

City of Port Washington Police and Fire Commission
Public Hearing Regarding Upgrading the Ambulance Service to Paramedic Level
Police Building Community Room
September 13, 2010

The hearing was declared open by Commission Chair Rick Nelson at 6:30 p.m. Present: Commissioners Nelson, B. Becker, Taucher, Tietzen, and M. Becker; Police Captain Keller; Fire Chief Mitchell; Deputy Fire Chief Jim Riley; EMS Lt. Maribeth Barbuch; LifeQuest Ambulance Billing Service President Gerald Miller; LifeQuest administrator Mark Price; Ozaukee County EMS Medical Director Dr. Dietrich, Port Washington City Administrator Mark Grams, and various community members.

Chief Mitchell summarized the need for the increased level of service, and commended Deputy Chief Riley and EMS Lt. Barbuch, who coordinated and researched the Feasibility Study, the first step in seeking to upgrade to Paramedic Service.

Dr. Dietrich explained the higher level of care that paramedics can provide, particularly in the area of heart and pain control medications. He discussed the need for better EMS coverage in northern Ozaukee County.

Mark Grams, Port Washington City Administrator, questioned the opportunity to offset the cost of the increased level of service with increased ambulance rates. Mr. Miller of LifeQuest explained that not only will the city be able to charge higher rates for the service, but Medicare also reimburses at a higher rate for Paramedic level care.

Community member Jim Johnson spoke in favor of the proposed upgrade, saying that he prefers that his family receive Paramedic service from the local department.

Other points raised by panel members:

The city currently uses the Thiensville Paramedic service for “intercepts” when necessary. Fees for this service are split 50-50 with Thiensville. The Thiensville Paramedic service is also able to provide inter-hospital transports.

The community needs to keep in mind that the ambulance service provides care for marina customers, tourists, and other transients as well as for city and town residents.

Ambulance patients will benefit because assessment skills are enhanced by Paramedic training.

In closing, Chief Mitchell explained that the department is soliciting letters of support from area communities and officials to be submitted to the state as part of the application. He explained that, once the upgrade is approved, the Paramedic program will be phased in, beginning with coverage Monday – Friday, 6 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Commissioner Nelson declared that the hearing was officially closed at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gina Taucher, Secretary

**City of Port Washington Police and Fire Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting Held Monday September 13, 2010**

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present: Commissioners Nelson, B. Becker, Taucher, Tietyen, and M. Becker; Police Captain Keller; Fire Chief Mitchell.
2. Public Appearances: Chairman Nelson presented a letter from Brad Mielke apologizing for his failure to attend the August commission meeting to be recognized for his service as a member of the Police Reserve.
3. The minutes of the regular meeting held on August 9, 2010 were reviewed. Moved by Tietyen, seconded by B. Becker to approve. Unanimous approval.

Ambulance Department

1. Ambulance Department bills for August 2010 were reviewed. Moved by B. Becker, seconded by Tietyen to approve. Unanimous approval.
2. The ambulance budget was reviewed.
3. Ambulance revenue for August 2010 was \$17,589.27. The year-to-date total is \$168,175.08.
4. August 2010 ambulance calls were reviewed.
5. The public hearing regarding the Ambulance Service Level Upgrade was discussed. Chief Mitchell reported that, following the completion of the Feasibility Study, the application to increase the level of service and proposed operational plan have been sent to the state Department of Health and Family Services for review and action.
6. There was no other Ambulance Department business.

Fire Department

1. Fire Department bills for August 2010 were reviewed. Moved by B. Becker, seconded by M. Becker to approve. Unanimous approval.
2. The fire department budget was reviewed.
3. August 2010 fire calls were reviewed.
4. Fire Chief's report:
 - a. Two department members have resigned, and two new members have been added.
 - b. Training: two department members are attending Firefighter I school, and two are attending Firefighter II school. A "live burn" drill will be held on September 25.
 - c. Budget: New tires for Tanker 464 will be added to the 2011 Capital Budget request, along with a replacement for Ambulance 451. The purchase of a new Heavy Duty Rescue Squad will be put off until 2012.
 - d. With the purchase of a new breathing air compressor in 2009, the old unit can be disposed of. Moved by Tietyen, seconded by Taucher to direct the chief to dispose of the old unit at his discretion. Unanimous approval.
5. There was no other Fire Department business.

Police Department

1. Police Department bills for August 2010 were reviewed. Moved by B. Becker, seconded by Tietyen to approve. Unanimous approval.
2. Municipal Court income for July 2010 was \$5857.28. The year-to-date total is \$62,164.98.
3. Budget: Two proposed budgets were created: The first upgrades Tammy Shepherd from Court Clerk to Records Manager with an increase of hours to full-time. The second includes the change in status for Ms. Shepherd, and adds the police aide position that was eliminated for 2010.
4. Chief's Report
 - a. The Accreditation Assessment report was presented for filing with commission records.
 - b. A new form to be used for contested parking tickets was presented.
 - c. A press release regarding the Anonymous Tip Hotline was reviewed.

5. There was no other Police Department business.
6. Moved by B. Becker, second by Tietyen to adjourn. Unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gina Taucher, Secretary