

Village of Lombard

*Village Hall
255 East Wilson Ave.
Lombard, IL 60148
villageoflombard.org*



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 7, 2010

7:30 PM

Village Hall Board Room

Village Board of Trustees

Village President: William J. Mueller

Village Clerk: Brigitte O'Brien

*Trustees: Greg Gron, District One; Keith Giagnorio, District Two;
Zachary Wilson, District Three; Dana Moreau, District Four;
Laura Fitzpatrick, District Five; and Bill Ware, District Six*

*B1. [100514](#)

Ordinance Amending Title 9 - Fees for Emergency Medical Services

Establishing a fee for Basic Life Support Treatment with no transportation after five calls in one calendar year.

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Interim Fire Chief Bill Balling reported that during budget discussions the matter of charging for non-transport assists was discussed. He stated that some communities charge following the 5th call. He spoke of the risk of injury and possible disability associated with these calls. He stated the ordinance was written to charge \$100 after the 5th call for a non-transport assist. The idea was to use this as an incentive for relatives to seek other types of assistance for these residents. He noted this is more of a risk management issue than a revenue source. He indicated this recommendation was consistent with the Board's direction.

Trustee Moreau stated she did not think this was historically an issue. She read a paragraph from a Fire Department report. She noted that these calls are almost always an elderly person with health issues. She stated that the ability of these people to be able to pay this fee is a concern and felt these situations should be referred to Social Services.

Trustee Giagnorio requested a breakdown on the invalid assists.

Interim Fire Chief Balling stated that the top user had 57 visits in one year or about one a week. He stated that there are other issues involved with these calls in that of time and not being available for an emergency call. He stated there were financial as well as call issues. He noted that as long as this service is provided free of charge, people will not look at other options that may be available. He indicated that the Fire Department Assessment Report will be presented to the Village Board at the next meeting and there may be other options available.

Trustee Gron questioned the options.

Interim Fire Chief Balling spoke of the costs charged for ambulance service - \$700 for residents and \$1100 for non-residents. He noted the true cost of the service is over \$1500 per call. He reported that Naperville allows two free calls yearly.

Trustee Fitzpatrick inquired if the EMS Coordinator was looking at frequent usage.

Lt. Paul DiRienzo stated the Fire Department has not referred anyone to Social Services as yet, but noted that some frequent users have found other ways to handle this on their own.

Trustee Fitzpatrick indicated that the Village has created the co-dependency and she would like more information as far as outside agencies and services.

President Mueller requested figures regarding this.

Interim Fire Chief Balling gave the following:

January to August 31, 2010 - 166 total responses or 5.5% of the calls with 1 patient calling 25 times; 2 patients calling 12 times each; 3 patients calls 7 times each; 4 patients calling 5 or 6 times each; and 6 to 110 patients calling 5 or less times each.

Calendar year 2009 with 274 total responses or 6% of the calls with 1 patient calling 54 times; 2 patients calling 27 times each; 3 patients calling 16 times each; 4 patients calling 11 times each; 6 patients calling 5 times each and 7-148 patients calling 5 times or less.

Calendar year 2008 with a 246 total responses or 5.6% of the calls with 1 patient calling 50 times; 2 patients calling 28 times; 3 patients calling 8 times and 5 to 152 patients calling 5 or less times each.

President Mueller suggested working with the residents and trying to help them find other means for their needed assistance.

Lt. DiRienzo indicated that some of the residents' resources are tapped, but some people can be educated regarding other means and some are able to pay. He noted that the Fire Department will make certain that the residents know of other agencies they can call for assistance.

Interim Fire Chief Balling noted that these people do change as their situations change.

President Mueller indicated some of the residents do not have resources to pay. He spoke of the State cutting spending and programs.

Trustee Wilson inquired if the same person was the top user each year. He spoke of the risk management aspect. He talked of the person not being able to do a simple task and calling for assistance so they can stay in their homes longer. He inquired if the numbers would go up. He spoke about these calls being 5-6% of the calls to the Fire Department. He also questioned the personnel going grocery shopping while on shift.

Interim Fire Chief Balling stated the Fire Department personnel go to the store as a group and can respond immediately to a call. He spoke of training and non-response risk being critical. He noted that steps are in place.

Trustee Wilson wanted to make certain that redeployment in all instances is addressed. Trustee Fitzpatrick stated she was willing to look at this after receiving more information and looking at social services. She wanted to review the cost and determine who can and can not pay.

Director of Finance Sexton indicated that no standard was set.

Trustee Ware indicated he had reviewed this and concurred with staff's recommendation.

Trustee Gron questioned if they were all brought in.

Lt. DiRienzo stated it depends on the type of call and part of that is contingent on the notification by dispatch. He indicated they can send another vehicle for an invalid assist.

Trustee Gron felt it was easier to deploy from the grocery store. He asked if the Fire Department knew it was only an invalid assist, if the Fire Department would not take everything.

Trustee Moreau felt that most municipalities do not charge for invalid assists and she did not want to set a precedent.

It was moved by Trustee Moreau, seconded by Trustee Gron, that this matter be denied establishment of fees. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Mueller, Wilson, Moreau and Fitzpatrick

Nay: 3 - Gron, Giagnorio and Ware