

THE

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STRATFORD TIMES



Mayor's Message

STRATFORD AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION



This message is being delivered to our community, as a joint announcement between the retiring leadership of the Stratford Ambulance Association Inc. and the Borough of Stratford.

As you may recall, the August edition of the Stratford Times explained the corporate structure of the Stratford Ambulance Association Inc, a private, non-profit entity providing EMS services to Stratford since 1955. In recent years, the loss of volunteers, and increased training requirements resulted in a loss of staffing to support the evening shifts covered by the Stratford Ambulance. Revenue losses were also a concern, since insurance company collections were on the steady decline. Earlier this year, the leadership and remaining crew members of the Stratford Ambulance Association Inc. notified the Borough of their desire to retire from service. Most of these leaders and crew members have been members of the Stratford Ambulance Association Inc. for 10, 20, 30 and 40 plus years. They served our community with honor and we are forever grateful for their service. Beyond saving lives, these members were managers, and corporate members in-charge of all aspects of operating a private EMS service for a public entity. Over the past several months the Borough has explored many funding options, researched hospital-based EMS service options, and considered a 24/7 shared service arrangement with the Magnolia Ambulance Association.

By way of background, Stratford and Magnolia have enjoyed a 20-year relationship whereas day-shifts, some evenings and some overnights shifts are covered by the Sterling Alliance. These paid crew members provide EMS services to the Sterling District.

Unlike our Police and Fire Departments, the borough has no governmental ties to the ambulance association, so an agreement had to be reached for new members to join the association in order to continue operations and or extend the Sterling Alliance hours of operation to 24/7. Proudly we announce, that this transition has been completed. 13 new non-crew members, along with 3 EMS crew members were accepted into the association.

Ideally for the taxpayers, the corporate structure of the Stratford Ambulance Association Inc. will remain in place, all property and assets of the association will remain in place.

In the coming months, the borough will work closely with the new members to get a handle on staffing, scheduling, billing and all the operational matters, to determine what we can do to ensure proper EMS services for our community for years to come. In the meantime, **we have ensured NO GAP IN SERVICE and the residents can rest assured the same level of EMS services our residents are accustomed to and deserve will continue.**

I would like to personally thank all council members for your hard work. I know this topic has been a top priority and source of stress to you for several months. And on behalf of our community, I would like to thank all of our heroes who have served as members of the Stratford Ambulance Association. Although I could go on and on, our past President Jayme Meyers, past Chief Krissy Schafer, past Treasurer Dan Cummings and past Vice President George Meyer are all particularly worthy of recognition. We wish them all well, on their well-deserved retirements.

Josh Keenan

Mayor

Jayme Meyers

Outgoing President-Stratford Ambulance Assoc. Inc.