



**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
EMS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
June 16, 2014
SHELTON CITY HALL / 7:30 p.m. / Room 104**

Commissioners Present:
Chairman Noreen McGorty
Tom DeMarco, Commissioner
Karen Minopoli

Also Present: Mike Chaffee, EHAC; Chief
Bob Pettinelli, VEMS
Mike Maglione, Director of Public Safety and Emergency Management
Joe Laucella, Director of Trumbull EMS

1. Convene

The meeting was called to order by Chairman McGorty at 7:33 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Portion

Chairman McGorty offered an opportunity for the public to speak. There being no one, the public portion was closed.

4. Approval of Minutes from May 7, 2014 MEETING

Commissioner Minopoli made a motion to approve the May 7, 2014 EMS Meeting Minutes. Commissioner DeMarco seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken; motion passed unanimously.

5. Correspondence

There being no correspondence this portion of the meeting was closed.

6. UPDATE from EHAC

Commissioner McGorty thanked Mike Chaffee for attending the meeting. Mike Chaffee gave a review of his report. A copy of the report is below.

**June 2014
EMS Commission Report**

Report submitted by: **Michael Chaffee, Chief
Echo Hose Ambulance Corps**

Snapshot of 2013

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Total calls	430	353	405	387	445	364	409	378	383	429	349	352	4684
EHAC Covered	428	349	399	378	432	358	389	371	368	424	339	345	4580
Percent covered	99%	99%	99%	98%	97%	99%	95%	98%	96%	99%	97%	98%	98%

Snapshot of 2014

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Total calls	425	371	400	391	368								1955
EHAC Covered	408	360	384	384	351								1887
Percent covered	96%	97%	96%	98%	95%								97%

New Members in Training

We have 27 members in our Precepting Program. These new members are a strong group that trained with our EMT class, the Bridgeport Hospital EMI Program and several with prior experience from other services. 2 preceptee's were cleared for active duty in May.

Training

The EHAC Community Training Center offers bi-monthly State EMT Testing and is running efficiently.

Our accelerated day/night EMT class began on June 3rd. We have 52 new students taking the class and it is going well.

EHAC holds quarterly EMT refreshers and is well attended from around the region.

The CT EMS Expo was held in May at the Mohegan Sun Casino. 10 of our members attended and benefited from a host of great classes for responders and administrators with various learning tracks including leadership, disaster preparedness, clinical specialties and EMS operations. There was a large vendor display with the latest and greatest in EMS equipment, apparatus and service. Our members were able to network and interact with agencies from all over the State and region. This event was well organized, well attended and a great event overall.

Our list of classes and CME's can be found on our training website. [Http://www.echohose.com](http://www.echohose.com)

CPR/AED Training/Community Education

May classes trained 18 members of our community in CPR.

Membership

EHAC current active roster: 148

Vehicles

All units are in service.

Equipment Update

All Equipment is current and in good working order.

Operations

EHAC provided an ambulance for medical standby at the Iroquois Gas Road Race on June 5th.

Our operational team is putting together the medical plan for the fireworks in Shelton on July 3rd. We work closely with the Police and Fire Department with this plan and anticipate another great event this year. Prior to this event is a picnic for emergency services held in collaboration with the Shelton Fire Department.

There are several other standbys during the summer that include boating regattas, sports events and special details our ambulance crews are contracted for. We again work closely with the Police and Fire Department to ensure we are well prepared for these large public events.

EHAC's Paramedics are supplementing the system in Shelton and our neighboring Mutual Aid partners as needed.

Our Special Response Team (SRT) provided a "gator" team for the Special Olympics of Connecticut Medical Team June 6-8th to support their operations. Several EHAC members are on this team and it is a great event for all involved.

The SRT Team also continues to collaborate with the RSARS (Canine Search & Rescue Team) on monthly drills in various locations around the state.

EHAC on duty crews and First Responders are on hand 24/7/365 with no first calls going to mutual aid services.

Community Outreach Team

EHAC celebrated EMS Week in May and provided a new duty duffle bag to all active members. During the week crews received free food while on duty as a thank you for their dedication to the community and the Corps.

The Relay for Life was held June 7th this year. EHAC members provided a team and medical standby coverage for the event.

A “Bike Safety Fair” in partnership with the Fathers Club is being held on June 14th from 11a-2p at Mohegan School.

EHAC was present for our Memorial Day Parade this year with our gator, our new fly car, 2 ambulances and the Special Operations Unit. This was a great time for all and we had a picnic for our members at our HQ immediately after.

MRC

The Medical Reserve Corps is a statewide program that Echo Hose Ambulance and the Naugatuck Valley Health District has partnered together to establish for this area. The MRC prepares members of our team to help in the time of disaster. The MRC would help staff and coordinate mass dispensing of medications, vaccinations, sheltering and rehabilitation of residents and emergency workers in the Naugatuck Valley. Those members of the community who are interested in joining the MRC can visit www.echohose.com to fill out an application.

The MRC meets and drills regularly with our Special Response Team.

Chairman McGorty asked if there were any questions regarding the EHAC report. There being none this portion of the meeting was closed.

Chairman McGorty then stated one of the additional items we will be discussing will be CMED and suggested Mr. Pettinelli give his report before moving onto this topic.

7. UPDATE From VEMS

Commissioner McGorty thanked Bob Pettinelli for coming. A copy of the VEMS report is below. In addition to his report Mr. Pettinelli stated they currently have six trucks in service. One service truck is being stripped repaired. A fly car was purchased to replace it. It should be back up and running in two weeks.

VEMS has purchased a piece of property and building on 764 Derby Ave in Seymour. This property is right off the highway and will now have the ability to immediately jump on the highway and is a much more central location to the region. The property has been renovated and plans are to move in mid-July. There is still a little excavation work to be done. The second phase of the move will be to build a five car garage. They are currently going out to bid for contractors.

Mr. Pettinelli then moved onto the lawsuit currently pending with the town of Derby. Mr. Pettinelli stated that the lawsuit is moving well in their favor. To date, Derby has not

defended their suit. The Judge seems to be frustrated by them as well. Mr. Pettinelli added that their attorneys are busy with other issues in the town. A motion has been filed for judgment because of their lack of defense and response. Mr. Pettinelli did not think this judgment would pass. He also added the town of Derby was offered a chance to settle at a reduced rate for which they have also not responded.

Mr. Pettinelli then moved onto the CMED issue. A meeting was held a few weeks ago to establish a committee to determine what could be done to save the company. CMED did not show up to the meeting with this committee in place. This meeting was canceled/postponed. There was a meeting today with the Governor's office with most of the members of the committee. The Governor's office indicated they do not have a position in this but they are concerned that public safety is met. The committee ensured the Governor's office public safety would not be compromised. There are other plans in effect and in place in the event that CMED goes under. The Governor's office asked if they should take it over or let it go and it was the committee's opinion that it could be let go as there are other plans in place in the event they close their doors. The Governor's office then indicated there is nothing indicating they must stay with CMED and offered some assistance to the towns during the transition to a new dispatch center.

Northwest CMED, who currently services Seymour and Oxford, is willing to take on Ansonia, Derby and Shelton. They provided a rough cost estimate but it will be higher than what we currently pay. They indicated all the infrastructure is in place and have extra consoles ready to go. They will need phone lines from our tower to the dispatch center. The other issue is they currently only have MED 2 coming in so with the possibility of the Valley joining Northwest, an agreement or release will be needed from New Haven allowing us to use Med 1. At this point this does not seem to be a problem as no one wants to hurt anyone. There is also a possibility that the state will pick up the infrastructure cost to switch over.

Mr. Pettinelli also indicated VEMS would continue not to be charged and indicated he felt they were in a good position if CMED goes under.

Commissioner McGorty then introduced Mike Maglione, Director of Public Safety and Emergency Management and asked if he had any comments to add. Mr. Maglione provided his history. He indicated that 2-3 years ago the town of New Haven indicated they were being overcharged. They were paying around \$370,000 a year whereas the town of Bridgeport was paying around \$150,000 and Hartford around \$125,000. The question was brought up as to why they were paying so much but nothing was ever done. About two months ago there was a meeting in which everyone showed up at the board meeting. The outcome of the meeting was not to abandon CMED but CMED was looking to cut costs by a minimum of 30% and the committee was formed to expose and review their services. CMED was also directed to come back with a budget that was 30% less across the board. The committee scheduled a meeting a week later which CMED director did not show up as was stated earlier by Mr. Pettinelli. New Haven unilaterally started to work out something. They control all the checks. They

stated they are not out to hurt anyone. AMR is ready to step up and take over everything along with the service. The committee, at the second meeting today, now appears, and this is the opinion of Director Maglione, seems to be moving in the direction of the board scoping services way beyond that. We need to see how that plays out at the next board meeting. Director Maglione indicated that our side is to continue talks with Northwest and Southwest but still needs more information.

Director Maglione also indicated that there is a strong hope that down the road there will be our own CMED in Ansonia. This is down the road. Commissioner McGorty commented right we are on borrowed time right now. The director confirmed there are places we can go immediately in the event CMED goes under. A big part of our end is dollars. The director foresees is a substantial price increase for Shelton.

Commissioner McGorty asked Mike Chaffee if he had anything to add. He indicated that he would be adding his stats, where the biggest volume is and determine where the biggest need is and the best approach. Commissioner McGorty asked if he had a preference of where we go. Mr. Chaffee indicated that half their volume heads south; especially on the west side but that is logistics.

Mr. Chaffee added there is also a human aspect. People stating that want this or that. They are just looking out for their towns and services. He added that people need to take a step back and talk and then make a decision and move forward.

Director Maglione added the only requirement that is out there allows CMED to exist is there are patches to the hospital. That is the only thing that is in legislation or statute. They are the mass causality; they are the mutual aid people. New Haven doesn't want to pay for someone else's dispatch. That is where this is coming from. They were going to pay for just the CMED. This would be around \$8,000, a huge difference.

It a work in progress. There is a lot of emotion and we all need to be careful as we proceed.

Director Maglione then thanked Mike and Joe for all the CPR training the do around the city. He added that it is well received and over 78 individuals have been trained.

Chairman McGorty asked if there were any questions, comments or concerns.

Chairman McGorty then thanked everyone for their comments and wished them luck.

The VEMS report is below.

SHELTON: VEMS Responses

	<u>April 2014</u>	<u>May 2014</u>
Total Responses	226	239
Response Percentage	98%	98%

VEMS: Municipal contribution

	<u>Service</u>	<u>Bundle Billing</u>	<u>Town Budgeted</u>	<u>09/10 Balance</u>	<u>Paid</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Ansonia	\$30,000		\$30,000		\$30,000 0	\$0 \$190,00
Derby	\$30,000		-		\$0 \$34,00	0
Oxford	\$30,000	\$24,000	\$54,000		0	\$0
Seymour	\$30,000	\$48,000	\$70,000		0	\$0
Shelton	\$30,000		\$30,000	0	\$30,000	\$0

VEMS: Operations

All Operations running smoothly.

New Office space has been completely remodeled. VEMS in the process of having inspections done with Building inspector and fire Marshal. Anticipated to move operations to the new location by end of July 2014.

Executive Director is working with various contractors and construction companies to obtain quotes for construction of a new metal building 5 car garage and office space in rear of property.

Hearing at DPH for VEMS move is scheduled for June 18th 2014. Executive Director will be representing VEMS.

VEMS has taken delivery of its new 2014 Expedition. There was an issue with the lettering so the vehicle had to be redone as a result there has been a delay getting it on the road.

VEMS has served the City of Derby with a Lawsuit for the outstanding balance of \$190,000 for the past six years subsidies. As of the date of this report VEMS has offered to

the City a legal means of settlement. There is a time line attached to this offer. If the timeline comes and goes and the City does not respond they will be legally bound to pay VEMS its full requested \$190,000 plus Mandatory interest over six years and possibly attorney's fees if this goes to court and VEMS is successful.

All Towns have been invoiced their \$30,000 VEMS operational subsidy for FY13-14. All Towns except Derby have paid.

CMED New Haven as of the date of this report is closing its doors. The Executive Director has walked away from the Organization and we are being told as of July 1st 2014 CMED will cease to exist. This will be an extreme burden on VEMS, Shelton, Derby, and Ansonia. All service chiefs will be meeting to discuss what we can do in short order to create a Valley Regional dispatch center.

Staffing has been great. Overtime is extremely low. All shifts being filled with out issues.

8. Approval of Payment Bills

Chairman McGorty advised the committee there is one invoice from CMED for the month of June. The invoice is for \$5,987.14.

Commissioner Minopoli made a motion to pay the South Central Connecticut Regional Emergency Medical Communications System (CEMED) invoices for the month of June in the amount of \$5,987.14. Seconded by Commissioner DeMarco. A voice vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Report of Chairman

Chairman McGorty advised she had no additional reports. There being none this portion of the meeting was closed

10. Report of Commissioners

There were no additional reports or comments. There being none this portion of the meeting was closed.

11. Adjournment

Commissioner DeMarco made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Minopoli seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous; motion passed.

Chairman McGorty adjourned the meeting at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**Terri Gannon/Clerk
1 tape on file in Town Clerk's office.**