

Ambulance District Meeting Minutes 10/3/12

7:04 PM, 16 Croton Avenue, Conference Room

Ossining Town Supervisor Sue Donnelly, New Castle Town Susan Carpenter, OVAC Chief Sam Lubin, OVAC Captain Nick Franzoso, Richard Wishnie, Bill Hamilton, Village of Ossining Mayor Bill Hanauer, Village of Croton Village Manager Abe Zambrano, Dr. Robert Seebacher, Chief of Phelps Emergency Services Dr. Emil Nigro, Ossining Town Councilman Peter Tripodi.

The minutes of both the 4/18/12 and the 7/18/12 meetings are approved by the Oversight Committee.

Dr. Seebacher asks Chief Lubin to go through the 3rd Quarter Statistics. First page is self-explanatory, and shows the breakdown of the types of responses. The second page shows call type- out of 634 calls, only four could not be married up, which is considered to be a good rate for OVAC. Page three shows that this has been one of OVAC's best quarters- there were only 8 outliers from the "under 9 minutes" response time, not counting those calls with exclusionary criteria. Dr. Seebacher asks if the "gold standard" is under 8 minutes. Dr. Nigro responds that there is no definite "gold standard", but for all practical purposes, 9 minutes is used for that number, which is an acceptable standard. 98-99% of the time, we are under 9 minutes.

The 4th page refers to situations in which there is a 2nd call in the district, while one ambulance is in the process of treating a patient, bringing them to Phelps, and coming back to Ossining. Without the 2nd ambulance that had been purchased, mutual aid would have been needed 163 times during this quarter, which was subsequently avoided by using the second ambulance. Dr. Seebacher congratulates OVAC on a fantastic quarter and year. The 5th page shows a scatter plot with a positive gradient. There has been a 38% increase in call volume over the past 6 years, and not just in the Village of Ossining- the Village of Ossining, Town of Ossining, and New Castle have all seen an increase in volume. Supervisor Donnelly mentions the fact that we have an aging population, especially in places like the Atria over the past year. Chief Lubin mentions that calls to those facilities require only the ambulance and not the fly car.

The 6th page breaks down the response time by location, as was asked for at the last meeting by Dr. Seebacher. The data represents no appreciable difference for any of the three locations (Town of Ossining, Village of Ossining, or New Castle) between the 7-8 minute markers. Most of the time, the reason for the delay had to do with not location of the call being far from OVAC, but rather that the ambulance was on the way from another call. The 7th page goes further to describe the locations of calls within the 8 to 9 minute mark, and these show a similar pattern as shown above- not dictated by areas far away from OVAC. North castle only represents one of these calls out of 25, which Dr. Seebacher notes is not statistically significant. Finally, the 8th page describes call locations between a 9 and 10 minute response time. 9 of the 12 were in the Village of Ossining, while none were in New Castle. Dr. Seebacher states that we had to look at these statistics in the name of due diligence to see if there were any trends present. Chief Lubin sums up the charts by suggesting that there be no discussion of re-allocation of assets, and that the current system of having service come from a centralized location is going well.

Supervisor Donnelly asks if there are any statistics for Croton. Chief Lubin says that they create a stats package for Croton, and Croton Village Manager Abe Zambrano says that they received these stats just two weeks ago from Chief Lubin and were very happy with the results.

The group moves on to the Budget Report as their next matter of discussion. Dr. Seebacher turns the conversation over to Chief Lubin and Captain Franzoso. Treasurer Alex Beck was not able to attend this meeting. Captain Franzoso mentions that the budget report contains a summary of what has been received so far, and says it is very close to what it should be. Payroll happens every 2 weeks, so it's not based on the actual calendar month, which explains the slight discrepancy. Chief Lubin mentions that some paramedics and EMTs haven't taken vacations yet in the year, so it will be on course once those are utilized. Supervisor Donnelly says those issues are to be expected, and states that this accuracy is a very big plus. Captain Franzoso goes on to say they have switched payroll companies and are now getting a better deal with "Paychex". Dr. Seebacher asks if there are any questions before moving on to discuss the budget request for 2013.

Sheets detailing this request, and comparing against the 2012 budget, line for line, are distributed. This budget includes 7 employees: 4 paramedics and 3 EMTs. Captain Franzoso says that this budget reflects no salary increase for the 4th year in a row. The amount of money for the Chief and for overtime will remain the same as well. Last time around, the holiday pay budgeted was incorrect. This budget reflects overtime, total salary, the 9% payroll taxes, for a total of \$447,000. Dr. Seebacher asks for the differences, to which the Captain replies that \$28.00 per hour, multiplied by 168 hours per week and 52 weeks per year is \$244k. For the EMTs, 120 hours per week for 52 weeks comes to \$87k. The Chief's pay at \$36k, and then vacation, overtime BLS, as well as per diems for when someone cannot be found to fill in for an employee on vacation. There are 7-8 holidays per year, and they don't budget for overtime for those days. When it does happen, it's because there is no relief on scene yet for the employees ending their shifts, as their fellow employees are on another call. The 9% in payroll taxes is 1% higher than in 2012 (Employer Taxes).

Dr. Seebacher mentions that, so far, there is only one increase noticed, from \$32k to \$36k. Chief Franzoso says that there will be a 7% increase this year to Worker's Compensation, and 8% in 2013. Even though no cases have hit in the past few years, OVAC never sees a refund, but always owes more at the end. Dr. Seebacher refers to the electric stretcher lifter funded by Phelps that was recommended based on the injuries that employees were seeing, and that likely helped keep injuries low. This year, Worker's Compensation will cost \$35,818; budgeted for \$20,259 in 2012, but didn't include taxes. The Captain mentions that last year's budget did not account for these taxes. Health insurance for employees has seen a 11% increase for 2013 based on current plans, but by changing companies, OVAC has lowered this cost from \$136,900 in 2012 to \$122,400 in 2013. Chief Lubin says that employees with single health coverage were given options to choose from in regards to their medical plans, where as families are now at a higher rate. All in, the total requested budget for 2013 is \$607,000. Supervisor Donnelly is glad to see accurate numbers in this presentation, and Dr. Seebacher notes that the only substantive changes are in payroll taxes and Worker's Compensation. The net change from what was proposed (but not approved) in 2012 is about \$8,000.

Councilman Tripodi commends the Captain & Chief on a job well done, and asks what the employee healthcare contribution is now, to which the Chief replies that it is 10%. Councilman Tripodi says he is impressed by the staff's sacrifices, and thanks them.

Dr. Seebacher states that, for purposes of total clarity, \$599,000 was the legitimate requested 2012 budget, so that \$607,000 is less than a 2% increase. He goes on to say that OVAC should not be punished because of a miscalculation in the past (re: Worker's Compensation and payroll taxes, and that it would be only right and proper to honor the agreement. The actual increase is, and will be, offset by revenue from Croton. Richard Wishnie asks the group to recommend this budget request; all were in favor, and the motion was unanimously carried. Supervisor Donnelly congratulates OVAC on being a vendor with an "open book" attitude. Mayor Hanauer motioned to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:37PM.