

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM
DISTRICT BOARD OF AMBULANCE COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 20, 2012
Bethlehem Town Hall
445 Delaware Avenue
Delmar, NY 12054

Call to Order at 8:05PM

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Chairman George Lenhardt (GHL),
Michael Dailey MD (MWD),
Terry Hannigan (TSH)

Approximately 10 other individuals representing Delmar Volunteer Ambulance Service (DVAS), Bethlehem Volunteer Ambulance Service (BVAS) were present.

MOTION by MWD seconded by TSH to accept the minutes of the May 21, 2012 meeting.

Commissioner	Dailey	AYE
Commissioner	Hannigan	AYE
Chairman	Lenhardt	AYE

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Chairman Lenhardt opened the meeting and advised that the Ambulance Commissioners have been invited to REMO. The Chairman also acknowledged that DVAS was awarded "Agency of the Year" by REMO and the Chairman conferred the Board's congratulations and recognition of the significance and magnitude of the award.
2. Following brief introductory remarks by the Chairman acknowledging that quarterly deliverables had been received from all providers, MWD addressed the Board and audience. MWD stated that upon review of the data compiled to date that it is in the best interests of the Town for DVAS and BVAS to consolidate or merge and provide a uniform level of services in the southern and central parts of the Town. The unified service should plan on commencing operations effective January 1, 2013. Based on the financial information and call data reviewed, the operationally unified organization can operate at a lower cost than what is presently being incurred as a consequence of having duplicative administrative structures and payrolls. MWD acknowledged the contributions of the volunteers who have provided countless hours of service to the Town. MWD stated that BVAS has a long, prestigious history of providing EMS to the Town. MWD noted that DVAS as presently constituted is "new" but that its origins date back through the Delmar Fire Department. MWD emphasized that the recommendation to unite as one agency was not meant to disparage either agency, but comes as a consequence of the review of the call data, level of service concerns, and the economic realities the Board of Ambulance Commissioners has been tasked with addressing by the Town Board. MWD emphasized that patient care is paramount and that a unified service bringing

together the human and other assets of the two agencies should create a better and more effective service going forward.

TSH commented on the prospects for bringing about a consolidation or merger through the judicial approval and also indicated that a municipal CON held by the Town and a consolidation of the two affected ambulance districts into one were likely going to be considerations going forward. TSH also asked those in attendance to provide good reason and show why such a consolidation/merger of providers was not a good idea and no one in attendance took issue. By and large, the proposal aired by MWD met with no objection but those from the two agencies in attendance discussed their pragmatic concerns relating to the 2013 timetable. Both agencies agreed to meet on their own to further discuss the terms of consolidation/merger. TSH stated that since DVAS has just revised its corporate structure and has a full time administrative staff person that DVAS' organizational structure should be looked at as the template for the new organization and that the paramount concern from an operational standpoint is appropriate staffing and timely response to calls.

3. There was discussion by the Board about the cost of the ACSO contract and the need to investigate further the manner in which the 2012 contract amount was determined by the County.
4. Concerns about the receipt of ALS revenue recovery were also discussed and are apparently being addressed by ACSO and DVAS administration.
5. No future meeting was scheduled. It was decided that the next meeting would be scheduled after receiving the initial feedback from the two agencies after they addressed the proposed consolidation/merger with their governing bodies and membership.

MOTION to Adjourn by TSH , seconded by MWD

Commr. Dailey AYE
Commr. Hannigan AYE
Chair. Lenhardt AYE
Motion Carried

ADJOURN 10:00 PM