

Public Safety Meeting Minutes  
January 29, 2013

Call to Order 10:02 A.M.

Members in attendance: Bill Rivera, Andy Gonzalez, Chair Szukala

Also in attendance: Stephanie Kiyak, Chief Ortolano, Tony Gugino, Ron Szot, Chief Ahlstrom, Shirley Pulawski from Observer

Approval of prior meeting minutes: 1<sup>st</sup> by Rivera, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gonzalez.

Chief Ahlstrom gave update on rescue truck. Waiting on radio for truck. Should be in service next week. We have supplies needed for truck, still waiting for oxygen. A refurbished stretcher has been ordered in the amount of \$1895.00. This is much less than a new one. There has been a DOT request to put new truck in service. The old truck will remain in service until spring. Truck will then have some body work done.

Chief asked for opinion on changing service level from BLS to ALS. The quality of coverage is much better. Approx. 35% of all calls are ALS. There are more EMS calls vs. fire calls. A financial aspect to think of is the reimbursement rate of medicare calls. \$277+ mileage, and ALS would receive \$777 plus mileage. Dept. responds to approx. 1200 EMS calls and 600 transports.

18 months from start to finish if process is started. Training for firefighters would be 10 months. We have 24 in dept. Not all would need to be ALS trained and certified. Chief felt 5-8 would work for dept needs.

A conference is coming up that Chief would like to attend. He will submit request to mayor. Conference is about changing HIPAA laws.

Szukala asked for a breakdown of financials on ALS service for council review.

Rivera stated we need to look at everything.

Kiyak asked if we could offer these services to other communities.

Chief Ahstrom explained that Fredonia does not transport. Their dept. makeup is different than the city. However, discussing this in future is possible.

Chief Ortolano gave council some information about parking meters. Szukala and Councilman Michalski had been asking for work to take place regarding parking meters for over 1 year. Chief stated Bruce Tarnowski will take an inventory of meters and parts needed to move forward with replacement.

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Kiyak asked if city employees could purchase an annual parking pass if meters were taken from back lot. Council asked prior to meeting if meters could be put to better use from back lot, as many city employees use this lot. City employees do not put money into meters. Some meters are thought to be over 20 years old, some taking dimes still. Gonzalez stated most meters out of state are now electronic and take credit cards for payment.

Chief Ortolano discussed the Gun buy Back idea previously brought up by Councilwoman Szukala. He had some legal concerns and stated he would talk to Chief Brad Meyers from Fredonia and give an opinion at next meeting. There are state regulations as to how to dispose of the guns once they are turned in. Szot stated on May 11, 2011 city of Buffalo had guns turned in, of which 66% were broken. We could discuss a volunteer turn in for now and see how it goes. Szot stated the county could get involved and do a county wide turn in program, may be more effective. Rivera stated many guns are more powerful, and disposing of them properly is important.

Meeting adjourned 10:48 A.M. Motion by Rivera, second by Gonzalez