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## CENTRAL NEW YORK NEWS

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### Fate of North Country ambulance corps in doubt

by Suzanne M. Ellis

INSIDE

Central New York News

Wednesday August 13, 2008, 3:26 PM

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Officials from Northern Oswego County Ambulance and seven towns will meet first thing Thursday to try to iron out a contract to keep the corps in service.

Astronomical increases in coverage rates are facing taxpayers in Albion, Boylston, Orwell, Redfield, Richland, Sandy Creek and Williamstown and even though those increases were reduced during negotiations, they are still too high, town supervisors have said.

Negotiations broke down earlier this week, so both sides have agreed to meet again tomorrow.

Read tomorrow's Post-Standard for all the details.

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**COMMENTS (17)** [Post a comment](#)

Posted by **maplesugar** on [08/14/08 at 5:58AM](#)

Maybe they could do some cost saving by not driving all over Pulaski all of the time, or letting the ambulances idle for a couple hours while they park at Dunkin' Donuts, Ponderosa, or hang out in the P&C parking lot.

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Posted by **mysllyss** on [08/14/08 at 9:12AM](#)

Maybe you should be thankful that you have an ambulance company. When they make these cuts you're going to have 1 ambulance to cover close to if not over 400 square miles. Have fun waiting hours for a ride to the hospital!

And by the way, they leave them running because they are diesel and its better to let them run rather than start them over and over again, plus they have to run to allow certain equipment inside stay running.

Last but not least, ask your local village and town representatives what they said at the last meeting. You may think your life is worth \$0.15 a head tax increase. Your representatives dont think so!

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Posted by **HAPPYDEBBIE** on [08/14/08 at 11:00AM](#)

WELL MAYBE IF RICH DUVAL WAS NOT RIPPING OFF THE PLACE MONEY WISE, THEY'D HAVE \$\$\$...HIS OWN PAY IS OVER 70,000 NOW PLUS WHOLE FAMILY BENNIES. AMBULANCES DO NOT NEED TO BE KEPT RUNNING, THERE IS NO EQUIPMENT INSIDE THAT NEEDS TO STAY RUNNING, THEY ARE BATTERY BACK-UP. THERE IS NO NEED FOR THEM TO WASTE THE TAXPAYERS \$ BY DRIVING AROUND, MOST ARE GAS, NOT DIESEL, AND ONLY GET 10-12 MPG. NOCA IS ASKING FOR A 400% INCREASE FROM THE TOWNS. GET RID OF THE FIRE EQUIPMENT, BOAT & THE EMPLOYEE FRILLS, AND GO BACK PAYING THE BILLS. GET RID OF THE EXTRA PEOPLE THAT ARE MAKING 20.00+ PER HOUR FOR OFFICE WORK. GET A NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS. RICH HAND PICKED THE BOARD OF PEOPLE THAT HE COULD SMOOTH TALK AND WIN OVER WITH HIS WAYS. HE HIMSELF HAS FILED BANKRUPTCY 2-3 TIMES IN HIS LIFE. NOW HE'S DRAGGED NOCA DOWN

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Posted by **passit2** on [08/14/08 at 12:57PM](#)

Wow, some people are really ignorant. This goes for HAPPYDEBBIE that can't even get her facts straight! It is real hard for someone to rip off a place when the place owes you money! You have no idea about EMS do you, so sit there with no life and bash people that you don't know and lie about them so you look good! You should feel so good about yourself making up lies. I hope someday you need an ambulance and it doesn't come and then what will you think then???? Rich Duvall has poured his heart and soul into NOCA and for some low life to sit here and write this stuff about him is sicking. If you knew where NOCA was 10 years ago you wouldn't be saying this stuff. Have a great day!!!!

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Posted by **Run4Fun71** on [08/14/08 at 1:16PM](#)

I am really not up to date all of the political issues with NOCA, but I tend to agree with some of the comments that have been posted as to why are the ambulances always being driven all over the town of Pulaski, I too see them parked at Dunkin Donuts and Taylor Marie's. I understand they work long shifts and need to eat but they should send a runner in their OWN vehicle or have it delivered like the rest of us.

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Posted by **Jenamy** on [08/14/08 at 1:44PM](#)

It's very sad to read about the state of affairs at NOCA. I no longer live in the area but would hate to see this vital service end due to a funding issue. In the 90's, my family and many friends were members of NOCA and truly enjoyed the experience. We were lucky to be able to serve the surrounding townships. As I understand it, today NOCA is mostly paid staff and few volunteers. I know over time it's hard to get volunteers for every shift, but it would make sense for NOCA to reach out to the communities they serve and recruit volunteers again. Go to former members; why did they leave? Try to get them back. You need citizen input. It was an all-volunteer corps when I was there and worked pretty well. Take a look at the what past business practices worked in the past and go back to them.

We also own property in Pulaski and the increase that's being proposed is quite nominal. We pay for the libraries, fire and police- why not the ambulance corps? When it's your loved one in trouble, you want medical assistance ASAP.

Lastly, some costs are justified. How much that cost should be is debatable. Every position should be reviewed (is it necessary- could a volunteer fill it-, is the salary justified for the skills needed, type of business and location) and pay should be determined accordingly. Bring in volunteers, review current and past business and personnel practices and increase the amount of tax we pay to have this service. That's the way to have a solvent NOCA.

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Posted by **passit2** on [08/14/08 at 1:45PM](#)

Yes they understand that issue and months ago have changed that since the whole gas issues have gone up. They are no longer allowed to go get food. They can have it delivered.  
Thanks

- [Lopez Lomong lost the race, but he's still inspires](#) 5:38 p.m. ET
- [I had some great Olympic moments Sunday](#) 5:58 p.m. ET

**Newschasers**

by News Tipsters for The Post-Standard

- [Prescriptions being denied](#) 11:18 a.m. ET
- [Tractor trailer rollover in Cortland](#) 1:36 p.m. ET

**News Tracker Blog**

by The Post-Standard's Brian Cubbison

- [Welcome to the News Tracker blogs](#) 11:07 p.m. ET
- [PostScript: Farm, cities and fair](#) 2:25 a.m. ET

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Posted by **heresmypenny** on [08/14/08 at 2:35PM](#)

WOW!!what alot of misinformed people there are out there. Please call NOCA and ask them about their budget and why an increase is needed.As for the salaries qouted by HAPPYDEBBIE well YOU ARE WAY OFF BASE. Again, NOCA is a non profit organization and their records are open to the public, look into them before giving out misinformation.Have any of you nay sayers ever needed an ambulance? As for recriting volunteers I nominate HAPPYDEBBIE to be the recritment officer , and good luck to her.

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Posted by **scfdcapt** on [08/14/08 at 2:50PM](#)

wow, happydebbie, perhaps you should learn the facts and do some research before you post comments!!! first of all, all ambulances are diesel, in fact its a federal law that they be deisel!, they have to run to keep the narcotics on board a a certian temp ( of course if you were an emt or paramedic you would know these things!) If you knew rich you might know that he used his own money to foot some of the bills or that he turn the place around, ten years ago we were waiting for out of town ems coverage. Do you know any of the office staff or what they make? I do they dont make 20 an hour, try 10!Did you know that rich doesnt choose all the board members? Im sure you didnt. just curious but do you volenteer anywhere or do you just sit around and spread gossip?

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Posted by **scfdcapt** on [08/14/08 at 2:50PM](#)

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Posted by **scfdcapt** on [08/14/08 at 2:51PM](#)

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Posted by **concernedemt** on [08/14/08 at 3:41PM](#)

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I would like to provide some of the misinformed taxpayers in Noca's district with some of the correct information as opposed to some of the negative rumors and comments displayed on this board. There are many reasons that Noca is in the financial position that they are in today. Mainly it's the same reason that everyone in this district has had to cut back on our own finances. Prices have skyrocketed for everything from diesel (yes all the rigs are diesel even back in Debbie's day) to the cost of medical supplies. One heart monitor alone can cost over \$25,000. Prices are going up, but unfortunately income has gone down. Diesel costs are killing small companies all over the country from the single truck driver to companies such as Penn Traffic. Noca has not asked any of the towns for a substantial increase in funds in over ten years. In the past ten years many of the volunteers have left, that is true. People are working two jobs to support their families. I know I am. Everyone blames Rich for that. All of this damage was done before Rich. He was handed a company in financial disarray and said "do something with this". He was the ONLY person to step up to the plate to try to save this organization and fix the damage that the prior board and directors had done. He and everybody at Noca has tried every avenue to try to raise funds without raising taxes. Well now there are no more options. These tax increases on an average home in this district will cost the taxpayers 30\$. That's all these people are fighting over... \$30! I know that personally I am more than willing to pay that for the excellent service provided to this community, including my family. Your supervisors do not believe that YOUR life is worth that tiny amount. Before people get all fired up and begin these nasty rumors you need to become better informed. Noca is fighting to save YOUR life. That's why they are here, not for the money. As for Rich stealing all this money, he has over \$16,000 invested on his credit cards to keep this place going. How many of you would put your families' finances in jeopardy like that? You are lucky to have such a caring and professional ambulance staff in your community. Not everyone in this county can say that. Let's support them and fight for the health and safety of our community and families instead of fighting over whose fault it is.

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Posted by **Embarrassed5** on [08/14/08 at 5:12PM](#)

SCFDCAPT, concernedem, while you both post great concerns, the fact is that what was stated in the paper in regards to many facts that relate to NOCA is a plain out lie meant to confuse and disorient the general public. NOCA last year respond to many more calls than the reported 686 on and you know this, (actually over 1900) they also have absolutely no reason to complain about the income of NOCA, when one of the selling points for their billing division is that we collect on over 75% of our billing. (above national average) also with your Director of Operations making 70 thousand a year is a joke, he mentioned that he was available 24 hours a day 7 days a week is also a lie, he and his assistant has been observed sitting in the office many times by both you and others in the community while calls go unanswered, as of the middle of the month of August Rich has only responded to just over 25 calls. (Now mind you that NOCA has responded to just over 1100 for the year) (Again a lie of the reported 14 calls per week average) If you were so inclined to post your directed response to others about your place of employment why not put your real name up here to support them? You hold absolutely no weight in your argument! SCFDCAPT, you need to learn to spell, I really hope that you don't treat your patients with as much distension that is obvious in your discussions here on the board. It's funny that many of the PT/Per-Diem employees were either notified by email or by the media about the layoffs, what kind of management is this? NOT ANY, I WOULD WANT TO WORK FOR! So people beware, that while there may have been problems in the past, it has been and will be repeated until the current management and good ol' boy club attitude is removed and is investigated fully! There is allot of company waste in regards to current and past pay practices, fringe benefits, personal health care and secondary benefits. The organization as a whole needs complete restructure and proper guidance from an outside source. But to get to that point it needs to be fully investigated to make sure that there have been no other oversights, the state has investigators in every aspect - DOH, insurance, federal labor, state labor, OSHA, Comptroller etc..... It's time for you to fill the bill and start new. County / State legislators need to follow up

on this, many of you have endorsed this organization; now make sure of its true direction!  
Kelly.

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Posted by **donttalksmak** on [08/14/08 at 8:30PM](#)

To run4fun71, crews go to dinner in their ambulances so they can respond to YOU faster. They serve us in pairs (one to drive and one to treat). If one is in his/her personal vehicle getting food, they have to drive back for the ambulance to get to you. If they are together in the ambulance, they can drop their food and run to get to you and SAVE YOUR LIFE. Think with a brain.

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Posted by **getfactsstr8** on [08/14/08 at 8:49PM](#)

In response to Suzanne Ellis' August 13 article - I was curious if you were ever able to get the Town Supervisors to define "astronomical". It's my understanding that the actual impact to the average taxpayer is much less per year than a carton of cigarettes. What a great deal! Now, if you look at the impact of the planned renovations to the outdated and infrequently used Town Hall in Sandy Creek, well, that will cost you two cartons of cigarettes. Sorry, I like the one carton deal a lot better!

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Posted by **ssidr4vr** on [08/14/08 at 10:02PM](#)

wow a story about Oswego cnty,,and its actually getting informed responses..  
cmon where the trailer park jokes?

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Posted by **donttalksmak** on [08/15/08 at 7:00AM](#)

The carton of cigarettes comment made me laugh! That's how small the increase is. I was more thinking the Sandy Creek Town Hall will cost us a carton of cigarettes and a case of beer. We might need that case of beer while we're waiting for an ambulance!!!!!!!

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