

**SEVEN MOUNTAINS
EMERGENCY
MEDICAL SERVICES
COUNCIL, INC.**



**Special Meeting
May 7, 2008**

A special meeting of Seven Mountains EMS Council was convened on May 7, 2008 to discuss purchase of a new vehicle and issuance of a position statement on rising fuel costs.

Meeting called to order at 7:35pm by Vice-Chair Dave Jones. Roll call was conducted.

Dave thanked everyone for attending and reminded members of the two discussion items for this meeting. Dave reviewed bid prices received for a 2008 pickup:

Chevrolet 2500HD	\$28,121.48
Chevrolet 2500HD, 4 Wheel Drive	\$30,909.23
Ford F-250	\$26,612.00

Discussion followed. Tim stated that staff received proposals on Chevy & Ford and recommended Council go with Chevy – due to information received on the dependability and reliability of the Chevrolet Diesel engine & transmission vs. Ford. A delegate questioned the need for four wheel drive, so a bid was requested for the Chevrolet as four wheel drive. Discussion followed and the following suggestions were made:

- 1) Council needed 4 wheel drive
- 2) Remove the locking Rear Axle at a savings of \$260
- 3) Add power option at \$799
- 4) Add automatic high idol at \$160
- 5) Add Keyless entry at \$192
- 6) Add bio-fuel option at \$160
- 7) Add roof mounted light wiring at \$24

That would bring the cost of the four wheel drive to approximately \$31,984.23. Financing was then discussed.

Tim showed the figures on his proposal to finance the vehicle through Ford Motor Credit Company for three years with a yearly payment each of those years and a \$1 buyout. It was questioned if Council could do any better on the finance rate (5.95%), Tim is to look into that.

Motion was made by Gerard Banfill, 2nd Debra Smeal to purchase a 2008 Chevrolet 2500HD, 4WD pickup as discussed prior with staff having the authority to finish up on details such as cap, lighting, decals, & financing. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion followed concerning the rising cost of fuel – which is raising the cost of everything else – and its effects on the services ability to provide EMS services throughout their coverage areas. Gerard stated that he has started an information campaign within Clinton County and thought the Region should take a stand also. Everyone present considered fuel cost a major concern for and having a large impact on service delivery. Discussion followed as to how Council wants to address this issue – letters, legislative breakfasts, local vs. state leaders? Randy stated that we need to make sure we not only identify the problem; but, provide some possible remedies/suggestions on how to offset this impact – letters of complaint aren't taken as seriously as letters addressing and trying to work through problems. After discussion, it was agreed that Council would coordinate an "EMS service" meeting where we could here first hand how fuel costs are impacting EMS service delivery and draft some suggestions from that meeting. It was suggested that this meeting should be held in conjunction with the next Council meeting (June 5) so 1) individuals didn't need to make two trips (saving fuel) and 2) any suggestions from the meeting could be considered & acted upon by the Council membership at their meeting. A meeting will be scheduled (by staff) inviting all regional services at which time the committee can select leadership, if so desired.

Motion by Craig Wheeler, 2nd by Chris Gardner for Council to establish a task force to look into the rising fuel costs. First work item will be a meeting of regional services prior to Council's June meeting to discuss the issue; brainstorm solutions; and set direction as to where we what to go with this – possibly a position statement. Motion Passed

Tim reminded everyone that this effort was an effort to educate legislators/policy makers/citizens on the impact the rising fuel costs are having on provision of EMS within the communities – this isn't a lobbying effort by Council or any of it's member organizations.

Briefly, Tim introduced Dr. Neal to the membership as this is the first meeting he has been able to attend since being appointed as Regional Medical Director. Both Tim and Dave thanked him for his work in support of the Council and its operations.

Tim reminded everyone that May 18-24 is national EMS week. Council has sent information to all regional newspaper & radio stations along with mailing sample proclamations to the County Commissioners requesting that they consider passing a county resolution recognizing EMS Week within their county. Council purchased small bottles of hand sanitizers for regional providers.

Tim reminded everyone of the Spike's baseball game Council is attending on August 21st. He stated that Mark just sent a second reminder to everyone including a picnic in the parking lot prior to the game. Those who were there last year stated that it was a good time and everyone was encouraged to attend.

Motion by Randy Rockey, 2nd Gerard Banfill to adjourn. Motion Passed.

Attendance
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Bob Reck	Delegate, Mifflin County Government
Randy Rockey	Delegate, Centre County EMA
Gerard Banfill	Delegate, Clinton County EMS Assoc.
Dave Jones	Delegate, PSU
Joanne Furl	Delegate, Clinton County EMA
Romayne Nayler	Delegate, Centre Communities Chapter, American Red Cross
Meecha Bechdel	Guest, Intern with CCC, ARC
Chris Gardner	Delegate, Administration, Lewistown Hospital
Craig Wheeler	Delegate, American Heart Association
Cliff Neal	Regional Medical Director, S MEMSC
Debra A. Smeal	Delegate, Centre County Ambulance Assoc.
Tim Nilson	Council Staff