

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
January 22, 2013
7:00pm

Present: Commissioners Joseph Rodriguez, John Butkus, Vi Watson, Philip Lukianuk, Diane Mayo, Joseph Peddle and Gwen Summ; Barbara Crandall, Michael DeVecchio and Linda Vernik

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm by John Butkus followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Past Minutes: It was moved by Diane Mayo, seconded by Joseph Rodriguez, to approve the minutes of November 27, 2012 as written. Approved unanimously.

Chairman's Report

John Butkus welcomed the new commissioners Gwen Summ and Joseph Peddle to the meeting.

Mr. Butkus noted there was a meeting of the Trumbull EMS Association last Thursday where information was shared with the membership on the recent assessment. Recommendations were made in the survey but implementation is unknown on most listed. It is certain that the town is looking for a paid Chief. Job description was posted over a week ago with submission deadline of 1/25/13.

Mr. Rodriguez noted that he and Ms. Crandall met with Maria Pires, Elaine Wang and Tim Herbst regarding the budget for EMS. Administration will be looking into the final figures as EMS does not have the information to formulate an accurate budget at this time with the changes being implemented. It is planned to go to an outside staffing agency for paid staff for next fiscal year and those figures have not been calculated. Administration will contact Holdsworth Associates for more accurate information and then EMS will meet with Administration to review the figures. It was felt that the new chief would be in place before other changes are implemented so they have an idea of what direction they follow. The final report has not been released.

Mr. Peddle asked about financial projections in the assessment. Mr. Rodriguez noted increased shift coverage was addressed as this would bring in more revenue.

Mr. Rodriguez discussed the meeting held by the TEMS Association on 1/17/13. He noted that the Association is a private, incorporated organization not supported in any way by the Town of Trumbull. All members of the service are members of the Association. Meetings are noticed to members and are generally closed. At this particular meeting, the paramedics who work in Trumbull were invited to hear about the changes in the service. The Association board has an appointed representative from the EMS Commission. Mr. Rodriguez fills that position and as chairman of the TEMS Association, chaired the meeting. He felt the meeting went well and that the service needs to share this type of information with its members.

Discussion was held regarding the role of the volunteers in the service. It is important to the commission that volunteers be integrated into shifts with paid staff as they are currently. As more information regarding the outside staffing agency is received, staffing can be addressed appropriately.

Mr. Peddle asked if the volunteers are eligible for tax abatements. All field personnel are eligible for tax abatements after completing three full years of service and have met all the mandatory requirements. After that time, there is a schedule of increases up to the ten year mark when the amount remains constant. He also asked about any incentives for members. Mr. Rodriguez noted this was addressed by the Association but there are legal issues that prohibit them from doing this.

Mr. Butkus noted it is the services expectation to continue to implement standards that are equal across all levels of personnel. He noted some members have been reluctant to accept these standards. The service had an influx of EMT applications in 2012 as it did in 2009. Many of these are students which we have for a short time.

Chief of Service Report

Ms. Crandall noted it has been a difficult time with the assessment being discussed because it is unknown what recommendations are being considered and the membership is asking questions that cannot be answered at this time.

The Explorer Post conducted a very successful toy drive for Bridgeport Hospital and delivered several large boxes of wrapped gifts on December 24.

Ms. Crandall noted that the ceiling has again leaked in the classroom and repairs have been made to get us through the winter months. She also noted that progress is being made with replacement of the doors and windows in the building.

Old Business:

1. Ambulance Update: Mr. Butkus noted that a sample spec is being worked on by the committee. It is unknown if the assessment will change the type of vehicle we are looking to purchase. Discussion of vehicle types was held. It is intended to put together bidding information to be presented to Mr. Chimini in the near future. Specs will be written to our requirements with a "suitable alternate" section if any vendor feels they currently have something which might fulfill most of our requirements which would eliminate the wait for building a new vehicle.
2. Mr. DelVecchio noted there are no significant issues with the dispatching system. Mutual aid coverage was discussed. He noted that AMR has reassigned their Bridgeport fleet and there are less ambulances available for mutual aid. This has been discussed by C-MED with AMR as it affects all mutual aid responses, not just Trumbull. A report was generated to show the concern but no decision has been made on what changes would be appropriate to help this situation. EMS has worked with C-MED on other mutual aid resources.
3. Mr. DelVecchio discussed a series of 911 calls to a particular location. Discussion was held regarding mandated reporters, social services, and protective services.
4. Mr. DelVecchio noted TRDC met with the police regarding dispatching changes. A list has been generated regarding EMS/fire/police procedures for dispatching multi-discipline calls which will be discussed with the police dispatchers.
5. Mr. DelVecchio noted the antenna has been changed at TCED Station 2. He was not notified prior to the work being done and the fire department contacted him regarding other changes which will have to be made on their end to bring the system back to its original status. Additional work needs to be done on the EMS side and Mr. DelVecchio will make sure FD is notified prior to these changes.
6. Mr. DelVecchio noted 903 encountered mechanical problems on a call this morning. The representative from Stryker has been in touch with him regarding the power load system for the new ambulance. At this time, we will be unable to purchase this equipment due to cost.
7. Mr. DelVecchio discussed two training programs:
 - a. OEM will provide all materials for a program for fifth graders on making emergency plans for their families. This includes a CD presentation and a backpack filled with safety items on completion of the program.
 - b. OSHA will be held on 1/26/13. This program will include lifting and moving, blood borne pathogens and the usual OSHA information.

Election of Officers

It was moved by John Butkus, seconded by Diane Mayo to nominate Joseph Rodriguez as chairman of the commission. It was moved by Vi Watson to nominate John Butkus as Chairman. Mr. Butkus declined the nomination. No other nominations from the floor. Approved unanimously. It was moved by Joseph Rodriguez, seconded by Diane Mayo to appoint John Butkus as vice-chairman of the commission. No other nominations from the floor. Approved unanimously.

Vi Watson announced that she would be stepping down from the commission but would remain a member of the service as an EMT. She thanked everyone for their work throughout the years

and knows that TEMS will move forward and continue to provide excellent service to the Town of Trumbull. The commissioners thanked Vi for her years of service.

Adjournment

Vi Watson moved, seconded by Philip Lukianuk, to adjourn the meeting at 8:29pm. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk

These minutes are considered a draft until they are approved at the next Trumbull EMS Commission meeting.