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HUDSON VALLEY REGIONAL EMS COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING NEW WINDSOR EXPANSION

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MINUTES OF MEETING, held at Hudson
Valley Regional EMS Council, 33 Airport Center
Drive, New Windsor, New York, on Wednesday,
August 22, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.

Yvette Arnold,

Court Reporter

ROCKLAND & ORANGE REPORTING

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A P P E A R A N C E S :

RICHARD PARRISH, NREMT-P
President

ROBERT CUOMO, EMT-P
Vice President

NICHOLAS RUSIECKI, EMT
Treasurer

WILLIAM HUGHES, EMT
Executive Director

OFFICE STAFF

JEFFREY CRUTCHER, QI Coordinator
KAREN DELAUNAY, Office Manager

DUTCHESS COUNTY

TIM MURPHY
GUY CARPICO

ORANGE COUNTY

JOANN CHENEY
BEN CONQUES
DAVID GRASS
ISRAEL KNOBLOCH
TERI BARBEE
MICHAEL BIGG

PUTNAM COUNTY

ROBERT CUOMO
DAVID JACOBSEN
MATTHEW BONDI

1 A P P E A R A N C E S : (Continued)

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ROCKLAND COUNTY

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NICK RUSIECKI
4 GLEN ALBIN
BJ LEIDNER

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6 SULLIVAN COUNTY

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ALBEE BOCKMAN
GREG TAVORMINA
8 NEAL MEDDAUGH

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10 ULSTER COUNTY

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RICHARD PARRISH

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ALSO PRESENT

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SUE SATTERLY
DENISE MONTANA
15 TIM SCANNELL

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MR. PARRISH: I'll call this special meeting -- this is a special meeting for the New Windsor expansion, that's the only thing on the agenda for this evening. All right? And once the Transportation Committee gives their report the opportunity shall be provided for REMSCO members present to make inquiry and ask questions prior to making a determination as the application and the public hearings constitute the appropriate form to introduce, provide new information, this is not an opportunity for REMSCO members or nonREMSCO members to introduce or provide any new information.

And for conflict of interest, I'll need you to declare that.

No officer or member of the Council may vote on any manner -- any matter in which he or she has a pecuniary interest. When an officer or member of the Council is uncertain as to whether a conflict of interest exists, he or she shall disclose the matter to the full Council, which shall decide whether a conflict of interest exists.

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We will do the attendance and after that we will -- open it up for any declaration.

MR. CUOMO: Dutchess County.

Nick Trio?

Dave Violante?

Joan Siebert?

Tim Murphy?

MR. MURPHY: Here.

MR. CUOMO: Dee Sagendorph?

Pete Schinella?

Guy Carpico?

MR. CARPICO: Here.

MR. CUOMO: Very timely entrance, Guy.

Thank you.

Orange County. Joann Cheney?

MS. CHENEY: Here.

MR. CUOMO: Ben Conques?

MR. CONQUES: Here.

MR. CUOMO: Eileen Mancuso?

David Grass?

MR. GRASS: Here.

MR. CUOMO: Israel Knobloch?

MR. KNOBLOCH: Here.

MR. CUOMO: Teri Barbee?

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MS. BARBEE: Here.

MR. CUOMO: Frank Cassanite?
Michael Bigg?

MR. BIGG: Here.

MR. CUOMO: Putnam County. Bob Cuomo?
Yep, he is here.
Dave Jacobsen?

MR. JACOBSEN: Here.

MR. CUOMO: Matt Bondi?

MR. BONDI: Here.

MR. CUOMO: Rockland County.
Kim Lippes?
Nick Rusiecki?

MR. RUSIECKI: Here.

MR. CUOMO: Desiree Leone?
Glen Albin?

MR. ALBIN: Here.

MR. CUOMO: Debra Stewart?
Bernice Garatti?
B.J. Leidner?

MR. LEIDNER: Here.

MR. CUOMO: Sullivan County.
Albee Bockman?

MR. BOCKMAN: Here.

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MR. CUOMO: Greg Tavormina?

MR. TAVORMINA: Here.

MR. CUOMO: Neil Meddaugh?

MR. MEDDAUGH: Here.

MR. CUOMO: Heidi Stack?

Mike Bruce?

Marc Strauss?

Ulster County.

Rich Parrish?

MR. PARRISH: Here.

MR. CUOMO: Kelly Nelson?

Dorothy Bailin?

Timothy Mitzel?

Lisa Servino?

And we have 14, 15, 16, 17 -- 18.

MR. PARRISH: Eighteen? And do we have any alternates that have to declare -- to vote in place of a delegate?

So who are -- who has the authority to vote this evening?

MR. CUOMO: Okay, aside from the delegates we have -- wow -- from Dutchess County, Guy Carpico.

MR. HUGHES: All the delegates are here.

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MR. CUOMO: Well, no, most of the delegates aren't here from Dutchess and he is the only alternate -- yeah, he is the only alternate that is present so he can vote.

MR. PARRISH: Yeah, so whatever the total is for each Council, so those two can vote, all right, for --

MR. CUOMO: For Orange County we have one delegate that is not here. So Teri -- I mean one of these two -- well, actually Teri can vote.

MR. PARRISH: Teri will be the vote for that. All right --

MR. CUOMO: All right.

MR. PARRISH: Why don't you circle the once that can --

MR. CUOMO: Yeah --

(The speaker cannot be heard.)

MR. CUOMO: For Putnam County we have -- Rockland County, let's see -- well, let's see, we are already missing one, two delegates and we only have one alternate here so B.J. Leidner can vote.

MR. PARRISH: B.J., you can vote.

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MR. CUOMO: Sullivan County, all the delegates are here.

MR. PARRISH: Okay. And I'm only one for Ulster.

MR. CUOMO: You are the only one from Ulster.

MR. PARRISH: Okay, so everybody knows who can vote and can't vote, right?

All righty, therefore, I'll turn it over to the Transportation Committee.

MR. ALBIN: First of all, thanks for coming to the emergency meeting tonight of the Council.

Obviously there was an application from New Windsor Ambulance to expand their operating territory into Town of Cornwall. The hearing was held July 26, 2018, Timothy Hannigan was the Hearing Officer.

Essentially he went through various points that were brought up during the public hearing and decided -- he decided in the affirmative to -- that the application for New Windsor Ambulance be granted.

So we'll make a motion -- a seconded

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motion to accept the Hearing Officer's decision to accept the Town of New Windsor application for the expansion of its territory.

MR. PARRISH: We have a seconded motion. Is there any discussion on the motion? Nick?

MR. RUSIECKI: Just a question, what was the reason for the expansion?

MR. ALBIN: They were -- based on the hearing they were doing a tremendous amount of mutual aid through the County 9-1-1 system into the Town of Cornwall. And based on the record they talked about was the two townships have actually come to like an agreement or understanding. Their Boards feel this should be a way of improving the service --

(The speaker cannot be heard.)

MR. ALBIN: The two Town Boards got together of the various townships and decided to -- you know, kind of support this movement towards a more cohesive EMS system within the townships of Town of New Windsor and Town of

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Cornwall.

MR. PARRISH: Okay, Albee?

MR. BOCKMAN: For everyone's clarification, could we have the definition of certificate of need read for the body, please?

MR. PARRISH: Define public need as the demonstrated absence, reduced availability or an inadequate level of care in ambulance or emergency medical service available to a geographical area, which is not readily correctable through the reallocation or improvement of existing resources.

Any further discussion?

MR. BOCKMAN: Was any of the licensed providers asked if they were able to provide the services that they found to be in deficit?

MR. ALBIN: Let me -- let me address that quickly.

It says the applicant demonstrated the existence of public need, this is Finding of Fact number 1. The applicant relied upon the data contain in application exhibits 1

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through 3, as well as anecdotal information regarding the matter of care furnished to the Town of Cornwall to form the basis of its proof of support of the application. There is unconverted evidence that the application -- is that the applicant ran between 354 and 359 calls in the Town of Cornwall from July 26th to July 25, 2018.

No ambulance resource is dedicated to the Town of Cornwall other than the Cornwall Volunteer Ambulance Corp, herein after COVAC, which operates basic life support ambulances. Commissioner of Emergency Services Brendan Casey spoke in favor of the application and commended the Town of Cornwall for acting on the report authored by the County regarding provision of EMS.

Deputy Commissioner of Emergency services Frank Cassanite also offered compelling statements regarding inability of commercial services to provide ALS county wide. He stated there was more need for more ALS providers in the county and remarked that granting the present application will help

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alleviate the public need that exists in the Town of Cornwall. Then the -- Commissioner Cassanite's opinion, the public need exists in the Town of Cornwall.

MR. PARRISH: Albee?

MR. BOCKMAN: I appreciate the reply and I understand the Hearing Officer, Commissioner, or whatever, and their input for the want to improve service. But the definition of CON, that cannot be correctable by the reallocation of services, I want to know definitively, were the other services that have a license to provide service there, were they contacted to see if they could provide the service before I personally think that we should approve it. That's all, just the basic definition of CON, were these services that have the license to serve, were they contacted to see if they could provide that service?

MR. ALBIN: So, again --

MR. BOCKMAN: It's either a yes or no.

MR. ALBIN: No. There was no actions by those providers to provide service to that

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area.

MR. BOCKMAN: That is not the answer to my question.

MR. ALBIN: Again, I'm just reading from the Hearing Officer --

MR. CUOMO: Well, actually I don't know if that question could be answered. Because wouldn't Frank Cassanite be the one to answer that question?

Because there was a statement -- wasn't there a statement by him saying that commercials couldn't provide the service?

MR. ALBIN: Correct.

MR. CUOMO: So perhaps he did contact them. The problem is he is not here and can't answer that question.

MR. ALBIN: All right, but then the Hearing Officer says despite being an existing ALS provider at the time of the present application MLSS offered no data in opposition to the application prior to its submission of the new application. So those providers theoretically had an obligation to provide service there, were not providing and

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locally the two townships came up with a solution, a local solution to an existing problem.

MR. PARRISH: They were both present -- Emstar and Mobile Life were both present at the public hearing. And as stated in the report they did have the opportunity to present their cases.

MR. BOCKMAN: They didn't oppose or they did not approve? Just because they didn't -- I'm just playing devil's advocate because I want clarity -- I want clarity on that CON. They may not have said anything, did they approve -- did they approve of the application?

MR. PARRISH: No. They were not -- they spoke against the application, both of them.

MR. BOCKMAN: Okay.

MR. KNOBLOCH: Without providing a fix for the problem. So they were opposed to it, but they didn't say we were going to fix the issue by doing so and so as far as what I read in the report.

MR. PARRISH: Greg?

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MR. TAVORMINA: Just to throw something out there, we kind of said it on the conference call, if the agencies that are currently -- for lack of a better term -- licensed to cover that area were doing what they were supposed to, we wouldn't be here. New Windsor wouldn't have to apply to go into Town of Cornwall. So it's pretty much self-explanatory, it's obvious --

MR. CUOMO: The numbers speak for themselves.

MR. TAVORMINA: Exactly. They are not providing the service so if they can't do it -- they're not doing it.

MR. PARRISH: Any further discussion?

All right, move it forward. Again, the conflict of interest, is there anybody here that wishes to declare a conflict of interest? Dave?

MR. GRASS: I do.

MR. PARRISH: All right, anybody else?

All right, does the Council feel that -- I'm sorry?

MR. CUOMO: Who claimed conflict of

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interest?

MR. PARRISH: Dave Grass.

All right, when an officer or member of the Council is uncertain as to whether a conflict of interest exists he or she shall disclose the matter to the Council, which shall decide whether a conflict of interest exists.

So do you believe -- uncertain or you definitely have a conflict you are declaring.

MR. GRASS: I have a conflict I'm declaring.

MR. PARRISH: Okay, then at this point you cannot vote. All right.

MR. CUOMO: There isn't another alternate that can vote.

MR. PARRISH: That's all right.

Does anybody have any concerns or objections to that?

All right, therefore I call a roll call vote of the voting members.

MR. CUOMO: Okay --

MR. ALBIN: Just -- Rich, just clarify if we vote yes --

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MR. CUOMO: I was about to utter those words.

MR. ALBIN: Okay.

MR. CUOMO: So if you are in favor of approval of the expansion, please say yes when you vote. If you are not in favor of approval then the vote would be no.

Okay, Dutchess County. Tim Murphy?

MR. MURPHY: Yes.

MR. CUOMO: Okay, I thought I missed something -- Guy Carpico?

MR. CARPICO: Yes.

MR. CUOMO: Orange County. Joann Cheney?

MS. CHENEY: Yes.

MR. CUOMO: Ben Conques?

MR. CONQUES: Yes.

MR. CUOMO: Israel Knobloch?

MR. KNOBLOCH: Yes.

MR. CUOMO: Teri Barbee?

MS. BARBEE: Yes.

MR. CUOMO: Putnam County.

Bob Cuomo? Yes.

Dave Jacobsen?

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MR. JACOBSEN: Yes.

MR. CUOMO: Matt Bondi?

MR. BONDI: Yes.

MR. CUOMO: Rockland County. Nick
Rusiecki?

MR. RUSIECKI: Yes.

MR. CUOMO: Glen Albin?

MR. ALBIN: Yes.

MR. CUOMO: B.J. Leidner?

MR. LEIDNER: Yes.

MR. CUOMO: Sullivan County. Albee
Bockman?

MR. BOCKMAN: No.

MR. CUOMO: Greg Tavormina?

MR. TAVORMINA: Yes.

MR. CUOMO: Neil Meddaugh?

MR. MEDDAUGH: Yes.

MR. CUOMO: Ulster County. Rich
Parrish?

MR. PARRISH: Yes.

MR. CUOMO: Fifteen yes, one no.

MR. PARRISH: All right. And the
majority was 14?

MR. HUGHES: It's on the bottom of the

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MR. PARRISH: Quorum is 13 so we needed
a minimum of 13 so the motion does pass. Any
-- well, no other --

MR. CUOMO: No other business.

MR. ALBIN: Motion to adjourn.

MR. TAVORMINA: Second.

MR. PARRISH: Motion to adjourn, that's
it. Thank you folks for coming.

(Time noted: 7:20 p.m.)

Shelley Arnold

