



EMS COMMISSION – TOWN OF BETHEL

CJH Municipal Center – 1 School Street
Bethel, CT 06801

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SEP 12 2008

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, September 9, 2008
5:00 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

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. Also in attendance was William Hagan, Town Attorney and Matt Cassavechia, Danbury Health Care Affiliates.

Call to order: First Selectman Burke called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Public Comments:

*Alice Hutchinson read a prepared statement (attached)
Attorney Yorio spoke on behalf of his client, Danbury Ambulance
Jon Menti spoke to the EMS Ordinance*

Minutes of July 8, 2008: Chief Parciasepe made a motion, which was seconded by Thomas Galliford, to approve the minutes of July 8, 2008 as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Presentation by Danbury Health Care Associates – Advanced Life Support Services:

Chief Ingram made a motion, which was seconded by Chief Parciasepe to amend tonight's agenda to add **Consideration of recommending to the Board of Selectmen to rescind their motion of August 28, 2008.**

Voting in favor of the motion: Chief Ingram. Voting against the motion: First Selectman Burke. No other member voted. Motion failed.

Chief Ingram offered his concern that this issue should have been brought before the EMS Commission rather than the Board of Selectmen making the decision. He also didn't think waiving the bidding procedure was appropriate.

First Selectman Burke advised that it is the responsibility of the Chief Elected Official to ensure public safety and that he acted appropriately and well within his and the Board of Selectmen's authority. He continued that he has spent considerable time discussing the situation with Len Guercia, the head of the State Office of Emergency Medical Services.

Matt Cassavechia of Danbury Health Care Affiliates, Inc. explained that the proposal of DHCA is to achieve several objectives 1) Address the public safety issues associated with response time 2.) Provide autonomy to the Bethel Fire Department and Stony Hill Fire Department – their PSA's remain intact and 3) Provide ALS services in a cost effective manner. He explained that the Police Department, which holds a first responder PSA for the entire Town of Bethel and not limited geographically by a PSA (like BFD and SHFD respectively) will hold the ALS PSA license for the entire Town of Bethel. This will enable the town to bill for Advanced Life Services (ALS) which in turn will reduce the cost to the taxpayer. He offered that this new system for Bethel is the first of its kind and the appropriate people have been working in cooperation with the State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health to ensure. Bethel would have a dedicated 24/7 paramedic and will remain within the community. Currently, we share a paramedic with the Town of Redding.

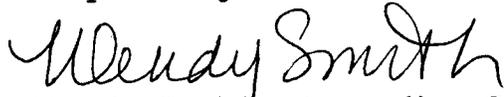
Discussed at length was the issue of 2nd medic for 2nd calls. Matt Cassavechia stated that this can be provided through mutual aid with neighboring towns that provide like services. Chief Ingram and Chief Parciasepe offered that they are looking for assurance that the other departments who we would be relying on for mutual aid would provide a mutual aid medic for all 2nd calls which equate to approximately 100 calls a year.

It was agreed to look to hold a special meeting on Monday, September 15th at 6:00 p.m. if Len Guercia was available.

Fred made a motion, which was not seconded, to add to the agenda ***Discussion of the assignment of the ALS PSA.***

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, Ken Parciasepe made a motion, which was seconded by Tom Galliford, to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 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