

Sullivan County EMS Advisory Board Meeting

August 18, 2021

Note: no quorum for meeting scheduled for August 4, 2021 so rescheduled for August 18th

Attendees –M Goldsmith – BVAC Chair, C Duffy UDVAC Co Chair, R Ackermann JVAC, P Goodman MFAS,

R Mahnken Grahamsville, P Grosser CVAC, K Jara RRVAC, A Bivins Neversink

Attending:

M Goldsmith – Chair BVAC

R Ackermann – Secretary JVAC

American Legion – T LaRuffa

Neversink – A Bivins

Bethel – M Goldsmith

Rock Hill – T Bogursky

Grahamsville – R Mahnken

Roscoe – K Jarra

Cochecton – P Grosser

Tusten – J Welton

Jeffersonville – R Ackermann

Upper Delaware – n/a

Livingston Manor – R Bressler

Woodbourne – n/a

Lumberland – A Steimle

Mobile Medic – A Bockman

Mamakating – P Goodman

Hatzolah – B Gipps

Mountindale – N Prentice

EMS 1 – n/a

Meeting called to order at 19:02

Motion to accept minutes with correction of Neversink A Bivins did NOT attend last meeting made by P Grosser, 2nd A Steimle so carried

EMS 1 unable to attend but wanted mentioned EMT classes this fall at SCCC and Ellenville Rescue. Schedules to come.

Suggested recommendation to County for help with our EMS system.

Discussion on ideas-

3 ideas started discussion –

1 – Dispatch Districts as suggested by Benjamin study

2- County either hires 4 EMT's or 2 staffed Ambulances

3- focus on areas having difficulty and use tax districts to help those areas only.

J Welton –

County system is expensive.

Look into matching funds to hire some or more staff at individual stations

Pike County model - Jason will get more info on their current system

Discussion on taxes for all ideas

B Gipps – reminded us that billing will recoup some of the cost

A Bockman – M Care and M Caid = limited reimbursement & most insurance follow them

Suggested county contact and have our commercial service cover for a trial period (not on tax rolls)

Discussion on who is eligible to bid. Some confusion – Ruth will contact Dana Jonas to get the answer from him.\

Discussion on Tax Districts – R Ackermann advised it is too late for anything to be done via tax rolls as Budgets for 2022 are due now.

B Gipps – reports Hatzolah has been swamped 2' to COVID

County could sub contract with a service to provide service

Should have a performance standard in the contract

A Steimle – we need to figure out costs and present a full package to Legislators to show we're doing something. All agree.

A Bivins – questioned how will this effect Fire related Squads? They cannot bill and all agreements must be approved by the Department Commissioners even for Dispatch Districts and/or Mutual Aid

R Mahnken – when asked if they are still doing the 3 Squads Mutual Aid they were said they are all waiting on an answer from the meeting they recently had about this. But in the past it has worked for them.

A Steimle – we need to look at our own agencies

A Bockman- suggested trying to negotiate insurance companies to get direct payment. At this point FD cannot bill.

Suggested if everyone can let 911 Center know when they're not able to crew then the county could contract for those times.

R Ackermann – like years ago when HVA covered for TOLVAC on Mondays and Thursdays because those were the days they had difficulty scheduling crews to cover.

A Bockman – Start small and build from there. See what works. His service has their own calls/volume they must handle and may miss Mutual Aid calls because they are busy or handling other Mutual Aid.

P Grosser – so contract with the commercial service to supplement.

Questioned how 2 trucks from County would work.

M Goldsmith – County (tax based) trucks would be dispatched as nearest unit or sent to backfill any area that may need.

A Bockman – Each agency needs to take responsibility for them self

R Ackermann mentioned that Dave Kimmel tried to get each agency to call in each morning with their availability for the day and it did not happen.

J Welton spoke about Pike county system and also matching funds. M Goldsmith will reach out to Pike County to see what their system is and how it works

Discussion on staffing issues we all face –

New members initially ride often then slowly fade away, difficult to get members to take a scheduled shift, less people applying to join, we don't know from day to day who's available

R Bressler – how does 911 decide who gets called for MA?

M Goldsmith – each agency has AMA response – 911 Center will entertain what the Corps want if they can.

R Ackermann will ask Alex to bring possible maps to explain what the AMA is for each agency.

A Bockman – suggested that each Corps ensure they have a crew each day and if not notify 911 that they have no crew for that day. Look into joint membership between adjoining squads, maybe combine squads – be accountable

N Prentice – we all have problems getting people to take set shifts – we're trying to schedule.

P Grosser – CVAC doesn't know from day to day, people work. Expressed concern that the contracted agency by county would take call even if they had a crew.

Ruth and Matt – county system would be BACKUP for all county agencies. Would still dispatch as they do now for AMA – home corps + mutual aid agency

R Ackermann suggested we discuss these issues at Captains meeting.

T LaRuffa – American Legion members let each other know so they could then let 911 know

Discussion on possibility of 911 letting Corps know via text when their squad is put on AMA

Mutual Aid subcommittee appointed –

A Bockman Bernie Gipps Tony LaRuffa Robin Mahnken Norm Prentice

M Goldsmith- we need to make a decision as a group what we want then present to Legislators to show them we are working on this.

The AMA should be discussed at the next Captains meeting

Proposal subcommittee appointed–

Connor Duffy Ann Steimle Ruth Ackermann Matt Goldsmith Alex Rau

A Bockman – consider a BLS fly car system then turn over to Mobile Medic

A Steimle – How does everyone feel about mandatory vax? Discussion followed

Next meeting – tentative date of October 6th. Location TBA

Motion to adjourn A Steimle

2nd N Prentice

So carried

Meeting adjourned 20:18