

Vermont District #11
Minutes of Special Meeting
June 30, 2005

Agenda Item #1

Chairman Carl Matteson called the Special Meeting of District 11 to review the Golden Cross Ambulance license application to order at 18:00.

Organizations present were: Bellows Falls Fire Department, Saxtons River Fire Department, Chester Ambulance, Rockingham Fire Department, Grafton FAST Squad, Cavendish First Response Squad, Stratton Mountain Rescue, Winhall Police & Rescue, Springfield Fire Department, Londonderry Rescue, Golden Cross Ambulance, Westminster Fire Department, Springfield Hospital.

30 members of the public were also in attendance.

Agenda Item #2

Chairman Matteson introduced board members and asked for introductions from the public.

Agenda Item #3 Municipal Managers Comments

Chairman Matteson turned the meeting over to the Town Managers of Rockingham and Westminster.

Rockingham Town Manager Shane O'Keefe opened the discussion by giving an overview of the bid process that the two towns participated in for ambulance service.

Westminster Town Manager Glen Smith commented that the process was a joint process between Rockingham and Westminster in order to solicit the best service the most cost-effective method for the taxpayers.

Westminster Town Manager Glen Smith also asked the District 11 board what criteria would be used to judge the recommendation for Golden Cross for the requested license. The board responded that they would look at the ability to provide mutual aid, maintain the current level of service and look to ensure a smooth transition.

Westminster Town Manger Glen Smith then provided an overview of the service to be provided by Golden Cross Ambulance. The contract provides for:

- 1 primary crew and 1 back up crew at all times
- 2 people per crew with a guarantee of an EMT-I on each crew
- 2 ambulances with 1 back up for a total of 3 ambulances
- Ambulances will be based out of a location of the Bellows Falls/Westminster town line
- The staff will all be Vermont State certified

Agenda Item #4 Golden Cross Ambulance

Golden Cross Ambulance President Dale Girard gave an overview of the proposal. (Attached)

Golden Cross Ambulance has applied for a Paramedic Level Service that would be dispatched by Keene Mutual Aid.

Agenda Item #5 Lefevre Ambulance

Lefevre Ambulance President Gerry Lefevre stated that Lefevre Ambulance will continue to have 1 ambulance in Bellows Falls at all times, and will continue with mutual aid requests. The Paramedic Intercept will be provided when available. They will also continue to honor current contracts that they have with other area communities.

Agenda Item #6 Vermont EMS

Dan Manz from Vermont EMS distributed copies of the Golden Cross License application. (Attached)

He also handed out the written public comments received at the EMS office. (Attached)

A question was asked by Steve Yannuzzi of Bellows Falls Fire Department if the Golden Cross Ambulance Service was currently licensed in the State of Vermont? The answer for Dan Manz was that they are currently licensed by the State of Vermont.

Dan Manz then gave an overview of the policy and process for licensure under the State of Vermont EMS rules.

Agenda Item #7 Review of Written Comments

The board reviewed the written comments.

Agenda Item #8 Discussions/Comments from the floor and public at 19:20

Stan Mack of Grafton was concerned about Lefevre Ambulance staying in business to provide service to the smaller communities that they currently contract with. Dale Girard of Golden Cross answered that if Lefevre Ambulance were to go out of business Golden Cross would provide coverage to those communities affected. Gerry Lefevre stated that there was no intention of closing the doors.

Judy Lidie of Rockingham asked Golden Cross if they had a contract on a building for their base of operations. Dale Girard answered that they had a signed contract on a building at 7804 Route 5, Westminster.

Judy Lidie of Rockingham also asked about staffing levels. Dale answered by stating there would be two people on duty with 2 in an apartment in Bellows Falls available for call back.

Laurie Rowell of Saxtons River asked what the RFP contained. Westminster Town Manager Glen Smith answered by reading a copy of the RFP.

Pete Cobb of Londonderry asked Golden Cross if they would provide paramedic intercept service. Golden Cross answered that they would provide that service.

Corrine Menard of Westminster asked where the ambulances would come from if all available Golden Cross Ambulances were tied up. The board answered the question by explaining the current mutual aid system and how it works. Chairman Matteson also explained that the district was going to review the current mutual plan and revise it to make it more streamlined.

Skip Audin of Acworth said it was the board's responsibility to look out for the smaller towns and their ambulance service. Dan Cook responded that it was not the board's responsibility to maintain the viability of the Lefevre Ambulance service and those decisions need to be made at the town level.

Fred Roentsch of Langdon said that the board is responsible for the viability of the Lefevre Ambulance Service. Dan Cook responded that the board's responsibility was to determine the license issue of Golden Cross not to maintain Lefevre Ambulance Service.

Jonathan Palmier of Lefevre Ambulance asked Golden Cross if there was a written agreement between Golden Cross and Walpole Ambulance to provide mutual aid. Chairman Matteson answered that the mutual aid plan was going to be reviewed.

Wanda West of Westminster reminded everyone that the Fire Department effected by this change in service all provide First Response to medical calls.

Dennis Harty of Rockingham questioned the use of Lefevre Ambulance as a back up with no compensation. Chairman Matteson responded by saying the agency can bill for service and it is no different than the current practice.

Shane O'Keefe Town of Rockingham Manager commended Lefevre Ambulance for the past service.

Glen Smith Town of Westminster Manager asked the board to approve the application and to ask the state to expedite the process.

Public Comment Session closed at 20:20.

Chairman Matteson called a meeting recess for 15 minutes at 20:22.

Chairman Matteson called the meeting back to order at 20:37.

Agenda Item #9 EMS District Board Discussion

Motion by Steve Yannuzzi, 2nd **by** Joel Long to forward the application for license by Golden Cross Ambulance to the state for approval with no restriction. (Passed) unanimously

Chairman Matteson will draft a letter and forward all pertinent documents to the state for approval. The letter will also ask the state to expedite the process if possible.

Agenda Item #10 Adjournment

Motion by Dan Cook, 2nd by Josh Rosenblum to adjourn the meeting. (passed) Meeting adjourned at 20:52.