

Special Meeting – GCEMS / Ambulance
Town of Lexington and Town of Prattsville
March 21, 2019

Supervisor for the Town of Lexington, John Berger called the special meeting to order at 6:30 PM at the Municipal Building, 3542, Route 42, Lexington, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:	Supervisors:	John Berger (Lexington) Kristen Tompkins (Prattsville)
	Council Members:	Michael Barcone (Lexington) JoEllen Schermerhorn (Lexington) Bonnie Chase (Prattsville) William Pushman (Lexington) Bradley Jenkins (Lexington) Greg Cross (Prattsville)
	Town Clerk:	Charlotte Jaeger
	Town Attorney:	Tal Rappleyea (Lexington & Ptattsville)
	Highway Superintendent:	Frank Hermance

Others Present: Liza Dwon, Paul Dwon, Emmet Turk, Elouise Cole, Maureen Anshanslin, Elizabeth Hapeman, Rose Williams, Jim Thorington, Kathleen Hilbert, Michele Brainard, Stephen Brucato, Rich Tompkins, Ron Rouse (GCEMS), Ron Lipton, and Christine Owad

Supervisor Berger thanked everyone for attending the meeting and explained that the Towns of Lexington and Prattsville had asked Greene County EMS for a proposal on the cost for 24 hour ambulance coverage. He then introduced Ron Rouse and Steve Brucato from GCEMS to go over the proposals. There were handouts that had figures for 24 / 7 coverage and 12 / 7 coverage.

Steve Brucato gave a brief introduction saying that he has been the Chief of Operations of GCEMS for the past 4 years but has been with them for 10. He has experience with Private and Municipal services. Mr. Brucato said it would be easiest to go over the information in phases.

Ron Rouse introduced himself and he has been a health care consultant and he helped to put together the paramedic program back in 1998. He also works with the Greene County Rural Health Network.

Logistics: There is a 2006 ambulance that was donated by Chappaqua Rescue Squad that has 44,00 miles on it. It just needs a stretcher, a stair chair, and some new lettering on it. Personnel would all be BLS. The Fly car would still provide the paramedics. The Town of Lexington Highway garage would house the vehicle. EMTs would be hired for the Rescue Squad. Ron Rouse handed out a revised copy of the budget. The handout is to give an overview of the budget. For 24/7 coverage the cost is \$398,557.00 and for 12/7 coverage the cost is \$224,578.00. There are some fixed costs and some one time expenses like uniforms and other costs that could go up like gas, insurance, etc. The more you can maximize revenue the better. Average collection payment is around \$550.00 per call. EMTs get paid around \$15.00 per hour. Personnel are about 70% of the overall cost. Kathleen asked about the highway building and the cost of electricity and other utilities. Supervisor Berger said that the Town of Lexington would maintain the building and the expenses. Ron Lipton asked about billing costs, he thought it should be around 6% but Ron Rouse said that he found it to be 11 to 12 %. Ron Lipton asked if it could be done in house? Supervisor Berger said he would not want to take that on. If you go to a 12 hour shift 6am to 6pm you could answer 70% of calls, theoretically, 16 hour shift 84% of calls and 24 hours would be more. Response times would be improved in Lexington. Prattsville Council Member Bonnie Chase asked how much would response times improve. It would depend but it could be a saving of 4 to 10 minutes. How long is the life of the ambulance? Since this one is 12 years old probably 1 to 2 years. The cost of a new one is around \$150,000.00 or used would cost \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00.

Implementation: Both Towns hold a CON (certificate of need) which is good. The GCEMS ambulance service could operate under this but the Towns would have to do the billing. This could be done rather quickly. If the Towns transfer the CON to GCEMS which is about a 4-6 week process they have to go through REMO and they meet in June and then not again until September. It also takes awhile to get the numbers for medicare, medicaid, and commercial billing.

Kathleen asked if there is any State Funding or grants available and the answer was no since the State doesn't recognize EMS as a requirement. Fire and Police are required. The Department of State may provide some assistance to improvements made to already existing services. Private Foundations might also be an option. Council Member Bonnie Chase said that the Town of Prattsville is indebted to the Town of Ashland for their years of service. Rich Tompkins said that the Town of Lexington and Town of Prattsville would have to apply for billing numbers. Bonnie asked Rich what the response times are? Rich said that he went back five months and the average response time to Prattsville was 16 minutes and the average response time to Lexington was 22 minutes. Rich said that there are many variables. Supervisor Kristen Tompkins thanked Rich for attending the meeting and for his input as well as the information from Ron Rouse and Steve Brucato. Kathleen asked what the tax increase would be for 24/ 7 coverage. It would be 84 cents per thousand in Lexington and \$2.47 per thousand in Prattsville. Kathleen asked if either Town gets Aim funding. Supervisor Berger said that we get it this year. Supervisor Berger thanked Steve and Ron for coming and asked them to thank Mark Evans as well. Ron and Steve brought the ambulance for anyone to look at. The meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlotte Jaeger, Town Clerk