

TCCOG Emergency Service and Planning Committee meeting
10 April 2020, Zoom Teleconference, 10:00 - 11:30 am
Attending: Rordan Hart, Irene Weiser, Beth McGee, Mark Witmer (Chair)

Discussion of essential steps and goals to create a sustainable structure for Fire and EMS services in rural parts of the county and state. Key obstacle is funding for local municipalities to establish and/or support local Fire Protection and Emergency Services. The current coronavirus pandemic highlights the necessity and brings the issue front and center for political leaders. Explicit recognition of EMS as health care is critical.

Long-term Goal: Funding to municipalities for Fire and EMS. Advocacy by local officials, county legislature, and state federal officials for funding from NYS. Propose a resolution (June) from TCCOG to request the T.C. Legislature to ask the NYS Assembly to put forth legislation for a CHIPS model for providing EMS (and Fire Protection?) funding to local municipalities.

Immediate Goals/Actions:

1. Fire Protection Contracts assessment and training for Municipalities and Fire Companies. Robust Contracts with Fire Companies providing service for municipal Fire Protection Districts are necessary to protect both Fire Companies and Municipalities. This is often neglected.
2. Learn about essentials for providing EMS and ambulance service in rural areas (experts and case studies)

Recommendations:

1. For next discussions bring in experiences, perspectives, and information from County Administrator Molino and T.C. Emergency Response.
2. Engage with local Fire and EMS Providers for support, information, and perspectives.
3. Reach out to Brad Pinsky to explore trainings on 1) Fire Protection Contracts and 2) rural EMS service.

Other Ideas:

1. Paramedicine
2. Military personnel have training and passion for EMS...an underutilized resource.

Next Meeting: Full TCCOG meeting, Thursday April 23, 3 pm