

INFORMATION REGARDING ST. CROIX EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Background

- St. Croix Emergency Medical Services (SCEMS) provides emergency medical services to residents in the City of Hudson, the Village of North Hudson, the Town of Hudson and approximately the northern one-third of the Town of Troy.
- The SCEMS Commission oversees the administration of, and the services provided by, SCEMS and makes recommendations to their respective governing bodies regarding operations, including the Common Council of the City of Hudson, the Village Board of the Village of North Hudson and the Town Boards of the Town of Hudson and the Town of Troy. Each of the four municipalities has one member on the Commission and Hudson Hospital has one member on the Commission.
- The SCEMS Commission has been discussing long-range budget issues and service models in open meetings over the past few years.
- The priority for the Common Council and the Commission is to make certain that the best interests of the residents of the service area are at the forefront of any decisions.

Timeline

- At the regular open meeting of the SCEMS in June of 2016, the Hudson Hospital representative discussed with the Commission the possibility of SCEMS integrating its services with Hudson Hospital/HealthPartners.
- At the regular open meeting of the SCEMS in July of 2016, the SCEMS Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the Hudson City Council to explore the option of integrating services with Hudson Hospital within two years.
- At the July 18, 2016, Common Council meeting, the recommendation from the SCEMS Commission came forward and the Council voted in favor of having Mayor O'Connor and Alderperson McCormick go forward with discussions with Hudson Hospital/HealthPartners.
- Discussions between City and Hudson Hospital/HealthPartners have continued since that time including reviewing service integration options.
- At the City's budget hearing in November, the Common Council discussed how the potential integration would impact the 2017 City budget.
- At meetings in November of the Common Council and the SCEMS Commission, both groups reviewed and approved a term sheet, which is a nonbinding understanding of what a potential service integration is and set forth a potential time frame for the transfer of SCEMS assets to Hudson Hospital/HealthPartners to operate EMS services on an on-going basis.
- In order to make certain that the interests of residents are best served, the Council and SCEMS Commission have discussed negotiating strategy in closed session over the past few months.
- Representatives from Hudson Hospital/HealthPartners will be in attendance at the March 27, 2017 Common Council meeting to present additional information regarding the possible integration.

Information

- The Common Council has not made any final decision on a service plan for providing EMS to residents in the service area.
- The governing bodies for the Village of North Hudson, the Town of Hudson and the Town of Troy will also be considering services plans and options when they are finalized.
- Any potential Hudson Hospital/HealthPartners integration model is one option that may be considered by the governing bodies.
- Two ambulances WILL be based in the City of Hudson under any service plan or option.
- The City, its partners, and the SCEMS Commission, are committed to having response times as good as or better than current response times, under any service plan or option.

Mayor Rich O'Connor
March 20, 2017