

Friday, February 8, 2008



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City's legal battle on ambulance service



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UTICA - The City of Utica began providing ambulance service through its Fire Department in August 2005. But the Certificate of Need the city needs to operate the service expired last May.

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Instead of applying for another one, the city began a series of legal battles that still have not been resolved, and they still don't have that current certificate!

Now the city took the legal battle to the next legal level - the appellate division in Rochester. The State Department of Health is letting them operate under their old certificate of need while all these legal battles are played out.

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29 °F
Current Temp

Overcast

Wind : Calm
Humidity : 82 %
Pressure : 29.99" (1024.9 mb) in.
Wind Chill : NA °F

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"It's already law," said Butch Hoffman, of the Mid-State EMS Regional Council. "It has been, so for that determination to be changed they'd have to change the law."

If the city does have to apply for a certificate of need there would be public hearings. Among those who say they will speak - Kunkel Ambulance Service.

They say they're prepared to show documentation that they provided adequate coverage to the city and there was not a need for additional ambulance service.

Of course, the big question remains - if you're the city, why engage in all these legal battles? Why not just apply for the certificate of need?

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Yesterday at 8:23 PM **tom** wrote ...

so how much of this needless court and legal fees do the tax payers have to pay??

Yesterday at 4:29 PM **Alhambra** wrote ...

If the UFD is doing such a stellar job then they should welcome the public hearing process. Then they'll have a forum where they can demonstrate the superior quality of thier service...and provide a full documentation of just how much that service costs.

Yesterday at 4:03 PM **CM** wrote ...

Kunkel has been around many years and provides outstanding service to city of Utica. Wasting the tax payers money is something the city of Utica is very good at.

Yesterday at 3:46 PM **Freeenterprise** wrote ...

Why is a government entity allowed to use taxpayer money to start a "business" and compete with a private business? The taxpayer still has to pay for the ride to the hospital and the overtime for the firemen to man the EMT rigs. This same government is trying to attract business to the area. UFD and Kunkel both provide professional care but government should not compete with

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private enterprise at the expense of the taxpayer.

 Yesterday at 3:26 PM **Stacy** wrote ...

I see no reason for this big stink over a certificate of need. When the welfare of the public is at stake, knowing you have a dedicated service you can rely in a time of need is essential. Fire departments across the country have been providing EMS for years, so why is the city of Utica being looked so down upon? With neighboring EMS agencies running as volunteers, we need UFD and their dedicated team of EMS responders, after all it lessens Kunkle's load in the city while getting EMS to other areas.

 Yesterday at 12:32 PM **Anon** wrote ...

Kunkle is only freaking out because they do not have an adequate source of income anymore because UFD takes all of their business now. The only time I see Kunkle doing anything other than going to fast food chains is when they go to the schools. UFD has a MUCH better service and is by far the best ambulance service I have ever seen.

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