

Ossining/New Castle Ambulance District  
Oversight Committee  
Board Minutes Meeting  
November 11, 2010

In attendance: Chair Dr Bob Seebacher, Vice Chair Richard Wishnie, Barbara Gerrard, Jerry Faiella, Ron Dorneau, Bill Hanauer, Richard Leins, Sue Donnelly, Catherine Borgia, OVAC Chief Sam Lubin

Absent: Bill Hamilton

In audience: OVAC Captain Loreen Mettler, OVAC member Daniel Olven, community member Mike Costello

Dr Seebacher called the meeting to order at 7:44 pm.

Catherine Borgia passed out the minutes of the 3/31/10 meeting, which were read and accepted. Richard Wishnie made a motion that the minutes be accepted, Jerry Failla seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Dr Seebacher asked OVAC Chief Sam Lubin to review the performance statistics for the year. Chief Lubin passed out charts on the performance of the corps in several charts and graphs, annexed hereto. Chief Lubin reported that 96-97% of calls had met the "under 9 minute" performance goal, which is a similar success rate to ambulance service in New York City.

Dr Seebacher asked for an analysis of the calls that had exceeded the 7-8 minute performance goal. Dr Seebacher asked if there was a geographic pattern which might indicate that some parts of the district were not receiving adequate coverage. Chief Lubin told the group that the geographic scatter plot of the calls did not show a geographic pattern. He said that the most common reason for a service call to exceed the 7-8 minute performance measure is the location of the ambulances at the time of the call; for example if they are at Phelps or if they are in a more remote location, the response time might lengthen. Chief Lubin also remarked that the corps medical director felt it was important for a paramedic to respond to every call.

Dr Seebacher asked Chief Lubin what the protocol was for calls where the patient was DOA. Chief Lubin responded that they have 20 minutes window in which to notify the physician in such cases.

Chief Lubin detailed the Quality Assurance process used for each call, including the 12 criteria used.

Sue Donnelly asked the chief's opinion about what will happen when the Atria assisted living facility on Rt. 9 reopens. Chief Lubin said he thought there would be a 5-7% increase in call volume. Dr Seebacher suggested that Chief Lubin schedule a meeting with the medical director of Atria. Lubin agreed.

Dr Seebacher moved on to a discussion of OVAC financial data. He reminded the group that it was part of the District's contract with OVAC that they provide detailed financial information to the Oversight Committee by September 1 for the purposes for the following year's budget. This

year, the Towns had a great deal of difficulty obtaining a budget number from OVAC for the Supervisors' budgets, which are due by law on October 30.

Richard Wishnie asked Chief Lubin and Captain Mettler to detail some of the additional costs incurred by the corps that contributed to the extra costs associated with the district services for the 2010 year. Lubin answered that it was insurance, overtime and workman's comp for costs associated with the district. Wishnie reminded the group that the contract states that OVAC make up the difference if the cost for the services provided go over the contract amount; likewise, if they do not spend the budgeted contract amount providing service to the Ambulance District for a calendar year, the overage is to be applied to the following year.

Barbara Gerrard noted that OVAC was not in compliance with the contract, as we have not received the financials for 2010.

Richard Leins suggested that a professional audit by the municipalities' auditors be conducted in March of each year. The group agreed that this was a prudent idea.

After a general discussion about what the appropriate next steps should be, Vice Chair Richard Wishnie moved and New Castle Town Supervisor Barbara Gerrard seconded the following motion:

"Resolved that the amount paid by the Ambulance District to OVAC in 2011 will remain at the 2010 rate of \$507,000 unless the Oversight Committee receives the detailed financial information about all district-related expenses in comparison with budget for the first three quarters of 2010 prior to the Towns of Ossining and New Castle budget adoption meetings on December 14, 2010. The financials should include an estimate for total year projections including payouts for accumulated benefits."

The motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0

Chief Lubin and Richard Wishnie discussed outreach efforts to Briarcliff and Croton. Continuing discussions are underway with both municipalities to see how the district can work more closely with their ambulance service. Lubin reported that OVAC has been helping the Croton ambulance corps with their billing. Dr Seebacher said that it made sense for both communities to join the Ambulance District because we would all see savings due to the economies of scale of working together. Service Coverage would also improve if the district grew larger.

Richard Wishnie asked if the pay scale for EMS and EMT workers had any chilling effect on OVAC's ability to hire qualified people. Chief Lubin said that it did not. Barbara Gerrard added that the other ambulance service covering New Castle had the same opinion.

The group agreed that it would meet in December to make the final determination on the final recommendation for the 2011 financials, with a date to be determined.

Richard Wishnie moved to adjourn; Dr Seebacher seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Borgia

Attached: letter to Richard Wishnie from Councilmember Peter Tripodi, which Mr Tripodi asked to be incorporated into the minutes of the 11/11/10 meeting.