

**MINUTES
TOWN OF WALLINGFORD
AMBULANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
January 21, 2021**

The Ambulance Committee met on January 21, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. Those in attendance included Fire Chief Richard Heidgerd, Deputy Fire Chief Samuel Wilson, Deputy Fire Chief Joseph Czentnar, Police Chief William Wright, Health Director Stephen Civitelli, Board of Health members Daryll Porto, Isaac Cardona, Jeffrey Necio and Mayor Dickinson.

The meeting opened with a moment of silence in memory of David Juliano a member of the Ambulance Committee.

Deputy Samuel Wilson presented information regarding the change in ambulance service since July 1, 2020. Previous to that date, 100% of ambulance calls were staffed at an ALS (Advanced Life Support) level. Since July 1st, we now have two BLS (Basic Life Support) ambulances. The change was made to address some issues that included concerns regarding paramedics going on all the calls. Many calls do not require the presence of a paramedic which meant that the paramedic was not available for other calls requiring a paramedic.

Medical dispatch determines what resources should respond on a call. In the first six months since July 1st there have been 2,274 emergency medical calls. Paramedics were present on 1,031 of those calls. Upon review, paramedics were needed on only 917 of 1,031 calls. This analysis is an effort to make our billing for service more appropriate. In the last six months the ambulance service experienced 973 BLS calls and 741 ALS calls. The Department is continually analyzing our services and the best way to meet the emergency medical needs of our citizens.

With the new ambulance billing rates the Department intends to bill for advance life support assessment. Hospital medical control has provided dispatch protocols for determining whether a call is BLS or ALS. When an ALS ambulance responds 50% of the time with a paramedic we bill for transport but not for assessment of the patients' condition. We now intend to bill for that service. An example of the protocol for requiring an ALS response is if a person falls 30' to the ground, even if the injured person indicates they are not injured, the protocol requires an ALS response given that there is a great potential for internal injuries.

Medical calls constitute 82% of Fire Department responses. The number of ambulance calls has dropped slightly from 6,600 to 6,300. The belief is that the COVID 19 pandemic has discouraged many people from wanting to go to the hospital. The Fire Department makes a major effort to collect the bills for services approximately \$9 -10,000 is not collected in a year. The Department has an 88% bill collection success rate. The Fire Department is participating in a new Medicare and Medicaid program ET3 standing for Emergency Triage

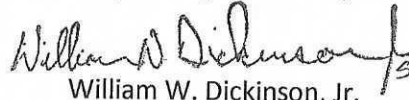
Treatment and Support. There was some discussion about patient choice in hospital destination. Wallingford ambulance makes every effort to allow the patient to choose the hospital destination.

Isaac Cardona made a motion to approve the 3.1% increase in ambulance rates as designated by the State Health Department. Police Chief William Wright seconded the motion. The BLS rate will increase from \$758 to \$781, the ALS level 1 rate will increase from \$1,198 to \$1,236. ALS Level 2 rate will increase from \$1,238 to \$1,308. The new assessment rate is \$459. The Committee unanimously approved the rate increases. (See attached).

Steve Civitelli informed the Ambulance Committee about the COVID 19 vaccination clinic held on January 20th at the Wallingford Senior Center where 274 residents 75 or older received vaccinations. Five Wallingford Fire Department paramedics were present to give the inoculations. State Health Department grant money is used to pay for the paramedics.

The meeting then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William W. Dickinson, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

William W. Dickinson, Jr.

Mayor

1/27/21

Attachment

2020 Year in Review

2020 Response Totals

Incident Type	Total Number	Percent of Responses
Fires	140	2.24%
EMS	5208	82.58%
False Alarm	564	8.94%
Service Calls	152	2.41%
HazMat/Hazardous Cond.	106	1.68%
Good Intent Calls	93	1.47%
Other	43	0.68%
Total of 6306 Responses		100%

Total EMS Transports in 2020

Jan1st – May 18th 2020 1123May 18th – Dec 31st 2020 2202

Total EMS Transports 3325

EMS Service Delivery 7/1/2020-12/31/2020 6 Month review

Level of Service	Details
Canceled*	84 Rows
Advanced Life Support	917 Rows
ALS, Downgraded	114 Rows
Basic Life Support	1655 Rows
First Responder	4 Rows

In the first 6 month of the new service delivery model WFD responded to 2,774 calls for EMS services. Of the 2774 calls paramedics were requested to the scene based on dispatch criteria or provider request 1031 times. This equates to approx. 37% of calls. Of the 1031 calls ALS was needed on 917 which is approx. 33% of the EMS calls for service.

Calls by Provider Determined Disposition

Disposition	Details
Assist, Agency	6 Rows
Cancelled (No Patient Contact)	112 Rows
Cancelled (Prior to Arrival at Scene)	14 Rows
Cancelled on Scene/No Patient Found	91 Rows
Patient Dead on Scene - No Resuscitation Attempted (Without Transport)	23 Rows
Patient Dead on Scene - Resuscitation Attempted (Without Transport)	9 Rows
Patient Evaluated, No Treatment/Transport Required	151 Rows
Patient Refused Evaluation/Care (Without Transport)	157 Rows
Patient Treated, Released (AMA)	153 Rows
Patient Treated, Transferred Care to Another EMS Professional	333 Rows
Standby - Public Safety, Fire, or EMS Operational Support Provided	10 Rows
Transported Lights/Siren	113 Rows
Transported No Lights/Siren	1602 Rows

Transports by Level of Service

Level of Service	Details
	6
Advanced Life Support	721
ALS, Downgraded	20
Basic Life Support	967
	Total 1714

993 Transports were BLS of 1714 Total transports.

That equals approx. 58% of transports. This proves that Wallingford Fire Department falls within proximity of the National Average of 60/40, BLS/ALS transports.

In conclusion the statistics above prove that by removing the paramedics from the transport ambulance has greatly improved the department's ability to cover the Town with Advanced Life Support capabilities. Additionally Firefighter Paramedics have greater availability for fire coverage due to decreasing their Out of Service Status by nearly 70%.

SCHEDULE OF MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE RATES

EFFECTIVE January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021
2021 Rate Schedule

Wallingford Department of Fire Services

AMBULANCE SERVICE RATE SCHEDULE

Basic Life Support (BLS) Rate.....	\$781.00 ✓
Advance Life Support Level 1 Non-ER.....	N/A
Advance Life Support Level 1 ER.....	\$1,236.00 ✓
Advance Life Support Level 2.....	\$1,308.00
Paramedic Intercept.....	\$878.00
Basic Life Support (BLS) Helicopter Assist.....	\$511.00
Advance Life Support (ALS) Helicopter Assist.....	\$795.00
Advance Life Support (ALS) Assessment.....	\$459.00 ✓
Specialty Care Transport (SCT).....	\$1,698.00

ANCILLARY CHARGES

Waiting Time Charge.....	\$207.00
Per Mileage Charge.....	\$19.00
Special Attendant Charge.....	\$155.00

INVALID COACH RATE SCHEDULE

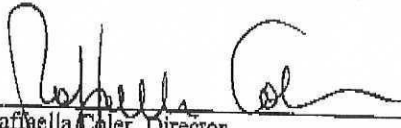
Base Rate (IC).....	N/A
Two Patients (IC).....	N/A

ANCILLARY CHARGES

Per Mile Charge (IC).....	N/A
Second Attendant Charge (IC).....	N/A
Waiting Time Charge (IC).....	N/A

All charges must be in conformance with the definitions on the subsequent pages entitled "Explanatory Notes on the Implementation of the 2021 Schedule of Maximum Allowable Rates," which are attached to, and become part of, the Rate Schedule.

Certified to be the maximum allowable rates by:



 Raffaella Coler, Director
 Office of Emergency Medical Services

Date Certified: December 11, 2020