

## **Ambulance District Meeting Minutes 10/24/2016**

### **7:00 PM, 16 Croton Avenue, Conference Room**

Chair Dr. Robert Seebacher, Ossining Town Supervisor Dana Levenberg, OVAC Chief Nick Franzoso, and Village of Ossining Citizen Representative Sue Donnelly were present. Village of Ossining Trustee Manuel Quezada and Village of Croton EMS President Bill McCabe were also present.

Vice Chair Richard Wishnie, OVAC Chairman and Treasurer Alex Beck, Dr. Emil Nigro, Village of Ossining Interim Manager Paul Fraioli, Village of Croton Manager Janine King, Croton Chief of Police Anthony Tramaglini, Ossining Town Councilwoman Liz Feldman, Village of Ossining Mayor Victoria Gearity, Village of Sleepy Hollow Village Administrator Anthony Giaccio, Village of Ossining Citizen Representative William Hamilton, and Director of Croton Department of Emergency Management Dick Nagel were absent.

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Chair Seebacher calls the meeting to order at 7:03PM. The first order of business is to approve the minutes from the prior two meetings (April 21<sup>st</sup> 2016 and July 21<sup>st</sup> 2016). The April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting minutes had been tabled at the July meeting due to a lack of voting members present. Supervisor Levenberg motioned to accept the April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 meeting minutes, Sue Donnelly seconded. Sue Donnelly motioned to accept the July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 meeting minutes, Bill McCabe seconded. The motions both passed unanimously.

Chief Franzoso begins discussion of the statistics for the third quarter of 2016, and reported that call volume was up this quarter. A total of 737 calls were answered by the district with similar proportions to past quarters: 172 in the Town of Ossining, 512 in the Village of Ossining, and 39 mutual aid. Calls in the Town of New Castle were up slightly—usually around 10 calls are made, this quarter saw 14 calls.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> page shows Dispositions, which do not demonstrate any significant trends. BLS (basic life support) calls continue to be roughly twice as common as ALS (advanced life support calls). The 3<sup>rd</sup> page maps 10 years of call volume statistics across the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter- over the years studied, the calls are up 75.5% in the District, but up just 0.7% over Q3 2015. The 4<sup>th</sup> page measures call volume over 10 years (for the entire year), which demonstrates that 2016 has been similar to 2014—the Chief attributes the spike in 2015 to the very difficult winter weather we experienced leading to an uptick in calls.

The 5<sup>th</sup> page measures outgoing mutual aid (39 calls in total), with Briarcliff Manor making the most requests (20), followed by Croton (14), Mt. Pleasant (2), Yorktown (2) and Cortlandt (1). Reflecting incoming mutual aid on page 6, there were only 14 calls (6 for Briarcliff, 7 for Croton, and 1 for Sleepy Hollow). The 7<sup>th</sup> page details the breakdown for the Incoming Mutual Aid call locations. Dr. Seebacher inquires as to whether the new procedures at Phelps are helping the ambulances turn around faster, and the Chief confirms that the paperwork has been excellent. He suggests that the reason for needing mutual aid on these calls is due to a 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> call in the district.

The 8<sup>th</sup> page details the 2<sup>nd</sup> call in District, made up 31.3%, or 231 of the calls in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter. The Chief stresses that these are 231 calls that would have gone mutual aid had it not been for the second

ambulance. The 9<sup>th</sup> page demonstrates an hour-by-hour display of call times—call volume is still heaviest during the day, dropping off on the overnight. The 10<sup>th</sup> page reflects response times (with exclusions) during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter—the vast majority of calls were responded to in 6 minutes or less (81.1%), and 96% under 9 minutes. The 11<sup>th</sup> page reflects the data for the Mutual Aid exclusions. The 12<sup>th</sup> page shows all 2016 calls with no exclusions, which reflects an average response time of 5.04 minutes. 79.8% of calls came in under 6 minutes, 94.9 under 9.

Page 13 shows a map of Q3 calls beyond 7 minutes: yellow dots reflect a call location of 7-9 minute response, and a red dot reflects a 9+ minute response time. Pages 14-16 list the dates, times and locations of these calls with notes on the reason (if any) for the response time. Page 17 lists response times, quarter by quarter, from 2013 forward. Response time has improved over the time period, even with the steadily increasing volume.

The Chief also reports on the “Clinical Impression Breakdown”, which was an addition to the statistics starting in 2014—no significant trends are visible. For Patient Age breakdown, the 50-60 age group has seen a jump in Q3, almost doubling. The final page of the report breaks down OVAC Hospital Destinations- Phelps is the closest and most often visited, as in past quarters. Sue Donnelly asks if the waiting time has improved at Sing Sing Prison. The Chief responds that the EMTs now use their ID tags for entry; ambulances are also outfitted with a list of what’s inside so that the screening process can progress much more quickly upon arrival. The Chief believes that his meeting with Supervisor Levenberg and prison officials was the impetus for the improved conditions.

The group discusses the budget for 2017. Chief Franzoso notes that the presented budget is in line with the Town’s 0.97% tax cap increase allowance for the year, raising the district budget to \$644,286 for 2017, up from \$638,096 in 2016. This budget includes a slight pay increase for the paid EMTs, who the Chief says are still on the lower end of the spectrum in terms of pay throughout the County, as opposed to the paramedics, whose pay is already more in line with county averages. The increase also accounts for one employee who has declined the health insurance buyout. These increases are offset to a degree by OVAC’s decision to change payroll vendors, which is expected to save roughly \$20K per year, some of which is in the District portion. Chief Franzoso mentions that OVAC continues to see returns on the hydraulic stretchers purchased some years back in terms of reducing worker’s compensation claims. Sue Donnelly motioned to accept this budget, Bill McCabe seconded. The budget is approved unanimously.

No one from Sleepy Hollow is present, but Bill McCabe says Croton continues to be very happy with the service they receive from OVAC.

There is no new business.

The Chief makes the Board aware that a new ambulance dedicated to former Town Supervisor Martha Dodge will soon be put into service, and the wet-down ceremony will take place sometime in May 2017. Also, OVAC has been told they can no longer park at 2 Clinton Avenue, and has decided to try and purchase a house in the neighborhood to use for parking. He will share updates as they become available.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 7PM, where the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and 2016 statistics will be presented. Sue Donnelly made a motion to adjourn at 7:46PM, seconded by Supervisor Levenberg.