



City of Westworth Village  
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**FIRE DEPT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

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**THURSDAY  
NOVEMBER 21, 2013  
9:15 AM**

**MUNICIPAL COMPLEX  
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM  
311 BURTON HILL ROAD**

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**THE AGENDA WAS POSTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT (TGC Chapter 551). A QUORUM OF COUNCIL MEMBERS WAS IN ATTENDANCE.**

<b>ATTENDEES:</b>	Chair	Kelly Jones
	Member	Nick Encke
	Member	Mike Coleman
	Council Member	Steve Beckman
	Interim Fire Chief	Brian McKinney
	Senior Fire Chief	Don Day
	City Administrator	Roger Unger
	City Secretary	Carol Borges
	Police Chief	Doug Reim
	Firefighter	Leo Sumner
	Firefighter	Christopher Burns
	Resident	Tudy Harkins
	Matt Zavadsky	MedStar, Director of Public Affairs
	Dr Jeff Beeson	MedStar, EPAB Medical Director
	Doug Hooten	MedStar, Executive Director

**CALLED TO ORDER at 9:18am by Chairman Jones.**

**Approval of Minutes** from Fire Dept Oversight Committee Meeting on October 23, 2013.

- **MOTION** made by Nick Encke. **SECOND** by Mike Coleman. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Chairman Jones welcomed the committee members, firefighters, staff, and residents.

Ms Tudy Harkins asked to address the committee. Ms Harkins expressed her concerns over the possibility of losing the City's Fire Dept and suggested the Department apply for 501(c)(3) non-profit status which will allow for financial support above city funds. City Administrator Roger Unger stated the Department is part of the city government and is not its own entity. Anyone can make a monetary donation to the City's General Fund,

earmarked for the Fire Dept. [Under IRS rules] donations to a municipality are tax deductible by the benefactor as is a donation to a non-profit organization. Ms Harkins continued to speak of her concerns over response times and sufficient medical training of ECA certified Police Officers.

Chairman Jones stated the Committee's responsibility is to evaluate the needs of the community and the finances necessary to provide for those needs. Federal and state mandates are creating a financial burden on the City. Once the Committee has completed its due diligence and reports back to the Council, the Council will hold Public Hearings to receive input from the residents before making a final decision. The Committee has no authority to make decisions.

Mr Matt Zavadsky discussed response times across the MedStar service area and the priority call protocols followed by MedStar staff. MedStar ambulances are on-call (i.e. parked) at strategic locations throughout the service area. Calls within Westworth Village continue to report at 100% reliability as an ambulance is normally parked at the QT station on White Settlement Road.

#### **Receive input from Dr Beeson with MedStar Medical Control.**

- Dr Beeson spoke extensively about the quality of care given by ECAs, EMTs, and Paramedics. In Texas, ECAs undergo the same training and testing as EMTs. Emergency medicine is undergoing a fundamental shift in practice today. MedStar dispatchers are qualified to instruct 911 callers on what to do even before an ambulance arrives on scene. MedStar has also added RN support to callers for non-emergency assistance.
- Science has proven there are four vital elements to saving someone's life: epinephrine for severe allergic reactions, aspirin therapy and defibrillation for heart patients, and breathing treatments for asthmatics.
- First responders are only asked to accompany MedStar on transports when another set of hands is required based on clinical need and medical acuity. Police ECAs would rarely be pulled off the street for this purpose. Safeguards are in place for second MedStar units to be dispatched. Of the average 260 transports per day that MedStar incurs across its system, less than 3% require a third person. It was noted that Police already provide medical transport for psychologically impaired patients.
- Statistics show 90% of all 911 calls are non-emergency and less than 10% require life-saving intervention. Issues facing city councils across the country are often based on perception and resident expectations rather than need for immediate triage response.

#### **Discuss the future of fire protection for the City of Westworth Village.**

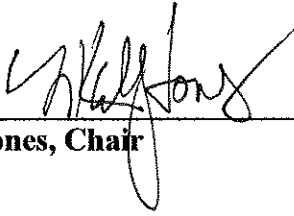
- Chairman Jones recapped the discussion stating the most important issue is how quickly personnel with a basic level of training arrives on-scene, then specific skill. Field decisions are made per case and adhere to strict guidelines set by Dr Beeson under the Emergency Physicians' Advisory Board (EPAB) protocols.
- Westworth Police Dept protocols call for automatic roll on all 911 calls. Concerns over call priority are the same whether discussing police, fire, or medical emergencies. No city or entity can fund or man disaster relief without automatic mutual aid from other entities. Westworth already has those agreements in place.
- Committee meetings have included discussions on capital needs and funding, the 911 call process, and the three levels of priority calls and the value of the medical expertise available. The next meeting will be to review manpower needs and labor costs. The Committee will then move to deliberation and preparation of findings to be presented to Council.

**Next meeting set for Friday, December 13, 2013, at 8:30am.**

**ADJOURNED at 10:19am by Chairman Jones.**

**MINUTES taken by City Secretary Carol Borges.**

**MINUTES APPROVED** on this, the 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2013.



**Kelly Jones, Chair**

**SIGNATURE ATTESTED BY:**



**Carol Ann Borges, City Secretary**

