

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD
Ambulance Committee Meeting
Minutes
June 15, 2023

The Ambulance Committee met on June 15, 2023 at 11:10 a.m. Attendees included Vanessa Bautista, Health Director, Fire Chief Czentnar, Deputy Fire Chief Wilson, Board of Health members Kathy Neelon, Isaac Cordona, Len Guercia, (via phone), Deputy Emergency Management Director, Dr. Smith and the undersigned.

The Fire Chief presented the Office of Emergency Management Medical Services/DPH proposed statewide rate schedule of a 4.3% increase (attached). These rates would be effective as of January 21, 2024. The current year rate increase was 2.8%. OEMS has approved a higher increase for a number of reasons including inflation. The Town has three options: 1) rate can be rejected leaving the existing rate in place; 2) can accept the proposed rate; or 3) apply for a different rate. Given that the Town's current rates do not cover the cost of the ambulance, the Fire Chief indicated that he recommends the proposed rate increase.

The Fire chief outlined state wide concerns regarding ambulance service. There is a shortage of personnel available for staffing ambulance services. The combination of items including the COVID epidemic as well as generational reluctance to go into medical emergency careers. Industry in general has a significant lack of employees. The Fire Chief indicated that the Wallingford fire service is actively recruiting employees and has just hired four additional EMTs. Last year the number of emergency calls increased from prior years to 6,413 EMS calls. In 2023 as of the beginning of June we had 2,865 calls, about the same level as 2022. There has been a 25% increase in emergency calls over the last three years.

A motion was made by Isaac Cordona to accept the proposed rate of 4.3%, seconded by Dr. Smith. Some discussion ensued concerning the reduction in levels of reimbursement due to Medicaid and Medicare protocols. The Town is obligated to inform OEMS of our decision prior to August 31st.

The Ambulance Committee voted unanimously to approve the 4.3% rate increase. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William W. Dickinson, Jr.
Mayor

jms
6/19/23
Attachments

SCHEDULE OF MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE RATES

EFFECTIVE January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024

PROPOSED RATE SCHEDULE FOR 2023

Basic Life Support (BLS) Rate	\$872.00
Advance Life Support Level 1 Non-ER	\$877.00
Advance Life Support Level 1 ER	\$1,380.00
Advance Life Support Level 2	\$1460.00
Paramedic Intercept.....	\$979.00
Basic Life Support (BLS) Helicopter Assist	\$571.00
Advance Life Support (ALS) Helicopter Assist	\$888.00
Advance Life Support (ALS) Assessment	\$512.00
Specialty Care Transport (SCT).....	\$1,821.00
Treat and Non-Transport (BLS).....	\$244.00
Treat and Non-Transport (ALS).....	\$386.00

ANCILLARY CHARGES

Waiting Time Charge.....	\$231.00
Per Mile Charge.....	\$21.19
Special Attendant Charge.....	\$173.00

PROPOSED
~~INVALID COACH RATE SCHEDULE~~

Base Rate.....	\$152.00
Two Patients.....	\$193.00

ANCILLARY CHARGES

Per Mile Charge	\$13.05
Second Attendant Charge.....	\$89.00
Waiting Time Charge.....	\$128.00

All charges must be in conformance with the definitions on the subsequent pages entitled "Explanatory Notes On the Implementation of the 2024 Schedule of Maximum Allowable Rates," which are attached to, and become part of, the Rate Schedule.

Certified to be the maximum allowable rates by: _____

Date Certified: _____