

## Ambulance District Meeting Minutes 1/31/12

7:00PM

OVAC Treasurer Alex Beck, Ossining Town Supervisor Sue Donnelly, Town Councilman Geoffrey Harter, Judge Bill Hamilton, Town Councilman Peter Tripodi, Captain Nick Franzoso, Ossining Village Manager Richard Leins, New Castle Town Administrator Penny Paderewski, OVAC Chief Sam Lubin, Richard Wishnie, Fire Chief Flynn, Village of Ossining Mayor Bill Hanauer, Village Trustee Robert Daraio.

Chief Lubin explains his 2011 report. Large jumps in calls attributed to the opening of the Atria- the volume of assisted living calls had a volume jump. Richard Leins states that the Atria just opened in 2011, how can this be? Chief Lubin responds that by adding the 2<sup>nd</sup> ambulance, they were able to capture the calls that had, in the past, gone to other units due to OVAC not having enough cars/staff to respond. He adds that 96.56% of calls were responded to in under 9 minutes in 2011.

Dr. Seebacher explains how impressed he has been with the success in OVAC over the past few months, and that great strides have been made in staff relations and in progress towards consolidating of service. He says that much of the rift between elected/volunteer/ paid professionals in OVAC has healed greatly in a short time period.

Captain Franzoso reports that volunteerism has leveled out. They currently have 5 potential candidates who are in EMT classes at Phelps- more EMT per diems are needed to cover the 2<sup>nd</sup> ambulance & the Croton contract. Rig maintenance and service is moving along. They are looking at a new ambulance, and will use one of the older ones as a trade in or as backup. There are currently 5 vehicles, including 2 fly cars and 3 ambulances. Croton has 2 ambulances and no command car. Richard Wishnie asks how the ambulance will be paid for, to which Treasurer Beck responds that they are fundraising into a reserve account, and that there are also grants for this purpose. Chief Lubin congratulates the new Captain in how efficient his staff has been in solving mechanical problems.

Chief Lubin reports that he is preparing to renew their narcotic and operating licenses. When asked about how narcotics are controlled, Chief Lubin reports that the Narcotics Control Officer (who is a career paramedic) has Chief Lubin as backup. Each time medication is used, it is reported to the State. All paramedics have access to the backstock, but they must enter a specific code for the narcotics lock box. 99% of the stock comes from Phelps. Chief Lubin suggests that the relationship between OVAC and the hospital is rare in this regard- private entities would not have this sort of symbiotic relationship. He says that Phelps provides terrific service to local ambulance corps, and that other hospitals only offer "1 for 1" on certain items".

Richard Wishnie brings up the opportunity to discuss any new business. Sam Lubin and Jerry Faiella have met with Sleepy Hollow, and have made recommendations on how to get the building back into shape. They want to see the OVAC headquarters. It is shaping up to be similar to the relationship with Croton

(costs and a premium for service). Phelps is interested in having all of the ambulance corps work together, hoping to move towards a more regional system where members could ride for different corps depending on need.

Councilman Tripodi asks how the OVAC dealt with the 10% less funding they received than what had been initially requested. Treasurer Beck responds that as insurance is a large expenditure, they took proposals and gave different choices to members. The members could stay with their insurance and pay 10%, or change to the new insurance for no charge. Otherwise, the difference has to be made up for in other ways. Some of the charge from Croton is expected to cover the overhead. Dr. Seebacher expresses his hope that in the future, a lower insurance rate can be secured through Phelps.

Councilman Tripodi also asks about how OVAC has been handling billing- are only those with insurance being billed? Chief Lubin responds that by law, they must go after what Medicare doesn't pay. Councilman Tripodi suggests that these accounts be taken to collections, to which Chief Lubin responds that that would be against OVAC's mission statement. Treasurer Beck says that OVAC collects up to 65%, but they are hoping for 68% this year. Dr. Seebacher says that they are able to predict somewhat in advance who will pay and who will not, but that either way, there is not a big amount of money in question here. He goes on to say that a lot of money is being sacrificed in Briarcliff, who is seeing \$250k+ in unrealized income each year because of billing.

Richard Wishnie references the ambulance laws, which state that you may not have 3<sup>rd</sup> party billing, which has accounted for over \$750k of loss in 3 years. He says that we should be seeking a change in the law to have 3<sup>rd</sup> party billing be allowed.

Dr. Seebacher says that Dan Blum, VP of Phelps, will help the Board.

Fire Chief Flynn mentions that he has some questions on some budget lines, as the perception is that all of the money raised in fundraisers is going for equipment. Dr. Seebacher interjects that the group has gone from an abysmal place to one of promise, and that we need to focus on this progress. Richard Wishnie notes that day-to-day operations are under the purview of the Chief- while the changing bylaws gave this authority to the Captain, Chief Lubin is still the one being held accountable.

Dr. Seebacher says that everything has changed in the leadership, and that the Chairman has provided all of the information that he is legally mandated to provide, and that we should not be looking backward. Fire Chief Flynn would like to see the comprehensive finances, and who is covering the shifts. He believes that it is now 85% paid professionals. Trustee Daraio asks for this breakdown, and Chief Lubin reports it to be 15 fully active volunteers, 20 not as active, and 30 per diems or FT professionals.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25PM.