



WILLIAM W. DICKINSON, JR.  
MAYOR

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**AMBULANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**JULY 28, 2011**

The Ambulance Committee met at 9:00 a.m. on July 28, 2011. In attendance were Fire Chief Peter Struble, Assistant Fire Chief Steve Alsup, Police Chief Doug Dortenzio, Health Director Eloise Hazelwood, David Juliano, Dolly Parisi, Mark Gentile representing the Town ambulance billing service, and Mayor Dickinson.

The Police Chief handed out information regarding the ambulance rate schedule for application to the State for 2012. The Fire Department has moved from the EMS cost allocation model for ambulance service costs to the American Ambulance Association (AAA) model. The AAA model allows better direct comparisons to the commercial cost of ambulance service. The 2012 maximum allowable rate for the State of Connecticut will mean a 3.2% increase in Wallingford rates.

There was discussion regarding the uncollectible bills. Bad debt is approximately \$400,000. The Town collects 70% of what is billed. There was 15% growth in the total amount billed and the Town has increased its collections by 15%, however, the 30% bad debt remains fairly constant. Mark Gentile of our ambulance billing service indicated we are better than the statewide collection rate at 64% and better than the nationwide rate of 62%. In Wallingford approximately 53% of those billed are private pay and 47% are Medicare and Medicaid. The Medicare/Medicaid payments are less given that the Medicare/Medicaid rate schedules do not provide for payment at the existing rate schedules for Ambulance service. Some of the bad debt is due to an inability to obtain insurance information at the time of the ambulance transport.

There was discussion regarding the expectations of the public. Some people believe the Ambulance service is covered in their taxes. Committee members felt that if insurance is available, the Town should seek to collect the revenues and be more aggressive in its efforts. Currently there are approximately 2500

ambulance calls per year. Half go to commercial services given the inability for Wallingford ambulance to be available for all calls. Over 30% of the time there are simultaneous calls for service. As a result, some residents are receiving bills for approximately \$100 more when a commercial service responds and the Wallingford ambulance is occupied with an existing call.

The Police Chief moved that the Ambulance Committee approve application for the maximum allowable rate and adopt a Phase 1 policy of sending uncollected accounts to a collection agency for additional letters for a cost of \$11 flat fee. The Motion also stated that for out of town residents a Phase 2 process would be adopted which authorizes the collection agencies to utilize whatever is necessary including court action to receive payment. The fee charged for this is 35% of what the agency collects. Dave Juliano seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

The Police Chief moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:05. The motion was seconded by Dave Juliano and was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W Dickinson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William W. Dickinson, Jr.  
Mayor

7/28/2011