

Ambulance District Meeting Minutes 4/10/13

7:00 PM, 16 Croton Avenue, Conference Room

Ossining Town Supervisor Sue Donnelly, Town of Ossining Councilman Geoffrey Harter, OVAC Chief Sam Lubin, OVAC Captain Nick Franzoso, OVAC Treasurer Alex Beck, Village of Croton Chief of Police Anthony Tramaglino, Richard Wishnie, Village of Ossining Village Manager Richard Leins, Dr. Emil Nigro, Mr. Bill Hamilton . Chair Seebacher was absent.

Richard Wishnie calls the meeting to order at 7:00PM. The first order of business is to approve the minutes from the prior meeting held on January 31st, 2013; the group takes several minutes to review and then accepts the minutes.

Chief Lubin explains the 1st Quarter 2013 statistics for the district. The 1st page shows the breakdown of call locations, which is generally consistent with the year-long trend and other quarters, with the Village of Ossining showing the majority of calls answered. The 2nd page shows a breakdown of the types of responses needed of the quarter's 633 calls, including ALS, BLS, DOA, lift assist, etc. The 3rd page details the mutual aid responses in terms of where OVAC goes to help out neighboring communities. Chief Lubin mentions that the flycar is not part of the tax district (the "Ossining" field). The 4th page shows that the volume over the past 8 years has increased from year to year, and that increase has compounded. Between 2007 and 2013, the 1st quarter showed a 24% increase. This huge jump from 2007 justifies the 2nd ambulance. There is also a big jump reflecting the opening of the Atria, and this jump doesn't level out after the Atria opens. Chief Lubin explains that there is a roughly 7-9% volume increase each year, as chalks this up to an aging community that is living longer and consequently has more needs.

The 5th page shows an increase from 16.5% to 16.27%, showing the need for the 2nd ambulance. There is a consistent need for a second ambulance while the first is out on a call, and having the second asset relieves a burden on other communities via mutual aid. The 6th page describes response times; the district is under the threshold 97.28% of the time, when only 90% is demanded in the contracted. 4-7 minutes is the bulk of calls, which means services are getting to sites quicker and treating patients more quickly. The 7th page demonstrates the exclusionary criteria. When a paramedic arrives on the scene, the clock stops and there is no need for sirens on the coming ambulance. Also included here are blizzards, when ALS is coming from Phelps, etc. The 8th page shows that timing is not uniform, but varies from hour to hour. There is a jump after 8AM, consistent until midnight (the hours during which a second ambulance is on call)- the Chief and Captain keep an eye on these numbers and would adjust the timing of the second ambulance if necessary, but right now the timing is just right.

There is a short discussion on Worker's Compensation, brought up by Councilman Harter. Chief Lubin responds that the team is seeing fewer injuries, but most are traffic related at this time. Staff is seeing monthly training to avoid these issues- not required by insurance, but rates were lowered anyway due to less accidents and the installation of lifts to prevent back injuries.

Croton Chief Tramaglini reports that there are no issues in Croton. He feels Chief Lubin is doing a great job with the EMTs, and that there is tremendous cooperation. While they have seen some new members recently, they are still struggling, so they are still campaigning and getting some response. Very happy with the arrangement in general- they did an “active shooter” training with the Village of Ossining Police, along with Chief Lubin, EMTs and Paramedics, and it worked out great.

Treasurer Beck goes into the subject of the budget- they are slightly over budget in salaries, but that is attributed to the first week being a payroll week in January, which was not budgeted for. He expects we will probably catch up and will still end up ahead by year’s end. OVAC is still saving on health insurance due to changes implemented last year to the plan options, as well as to some staff turnover (staff cannot be covered until 90 days post-hire date). Everything else appears to be on budget, partly due to the prepaying system set up for Croton and Sleepy Hollow.

Chief Lubin explains that Croton pays for one person, 24/7, and Sleepy Hollow pays for 1 person from 7AM to 7PM daily. Before joining with OVAC Sleepy Hollow was seeing some issues with their service, which resulted in public interest in changing the system, leading to OVAC’s involvement. With OVAC’s help, they are more prepared for emergencies and the public has been happy with the outcomes.

The conversation wraps up with discussion of the EMT Awards held by Westchester County on May 22nd at Sleepy Hollow High School, where one of OVAC’s own (Sam Halajian) was being named “Volunteer of the Year”, having spent 10 years with OVAC. OVAC is scheduled to receive several other life-saving awards. The Board congratulates the Chief, Captain and OVAC on these awards.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 26th, 2013.

Meeting adjourned at 7:29PM.