

VILLAGE OF LOMBARD
REQUEST FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACTION
For Inclusion on Board Agenda


X Resolution or Ordinance (Blue) _____ *Waiver of First Requested*
_____ Recommendations of Board, Commissions & Committees (Green)
_____ Other Business (Pink)

TO: PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: David A. Hulseberg, Village Manager

DATE: May 26, 2010 (BOT) Date: June 17, 2010

TITLE: Ordinance establishing a fee for BLS treatment with no transport

SUBMITTED BY: George E. Seagraves, Fire Chief 

BACKGROUND/POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Ordinance establishing a fee for BLS Treatment with no transport after 5 calls in a calendar year. The fee would be \$50 per occurrence on the sixth call and thereafter. The patient may request to the Finance Director the waiving of the fee if they are unable to pay.

FISCAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE:

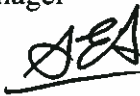
Possible revenue enhancement of \$4,500. Estimate of one half or \$2,250 per year.

Review (as necessary):

Finance Director X _____ Date _____
Village Manager X _____ Date: _____

NOTE: All materials must be submitted to and approved by the Village Manager's office by 12:00 noon, Wednesday, prior to the Agenda Distribution.



To: David A. Hulseberg, Village Manager
From: George E. Seagraves, Fire Chief 
Date: May 26, 2010
Subject: **Basic Life Support (BLS) Fee for Treatment and No Transport (Invalid Assist)**
Amendment: Section 1: Title 9, Chapter 91, Section 91.21 (A) & (B) of the Lombard Village Code

Per Village Board direction, the Fire Department submits to you an Ordinance prepared by the village attorney amending EMS Fees. The Ordinance establishes a fee for BLS/No Transport, which would be used for essentially Citizen Assist (Invalid Assist) calls. The fee would be charged to any BLS patient after five requests involving no transport in a calendar year; thereafter, the fee would be \$50.00 per call. If the patient were to be transported, the patient would be charged accordingly by treatment level and transport, as per our regular fee schedule. The Finance Director would determine the patient's ability to pay, as well as waive any fees accordingly.

The Fire Department has reservations about using this fee. Included in our concerns are the people that are in need of our assistance, but choose not to call for help to avoid the fee which is not covered under insurance and/or Medicare. This could potentially cause the patient to wait for a lengthy period of time until other means of assistance is available. Unqualified persons may attempt to render aid, which could cause further injury to the patient, as well as possible injury to the aid provider.

Citizen and Invalid Assists are usually residents who are elderly and struggling with life remaining health problems such as Multiple Sclerosis or Parkinson's Disease. The non-resident assists would not exceed the five calls per year. Based upon 2009 Call Data, 91 total calls would be billed based on this Ordinance. Unfortunately, four citizens make up 88 of the 91 calls. At this time, it is unknown if the four patients have the ability to pay.

The following chart is the proposed Fee Schedule:

| | Village Resident | Glenbard FPD Resident | Non-Village/Non-Glenbard FPD Resident |
|---|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Basic Life Support (BLS) Transport | \$440.00 | \$440.00 | \$750.00 |
| Advanced Life Support – Level I (ALS-I) Transport | \$580.00 | \$580.00 | \$970.00 |
| Advanced Life Support – Level II (ALS-II) Transport | \$700.00 | \$700.00 | \$1,100.00 |
| Advanced Life Support (ALS) Treatment, but no transport | \$110.00 | \$110.00 | \$120.00 |
| Basic Life Support – BLS Non-Transport <i>For 6th and each subsequent event per calendar year</i> | \$50.00 | \$50.00 | \$50.00 |

Attached is the report presented to the Village Board.

**Lombard Fire Department
Citizen Assist Report to Village Board
April 1, 2010**

A survey was conducted of all DuPage County Fire Departments, totaling 26 towns, in reference to billing for invalid/citizen assists. Three Fire Departments charge for these services, listing them as Basic Life Support (BLS) treatment without transport. They are Naperville, Warrenville, and Tri-State Fire Protection District. Basic life support (BLS) is defined as care that involves the treatment of non-life threatening injuries or illnesses, requiring only basic levels of care or services', including lift assists.

The three Fire Departments that charge do so as follows:

Naperville

- First and second assists; no charge.
- Three or more assists in a calendar year, \$50 each, resets January 1.
- If unable to pay, billing will set up payment plan. If still unable to pay, referred to Finance Department to decide if bill stands or is waived.
- They refer repeat users to their Social Service Department.

Warrenville

- Three assists per month; no charge.
- \$100 each for more than 3 per month.

Tri-State Fire Protection District

- Resident, \$250 each occurrence.
- Non-resident, \$500 each occurrence.

CITIZEN ASSISTS

For the year January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009 there were 274 calls for citizen assists representing 6% of all calls. The Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services have been and continue to be the safety net for people to call when they face a situation they can not or do not know how to handle. Citizens call for a variety of reasons. Some call when there is a malfunction with home medical equipment, such as oxygen tanks or valves. Others call when the electricity is out and home medical equipment fails to operate. Others call for a lift or invalid assist. A few examples are as follows: temporary or permanent physical disabilities, size of person unable to be handled safely by family member, or no family support. There are two categories of people who call for citizen assists; the occasional user and the chronic user.

The occasional users have some common characteristics as follows:

1. Family support on site and multiple family members assisting in patient care.
2. The person has normal function in their environment with the exception of a fall to the floor.
3. The patient's family makes the decision of placing the person into extended stay rehabilitation or nursing facility.
4. The patient had a surgery or illness that created a temporary need and recovers with time or therapy.
5. In severe cases, hospice takes over at home or transport to the Hospital occurs.
6. Modifications to patient's environment are made to assist in person's mobility and lessen the need for assists (ramps, grab bars, etc....).
7. Patient's with a higher income able to pay for professional live-in care.

The chronic user may contain one or more of the following traits:

1. Lives alone with little to no family support.
2. Disability is extensive and has limited ability to handle day to day self care.
3. Patient's size is prohibitive to caregiver or family being safely able to assist.
4. Ongoing disability in younger patient reluctant to move to a nursing home environment. Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and Muscular Dystrophy (MD) currently afflict several of our citizens.
5. Patient has exhausted his/her ability to rehab their injury or illness.
6. Income limited, unable to pay for outside medical services.

Listed below are Repeat Callers during Calendar Year 2009

**Citizen Assist Responses
3 calls or more**

| Responses | Information |
|------------|---|
| 54 | 55 y/o Resident with Multiple Sclerosis |
| 27 | 49 y/o Resident with Multiple Sclerosis |
| 16 | 76 y/o Resident with knee problems, spouse unable to lift |
| 11 | 40 y/o Resident with Multiple Sclerosis |
| 6 | 83 y/o Resident with Parkinson's, spouse unable to lift |
| 6 | 82 y/o Resident with multiple medical problems, spouse unable to lift |
| 6 | 84 y/o Resident with emphysema and dementia, spouse unable to lift |
| 5 | 87 y/o Resident with no medical history, lives alone |
| 5 | Independent Senior Living facilities – resident 9-1-1 direct |
| 4 | 79 y/o Resident with Arthritis, lives alone |
| 4 | 92 y/o Resident with stroke history, spouse unable to assist |
| 4 | 78 y/o Resident with hip surgery |
| 3 | 75 y/o Resident, obese, spouse unable to lift |
| 3 | 69 y/o Resident with Multiple Sclerosis, lives alone |
| 3 | 92 y/o Resident with diabetes, hypertension and cardiac history |
| 3 | 40 y/o Resident with Multiple Sclerosis |
| 114 | 2 Calls or less |
| 274 | Total |

Citizen assists affect us and our surrounding communities. Lombard already has a large elderly population and as the average age of our citizens continues to rise, the need for citizen assists may continue to rise. There are three senior living centers in town and all have independent living units. This population independently dials 9-1-1 direct for services.

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING
TITLE 9, CHAPTER 91, SECTION 91.21(A) OF
THE LOMBARD VILLAGE CODE IN REGARD TO
FEEES FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

BE IT ORDAINED by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Lombard, DuPage County, Illinois, as follows:

SECTION 1: That Title 9, Chapter 91, Section 91.21(A) of the Lombard Village Code is hereby amended by adding the following to the fee chart contained therein:

| | Village Resident | Glenbard Fire Protection District Resident | Non-Village / Non-Glenbard Fire Protection District Resident |
|---|-------------------------|---|---|
| Basic Life Support – (BLS) Non-Transport (For each time service of this type is provided, in excess of five (5) times in any calendar year, in relation to the same individual.) | \$50.00 | \$50.00 | \$50.00 |

SECTION 2: That this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication in pamphlet form as provided by law.

Passed on first reading this _____ day of _____, 2010.

First reading waived by action of the Board of Trustees this ___ day of _____, 2010.

Passed on second reading this _____ day of _____, 2010.

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSENT: _____

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2010.

William J. Mueller, Village President

ATTEST:

Brigitte O'Brien, Village Clerk

Published by me in pamphlet form this _____ day of _____, 2010.

Brigitte O'Brien, Village Clerk