



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMISSION

Town of Bethel, Connecticut – CJH Municipal Center
1 School Street – Bethel, Connecticut 06801
203-794-8501

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

Wednesday, February 1, 2012
5:00 p.m.
CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

PRESENT: First Selectman Knickerbocker, Ken Parciasepe, Fred Ingram, Laura Vasile and Thomas Galliford. Also in attendance were Town Counsel Martin J. Lawlor, Comptroller Robert Kozlowski and Captain Robert Cedergren.

Call to order/Pledge of Allegiance: First Selectman Knickerbocker called the Special Meeting to order.

Establish 2012 Meeting Schedule: Thomas Galliford made a motion, which was seconded by First Selectman Knickerbocker, to establish a regular meeting schedule as the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Fred Ingram, to hold Special Meetings on February 8th, February 15th and February 22nd at 7:00 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Consideration of review of Paramedic Intercept Program:

First Selectman Knickerbocker explained that a letter had been sent to Danbury Health Care Affiliates (DHCA) giving official notification that we were terminating the contract. This, he explained, had nothing to do with their service; mainly that it provides us with the opportunity to renegotiate the contract. He cited the biggest concern is that the cost, which was projected to decrease over time, has increased. The billing issue with Medicare has created a problem with the projected revenues; Medicare only reimburses when the paramedic is part of the initial ambulance crew. Medicare does not recognize the paramedic intercept program as reimbursable.

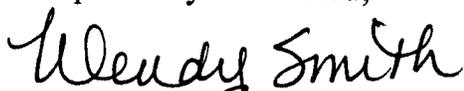
He suggested the committee begin to think about the preparation of various Request for Proposals (RFP's) that could cover a variety of options, i.e. our current program, potential changes to our existing program, a new program, etc.

The RFP's could include multiple scenarios which the committee would then evaluate. If timing is such that any radically different program was suggested by the committee, we could look to extend the current contract for a specific timeframe.

All agreed that the concept of free/no cost ambulance/paramedic service is not realistic; the program may never be a "break-even" program and that residents should not expect a no-cost program. It would, however, be a goal to have firm realistic numbers of our expected costs, or even a program, which would allow us to break even.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, Ken Parciasepe made a motion, which was seconded by Tom Galliford, to adjourn the Special Meeting at 5:43 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wendy Smith".

Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary