commissioners discussed the scheduling for the shifts and the hiring of new full time employees along with the cost of wages and benefits. ARMS could not run a full time service with a part time crew. Chief Heon stressed the importance of continuity of care. This is demonstrated by crew members that know the town and the people who are regularly served by ARMS.

Chief Heon stated ARMS can't keep going with no staff. He would like to implement a system where there are volunteers that are with ARMS, they are trained and once the training is complete and an opening for part time is available they can be hired and then move them up to full time when there is an opening.

Chairman Blackwell said ARMS has as many employees as the Police Dept. and the same number of shifts.

Mr. Geloso said ARMS should petition the Salary Committee to look at this problem and review it so it can get put into this year's new budget.

Chief Heon said he is working on a report with all of the information regarding salaries and comparable salaries from other towns.

Mr. Geloso asked about the Mayor's meeting where it was stated that a new person would be sitting in with ARMS to report back to the Board of Aldermen what is going on in our Commission. He said ARMS has three sitting Aldermen on the Commission.

There was a discussion on the above and it was explained that there are sub-committee members of the Aldermen who go to meetings and report back to the Board of Aldermen. They give a report of their meeting at the Board of Aldermen meeting. The sub-committee is for departments that don't have aldermen sitting on the Board.

### **Unfinished Business**

None

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

#### 2017 Meeting Schedule

Alderwoman Radin made a motion to approve the 2017 Meeting Schedule. Mr. Geloso seconded. All in favor, so carried.

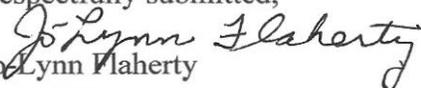
### **December Meeting**

The December meeting will be held on Monday, December 5, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

### **Adjourn**

Alderwoman Radin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Chief Heon seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,

  
JoLynn Flaherty  
Secretary