



TOWN OF OSSINING

The Volunteer Spirited Town

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Town of Ossining Ambulance District Plan September 2008

Emergency Medical Services, including Advanced Life Support are a critical municipal service that the residents of the Town of Ossining Unincorporated Area and the Village of Ossining have come to expect. To date, the service has been provided by the Ossining Volunteer Ambulance Corps (OVAC) in the Town of Ossining Unincorporated Area and the Village of Ossining. This agency, in the past, delivered high quality Emergency Medical Services. OVAC originated as a wholly volunteer organization 50 years ago. Since that time, the populations of the Town Unincorporated Area and Village have increased. The training and mandated requirements have also increased and has limited the pool of qualified volunteers that are able to deliver Emergency Medical Services to residents. These circumstances have forced the Town and Village of Ossining to reevaluate the Emergency Medical Services in our municipality to assure a continuation of the high quality service that residents have always received.

Because compliance requirements for pre-hospital providers has steadily increased while at the same time the available pool of qualified volunteers has steadily decreased and in order to ensure uninterrupted Emergency Medical Services, OVAC has found the need to pay for per diem Paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and ambulance drivers to provide twenty-four hour a day, seven day a week coverage. Weekdays are a particular time when qualified volunteer Paramedics and EMTs are hard to schedule. Since 2006, OVAC has employed a full time paid operations manager to help meet compliance issues, supervise the staff and membership, and act as a second paramedic during peak daytime hours. It is the paramedics that allow OVAC to provide advanced life support service in the community. **Without certified paramedics available around the clock, OVAC would lose its certification as an advance life support provider.**

The communities have therefore discussed the establishment of an Ambulance District in accordance with the laws of the State of New York. Under the proposal, the service area of the District would be the portion of the Town of Ossining which includes the entire Village of Ossining and the entire Unincorporated Area of the Town of Ossining. The service area of the Ambulance District, however, would not include that section of the Town in the Village of Briarcliff Manor.

The following is the plan for the operation of the Town of Ossining Ambulance District.

There are two distinct components of the Town of Ossining Ambulance District. First, there is the method by which Emergency Medical Service will be provided to the community. Second, is the administrative/legal structure that will govern the operation of the district and the apportionment of district expenses.

The service delivery mechanism is envisioned as follows. The district would be established to oversee all Emergency Medical Services. **The direct responsibility of the district will be to contract for paid paramedics that provide Advance Life Support Services as well as some paid EMTs.** The existing agency, OVAC, will provide basic life support back up and patient transportation through volunteers within its ranks. Additional Advance Life Support scheduling and service is also possible depending upon the availability of such volunteer personnel.

Historically OVAC has responded to 1710 calls within the proposed district area. Up to 43.7% of those calls required Advance Life Support care. Westchester County has recommended planning for an aging population in Westchester and the trend suggests that the call volume in the proposed district will very likely increase in the future as our population ages. The paid paramedics and EMTs shall work with the volunteer staff at OVAC to provide the necessary treatment for all district residents.

The second component of the Ambulance District is the organizational structure. The district shall be formed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York. The expenses of the district shall be levied on an ad valorem basis. The Emergency Medical Services required by the district will be contracted for with a qualified service provider.

The Ambulance District will also have an advisory committee comprised of representatives from the participating municipalities. The advisory committee shall develop policies for governing the district operation, determine the Emergency Medical Services needs of the community and will approve the district budget each year prior to submission to the Town Board. The Town Board will review, potentially modify and incorporate the Ambulance District Budget into its annual budget document as a special district.

The Town of Ossining will enter into Inter-Municipal Agreements (IMA) with any other municipalities that wish to participate in the contract for Emergency Medical Services.

The report- Schedule A is an estimate of annual expenses for the district and represents the average per property costs for each property included in the district.