

TCCOG Emergency Service and Planning Committee meeting
13 March 2020, Tompkins County Assessment Department Conference Room
Attending: Rordan Hart, Irene Weiser, Beth McGee, Mark Witmer (Chair)

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am.

Began with roundtable discussion of experiences, perspectives, and concerns. Irene began by summarizing work of TCCOG EMS Task Force.

- Task Force initiated out of concern after the demise of Slaterville Vol. Ambulance
- Membership: town board members, commissioners, first responders, personnel from T.C. Department of Emergency Response
- Emergency Departments are all challenged by falling membership and recruitment needs
- Paramedicine can be a solution for non-emergency calls
- Cornell students mapped out locations for ambulance dispatch centers. Discussion of cost barriers. Beth brought up idea of municipalities partnering with an ambulance company to provide town facilities for ambulance dispatch locales.
- *Outcome was to recommend county support for recruitment and training.*

Beth brought up the necessity of evaluating Town Fire Protection Contracts. Enfield has done this after Association of Towns training on this topic. The Town Board serves as the Board of Commissioners for Fire Protection Districts and liability technically falls to the Town if due process is not followed.

Rordan summarized history of Trumansburg Ambulance. Originally volunteer ambulance within Fire Company. Trumansburg Ambulance is now staffed full-time by paid personnel. In 2008 issue of how to recoup costs. The annual budget was 250K. In 2010 Ambulance split from Fire Company and in 2011 obtained Certificate of Need and began billing for services. The annual budget is now 1.1M; about 1/3 is recouped by Village via billing. EMS is now separate from Fire. V. Trumansburg Ambulance has become a training center for First Responders.

Believes that it is critical that NYS recognize that EMS is health care (and essential) and must be supported by the State. Proposed that TCCOG lobby for NYS program to fund local EMS services, comparable to CHIPS funding for highways.

Need to support training. Beth suggested having BOCES/New Visions programs to engage and train youth in paramedic careers. Training/education programs in local schools and colleges? TC3 has First Responder training.

We should address short, medium, and long term solutions/goals.

Suggestion to have TCCOG municipalities share their Emergency Preparedness Plans

Recommendation to focus our committee work on ways to advance countywide:

- 1) emergency health care and
- 2) fire protection service.

Next meeting: Friday, April 10, 9-11 am.

Adjourn: 10:45 am