



# EMS COMMISSION – TOWN OF BETHEL

CJH Municipal Center – 1 School Street  
Bethel, CT 06801

## MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, June 3, 2008  
5:00 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

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**RECEIVED**

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TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK

**PRESENT:** First Selectman Robert Burke, Director of Health Laura Vasile, Bethel Fire Department (BFD) Chief Fred Ingram, Stony Hill Fire Department (SHFD) Chief Ken Parciasepe and Fire Marshall/Emergency Management Director Thomas Galliford,

First Selectman Burke called the Special Meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

### **Set dates of regular meetings for 2008:**

Chief Ingram made a motion, which was seconded by Thomas Galliford, to hold the regular meetings of the EMS Commission at 5:00 p.m. in Meeting Room “A” of the CJH Municipal Center on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Members agreed that Special Meetings will be called as necessary and that as the winter months approach, meeting time will probably change.

### **Reports from BFD Chief and SHFD Chief concerning current EMS Status:**

Chief Ingram reported that on June 13<sup>th</sup>, BFD will be at a hearing with the State Department of Health to address the consent agreement. BFD had counter-offered a proposal to the DPH. He is adamant that BFD will do whatever is necessary to hold onto their license. He anticipates that more than likely, the result will be that BFD will be required to have paid staff during the daytime hours. BFD has already been approved for billing and they anticipate that they would begin billing to cover the cost for paid staff.

Chief Ingram expressed concern that if BFD is required to have paid staff, volunteers will not be as willing to continue with their volunteer efforts. He advised that volunteer staff could ask the paid staff to standby and allow the BFD volunteer staff to take the first call if they choose to do so. Chief Parciasepe expressed concern that if BFD begins billing then SHFD may need to begin billing as well for EMS Service in town.

Discussion took place regarding the revenue and distribution of them. Chief Ingram is not prepared to provide any of their collected revenues to SHFD unless SHFD takes all calls – including Bethel Health Care currently handled by an agreement with an outside ambulance company and calls at health care facilities under development in the SHFD district.

Discussion on revenues continued. It was suggested and agreed to look into, different ways other municipalities and departments collect and distribute funds from their billing. It was not clear how the funding would be utilized, questions included who bills, who collects, how are revenues distributed, etc. First Selectman Burke reminded them that the Town of Bethel provides for a variety of funding for both the departments, i.e. tax abatements, utilities, equipment, infrastructure, etc.

Chief Ingram advised that BFD does not wish to have paid staff but probably will be required to have it, and on the other hand, Chief Parciasepe, recognizes that based on their volunteer daytime availability, does feel the need to have paid staff in order to assure a timely response. Both Chiefs did agree that they would like to be able to provide the best service to the residents.

After discussion of the various issues, it was agreed that:

The First Selectman will request the Town Attorney to consult with the BFD Attorney. All believed that it would be in everyone's benefit to provide a unified front at the hearing for the benefit of all town residents.

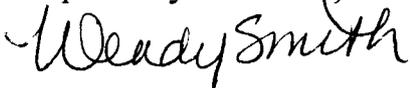
- *It was also agreed to keep the lines of communication open, First Selectman Burke and DOH Laura Vasile will be in contact with Mr. Guercia, State DPH and Mr. Broderick from Danbury Hospital.*
- *A Special Meeting of the EMS Commission will be held prior to the BFD hearing at the State.*
- *Discussion took place regarding the possibility of creating a Cooperative Agreement (hybrid system) to share the PSA, staff coverage and responsibilities of both PSA's by a work agreement that unifies and strengthens the town-wide EMS service provided to all residents.*

**Commission Goals and Objectives agreed upon:**

- *Best outcome for residents/stakeholders regarding the BFD Consent Order*
- *Compliance with CT PHC regulations (timely patient pickup/staffing plans)*
- *Unified comprehensive EMS Service Plan for the Town of Bethel (identify and implement effective ways for the two PSA's to work together cooperatively).*

As there was no further business for today's agenda, First Selectman Burke made a motion, which was seconded by Ken Parciasepe to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary