

**COMMITTEE MEETING  
LAKE PLEASANT, NY  
THURSDAY  
SEPTEMBER 6, 2012**

**CENTRAL GOVERNMENT  
COMMITTEE  
9:30 AM**

Present: Rick Wilt and Bob Edwards

Absent: Ermina Pincombe and John Frey

Also present: Bill Farber, Brian Wells, Brian Towers, Clark Seaman, Neil McGovern, Don Purdy, Gary Wicks and Pete Klein, Press

Bill introduced Don and Gary. Don and Gary came to him with updates on what is now required for the ambulance corps.

Gary reported that on Soil & Water Day they are planning on landing a helicopter in the field behind the Courthouse, which will be September 20, 2012. They are going to do a presentation for the students.

Gary handed out information from the State on the new requirements for ambulance corps. He then proceeded to discuss how the new training requirements would work. The State used to set the curriculum that they followed; now they are going to follow the national education standards. This will affect rural areas because volunteers will now have to complete 200 hours for an E.M.T. course versus 140 hours and it is hard enough to get volunteers to do 140 hours.

Instructors now have to make up their own curriculum and counties are losing instructors because of this.

Bill asked Gary what he is looking for the Committee to do. Gary asked for some guidance.

Bill asked if other states have a more open minded approach to video conferencing and on-line training. Gary stated that Joyce has plans and videos. It's the State that's a barrier in this, Bill stated. How do other States do that; Gary stated they have training programs, they have paid staff.

Neil stated the western states are comparable to us. Gary stated again most of the counties have paid staff. So other states don't allow distance learning, Bill asked. Gary stated they may, it is all up to the regions. Bill asked if they need a certified instructor on site. Gary stated yes, they need to sign off.

Bill questioned is there any reason why you couldn't have students sitting at computer stations learning on their own. Gary stated he wasn't sure, discussion continued.

Brian Towers asked what our legal responsibilities to provide Emergency Medical Services are. Bill stated he didn't know. Brian stated there are two aspects, one is a social aspect the other is a legal aspect.

Bill feels Brian's point is that the State of New York, with their changes, are pushing communities to have paid services. They want to get out of the business of having municipalities provide volunteer services, fire departments and ambulance squads. So if New York State is pushing us in that direction and if we don't have any obligation to do it are we making a mistake to do it and should we make it clear that a paid service should step in.

Neil believes the towns have a legal responsibility and that they should ask the Associations of Towns.

The majority of the Committee stated that they are being pushed to a paid service. Gary feels the State has done this to us. The fire departments have grants out there, there is nothing for EMS, you're on your own and that has basically always been that way.

Discussion continued on how many hours are needed for being a volunteer. The Committee members each voiced how close they are to closing down due to lack of members.

Bill stated that there is a gentleman who did a presentation for AATV regarding EMS issues and maybe they need to have him come and do a presentation with all of us. We need to know the outcome of how other areas are dealing with this and start planning.

Don stated that one of the major concerns in Hamilton County is unemployment, if at some point in time there is an ambulance service that is contracted to be in Hamilton County, would they hire local people and would local people see this as a means of income and get certified.

Bill stated there is more of an EMS crisis than fire. Don agreed.

Rick stated this is a County wide problem.

Bill wanted to speak about Public Defender. The State has some money for coordination. Gerard McAuliffe from Fulton County is willing to share their policies and procedures with us.

Bill stated that Neil has a local attorney that is interested, Katie Smith. Bill reached out to Katie on this matter and she is interested.