

Trumbull Emergency Medical
Service Commission

John Butkus, Chairman

TOWN OF TRUMBULL CONNECTICUT



TEMS
250 Middlebrooks Avenue
Trumbull, CT 0661
203-452-5146

Barbara Crandall, Chief

Trumbull Emergency Medical Service
Commission Meeting
October 23, 2012
7:00pm

Present: John Butkus, Chairman; Vi Watson; Joseph Rodriguez; Barbara Crandall; Michael DelVecchio (entered at 7:30pm; departed 9:30pm) and Diane Mayo (entered at 8:00pm)

Absent: Philip Lukianuk, Mark Smith

The meeting was called to order by John Butkus at 7:18pm.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Past Minutes: Vote to approve minutes from the September 25, 2012 meeting was not done as there was not a quorum. However, one change was noted: Under Chief of Service Report #3 – should read "...paramedics from Danbury Ambulance."

Chairman's Report

John Butkus updated the commission on the EMS assessment being conducted by Holdsworth. Interviews have been completed with key town department heads on various topics. It is felt that this assessment will be completed by the end of the year.

Discussion was held regarding the changeover to C-Med. This was implemented on October 15 and has gone well. There is a learning curve on both sides, but no significant problems have been encountered. It is very evident that the level of technology at C-Med has already enhanced our service with daily reports giving a complete capture of events on each call to the population of our EPCRs with call demographics (location, times, mileage, dispatch information, etc). Mutual aid to surrounding communities was discussed. Mike DelVecchio noted that specific instructions have been given to C-Med with regard to mutual aid to surrounding communities but we also have to abide by the contract signed by all services in the Southwest Region to support each other in the event a request for assistance is sent. Mike noted that our paramedic will not respond to a mutual aid call unless our responding unit returns to town for an intercept on an ALS call. The service members will be notified regarding the possibility of mutual aid requests to surrounding towns.

Budget discussions will be held at the November commission meeting. Barbara Crandall will prepare a preliminary document for review prior to this meeting. John Butkus questioned the part time staff payroll account which was increased significantly this budget to allow for additional staffing. Barbara

Crandall noted that additional staff has been hired and she felt the current level of staffing was sufficient to make an impact in our mutual aid calls.

Discussion was held regarding the types of calls received, e.g. public assist, non-billable calls, etc. and the role of EMS in providing coverage for non-emergency calls. Barbara was requested to contact the Tax Collector to verify those facilities in town that pay taxes. It was also discussed that education at the facilities should be conducted again so that the proper transportation options are utilized.

Commissioner's Reports

No additional reports given.

Chief of Service Report

Barbara Crandall noted the following:

1. Danbury Ambulance has made an informal request to allow new paramedics in their service to precept at our facility. These individuals would be working under the direction of the contracted paramedic in Trumbull and would be on Danbury's payroll separate from their contract; covered under Danbury's WC and would have medical control in the region only through the precepting paramedic. This ride time would allow the new medics to work in an emergency environment (Danbury Ambulance mainly does interfacility transfers). It will also increase the number of available paramedics allowed to work at Trumbull as they could apply for medical control as part of the training. The commission agreed to discuss this further when a formal request is submitted by Danbury Ambulance.
2. Request from Sikorsky was discussed requesting a letter of support to be supplemental first responders at the Sikorsky Aircraft Plant in Trumbull. This letter will serve as an agreement with Trumbull that the Plant Protection personnel will perform EMT duties on their properties with the understanding that they will not circumvent or impede the emergency medical services or transportations provided to that facility. Barbara noted that she had discussed this with Mike DeVecchio and were in agreement that this letter of support be written. Commission supported this recommendation.
3. Replacement of windows and doors at EMS HQ is moving forward. Bids will be out this week or next week with expected completion of work sometime after the first of the year.
4. Information was provided regarding requests for patient records.

Old Business

1. Narrowband Compliance: Mike DeVecchio noted that the install date is set for November 15. Transmission options were discussed with the new equipment. It was noted that there is a back-up system at TEMS HQ on Med 2 for C-Med, however, we would have to use the C-Med radio in the rigs to respond.
2. C-Med Changeover: Mike DeVecchio noted the most pressing problem we have with this change is that crews are not updating C-Med with changes in crew status. Simultaneous pick-up was discussed. Fire department representatives and commissioners have held a meeting to discuss this changeover and subsequent action to be taken on the fire side for dispatching. Simultaneous pick-up is not an option due to the high potential for dropped calls. It was also noted that the PSAP paperwork for the state and the municipal code are currently being amended to reflect the changes with this changeover.
3. Marketing Committee: No update.
4. Ambulance Update: Mike DeVecchio noted that PL Custom and Eastford Fire Rescue have been contacted again regarding their demo units. No other information. Placing a Star of Life on the back windows of the ambulances was discussed.

New Business

1. Alpha pagers were discussed. Barbara Crandall noted that the new technology at C-Med cannot support the alpha pagers that we currently use. It is felt that with the installation of the narrowband equipment, this will not change. It was recommended that we recall the alpha pagers and continue to offer use of text messaging to all members as a link to the service activities. Vi Watson moved and Diane Mayo seconded to discontinue use of the alpha pagers which are no longer compatible with the new technology. Unanimous. All units will be requested to be returned by December 1, 2012. Any members who do not return the pagers assigned to them may be responsible for the cost of the units.
2. John Butkus read an article from the Hartford newspaper regarding the Stryker Power Load and its impact on ambulance personnel. This unit automatically lifts the Stryker stretchers into the ambulance with minimal assistance from the crew. Discussion of lifting techniques was held and it was suggested that TEMS modify its yearly OSHA training to include proper lifting techniques.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Vi Watson, seconded by Diane Mayo, to adjourn the meeting at 9:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Administrative Assistant