

Minutes  
Public Safety Committee  
**August 21, 2024, 4:00 p.m., Legislative Chambers**  
**Livestreamed on YouTube**  
**Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY**

Members Present: Niebel, Bankoski, Proctor, Nelson, Landy

Others Present: Lee, N. Quattrone, Chagnon, Swan, Tampio, Morgan, J. Quattrone, Enlow, Guttman, Gustafson, Zafuto. Lictus, Willink, Beckerink

**Complete video of meeting can be viewed on YouTube**

Chairman Niebel called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes (07/17/24)

MOVED by Legislator Bankoski, SECONDED by Legislator Proctor.

*Unanimously Carried*

Privilege of the Floor

I'm from the Clymer Fire Department. My name is Lant Lictus from Clymer NY. With me I have two EMS drivers, a trustee and a commissioner of our departments.

My name is Dale Willink from Clymer NY. I've been a volunteer fireman for 52 years and driving the ambulance for about 50 of those years. So, that's why we're here.

I'm Kevin Beckerink, I live in Clymer, NY. I drive the ambulance and I'm a commissioner.

Mr. Lictus: We're here to basically ask and make aware of the fact in the rural areas like Clymer the need for additional Fly Car manpower would be very much appreciated. We are currently, and Dale will give you the statistics here and I think you have a handout in front of you, we're here to just make aware of the situation that's in the County. It's a great system, run by great people and we just need more help as there's more and more mandates on the departments there is need for more and more people to respond in a timely fashion. Volunteers are harder to come by and they have to be certified more often, more hours and so it makes it very difficult as a volunteer department. For example, we had a call at Peek'n Peak, which I'm sure you all know where the Peak is, outside of Clymer, we had a response there- we had an EMT, we responded to the call, but the closest paramedic was something like 27 or 35 minutes away. In route we get a call that the baby's turning blue. It just puts us in really difficult spot. If there was any way at all that we could get some kind of help out there to have someone that would be able to respond in a quicker way- we're aging out as a group, as well. The other departments around us are looking at this problem also. I'm going to turn it over to Dale and he'll touch base with Dale and he'll touch base with some of the facts and figures.

Mr. Willink: So we kind of decided a couple hours ago that we'd be here, so we put this together pretty quickly. So, as this points out, so far this year we've had 145 EMS calls and we didn't have any of our own EMT's or paramedics 44 times- about 30%. So, we had to rely on Chautauqua County EMS and their folks are absolutely wonderful, they do the best they possibly can, but when you're driving from either Mayville and it's a 24-36 minute drive, I don't care how much you wanted to help, you can't cut that down very much in rural driving. Of course with NYS laws, we get there and we have 3 or 4 other non EMT's we can't touch the patient no matter what. We can't touch the patient. So, we just stand there and watch for that 35 minutes and that's very painful. We've tried doing different things. If you take a look at my first example there, this happened to be my neighbor two blocks from the fire hall. Recently, about a month ago about 7 of us showed up on the scene with the ambulance- first we all gathered at the fire hall and they called it in that he was unresponsive and we thought lets at least go over to the house, so we got over there and sure enough he was barely breathing and we waited there for over 20 minutes for the car to get there and he was driving as fast as he could. That's painful to sit there and watch your neighbor for 20 minutes and there's 7 of us and the wife is telling us to do something and we can't do anything. It's embarrassing. Then, we've gone from waiting at the fire hall and then we'll call dispatch and say what's the eta for the fly car and they'll say 11 minutes. And we'll say it's about 5 minutes for us, so we wait at the fire hall and try to time it so we get there the same time as the fly car, but in the mean time the family or the patient of whoever is wondering where we are. We've also done where we get down the road from the house and pull over and turn the red lights off and we sit there until the fly car goes by us and then we follow the fly car into the driveway. So, those are the things that are going on in rural Chautauqua County on a daily basis and for the first fifty years I was in the fire department Clymer was able to handle almost all of our calls without any mutual aid from anyone, but that changed and it changed for some other departments sooner than that, but now it's changed for us. Most of our calls, we pick up the patient and take them to Erie because for that is the closest trauma center- that's a two hour round trip at best from the time the call comes in until we get back and then the EMT has another half hour to an hour of online EMS charts to do. If you look at the last call on here, number six just happened a couple days ago- 12:30am, it wasn't even an ALS all, it was a BLS, which means one of our EMT's could have handled it very nicely without getting the county involved, but you know what, our EMT's are saying their sick of the paperwork, we're just not going. So, at 12:30am we waited, the drivers waited for the paramedic to get there- this is going on all over the County, not just in Clymer. If you listen to the scanner, well-meaning volunteers are staying home because of the paperwork and the demands that is put onto the volunteers.

Chairman Niebel: It's coming from the state?

Mr. Willink: It's from the state. It's not coming from the County, its coming from the State. At 12:30am we have 2 paramedics and 4 EMT's and I'll be that they were pretty much all home, but not one of them would get out of bed to go Ove there because they didn't want to do the paperwork. So, that's a fact.

*(Inaudible)*

Mr. Willink: Noels says that they are aware of it, but they don't seem to change it any. I don't want to take up a lot of time, but the County- we just joined up with the County. We're in the process of getting a contract signed and all that and they've been absolutely wonderful to us.

Marty came over, Travis came over, Tim Carlson- they're all trying to help us out as much as they can, but until we get some more fly cars and get them located to Clymer, we're not going to solve this problem.

Mr. Lictus: Tim was able to even come today and spend some time in our hall, which we'll find a spot for these people if-

Mr. Willink: If we get a fly car out there, we'll find a place to park it.

Chairman Niebel: O.k., guys as you mentioned, your situation is not unique. This is happening throughout the entire county. We do have 4 fly cars. Now, you guys would be serviced by either the Lakewood or the Mayville fly car. We understand the problem. This committee has been very supportive of the fire service over the years. Myself, I've been a fireman, I'm retired and no longer active, but 28 years with the volunteer fire department EMT. Never a paramedic. We understand the situation. This is actually privilege of the floor, so this isn't really too much of a discussion, although it has digressed into that. We understand the situation, but let me just say that each fly car that we have, we're talking paramedics around the clock. So, we're talking about \$200,000 plus for just manpower. That isn't even the cost of the car which we rent for \$1,700/month, tires, gasoline and everything. We're talking about probably \$250,000 per fly car. Just so you guys understand. We understand the critical need. We're interested in saving lives, but unfortunately we do have to balance that against the cost. With that, I'll just ask if the committee has any other questions of you guys really quick.

Legislator Nelson: I just have a question. I'm a little confused- when you arrive at a scene, you're not allowed to do that basic CPR? Why not?

Mr. Lictus: State law.

*(Inaudible)*

Legislator Nelson: But if stumbled upon somebody that was passed out on the street?

Mr. Lictus: You can do it.

Chairman Niebel: Good Samaritan Law.

Mr. Willink: If I go there as not a member of the fire department, I could do it. But once we're dispatched we're in a different set of rules.

Legislator Nelson: That makes no sense. You're way better trained than I am.

Chairman Niebel: And Dale, you're an EMT?

Mr. Willink: I'm not an EMT. None of us are EMT's.

*(Cross-talk)*

Mr. Willink: If we don't have an EMT we can't do anything.

*(Cross-talk)*

Mr. Willink: It's very discouraging when we're the drivers and we just sit there and look at the patient for 20 minutes and have the family looking at us.

*(Cross-talk)*

Mr. Willink: It probably has, but we've always had enough of our own EMT's and paramedics that it didn't happen to us. Am I out of *(inaudible)* Noel?

Mr. Guttman: No, since the inception of the fly car program Clymer was very self-sufficient, so CCEMS did not respond there very much because they had a very strong internal support system. Unfortunately personnel issues have changed that.

Mr. Lictus: But as far as us being on scene and not being able to touch the patient, it's been that way for a while as I understand it.

*(Cross-talk)*

Mr. Guttman: It does make it difficult.

Mr. Lictus: It's embarrassing. You try to tell somebody that- we're standing there and we can't do anything. That's why we're parking down the road. Because it's too embarrassing to go to the house and sit there.

Chairman Niebel: O.k., Dale, just one last question. You have people in the department that are trained in first aid though?

Mr. Willink: Oh yeah.

Chairman Niebel: But you're saying that they can't go to a call?

Mr. Willink: They can go to a call. They can't touch the patient.

Chairman Niebel: Is that right?

Mr. Guttman: The Department of Health is very regulated on who can provide care under the name of the fire department. It is basically the EMT level or higher.

Chairman Niebel: So, Noel, just to be clear because things have changed in the last 20 years since I've been in, if somebody trained in first aid in the fire department cannot offer first aid assistance at a scene?

Mr. Guttman: It's a grey line area. Personally, I would rather someone provide care- if someone's in cardiac arrest and they had the ability to do CPR, I would not think they would get in trouble for doing that, but it is a grey line area in the law that says if they are there under the

authority of the fire department you really need to be at that EMT level to provide that level of care.

Mr. Willink: I think if it came to CPR, probably all three of us would do it even though it's against the rules.

Chairman Niebel: Exactly.

*(Cross-talk)*

Mr. Willink: If they're still breathing, we can't help them in anyway. We can't even stop the bleeding.

Mr. Lictus: And that's what makes it very difficult in an auto accident or some kind of vehicle accident as well.

Legislator Proctor: And you open yourselves up to liability.

Mr. Willink: If they're doing it and untrained they can sue us because we touched them and we weren't qualified.

Chairman Niebel: We've exceeded our five minutes, but you've given us a handout and we'll take a look at it. We may have to discuss this and we may have to have you come back for a discussion sometime in the future. Thank you. Before we do anything we're going to have to really discuss this because there is a cost involved and we'll certainly want to talk to Noel and some other folks before we do anything. Thank you for coming and thank you for your presentation

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Proposed Resolution – Amend 2024 Budget for Probation Department for DCJS Pre-Trial Service Award – *Presented by Gilbert Taylor, Director of Probation and Sam Zafuto, Deputy Director of Finance*

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution – Amend 2024 Budget for Office of the Sheriff – *Presented by Jim Quattrone, Sheriff and Reilly Enlow, Fiscal Supervisor for the Sheriff's Department*

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution – Authorize Agreement with Clymer Central School District for School Resource Officer – *Presented by Jim Quattrone, Sheriff and Reilly Enlow, Fiscal Supervisor for the Sheriff's Department*

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution – Amend 2024 Budget to Implement the Outward Mindset Project, Using Funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – *Presented*

*by Jim Quattrone, Sheriff and Reilly Enlow, Fiscal Supervisor for the Sheriff's Department*

*Unanimously Carried*

Discussion – Updates Regarding Sheriff's Office – *Presented by Jim Quattrone, Sheriff*

*MOVED by Legislator Bankoski, SECONDED by Legislator Proctor to Enter into Executive Session pursuant to option "C" of Open Meetings Law – "Information relating to current or future investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense which would imperil effective law enforcement if disclosed" – Unanimously Carried to Enter into Executive Session (4:33 p.m.)*

*MOVED by Legislator Bankoski, SECONDED by Legislator Proctor to Exit Executive Session – Unanimously Carried to Exit Executive Session (4:47 p.m.)*

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MOVED by Legislator Bankoski, SECONDED by Legislator Proctor to adjourn

*Unanimously Carried (4:50 p.m.)*

Respectfully submitted and transcribed,  
Olivia Lee, Clerk of the Legislature/Kristi R. Zink, Deputy Clerk