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Wednesday, January 28, 2009  
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## News

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### Towns weigh options in light of ambulance vote

Tuesday, January 27, 2009 10:35 AM EST

Town Supervisor Thomas Felton said Byron officials are still gathering information on options to the city of Batavia's ambulance service.

With City Council acting Monday night to terminate service agreements with towns, villages and fire districts as of Sept. 1, Felton said he expected to get some kind of notification for 2009.

"We'll have a little lead time," he said.

Felton said he would hope the towns could come together on some sort of "countywide situation."

That would seem to be the most economical solution, he said. "Hopefully we can get it done in some fashion."

Byron has an ambulance service, Felton noted, but as a volunteer operation, he didn't think the town could expect it to handle all of its calls for service.

Alexander Supervisor Ruth Hulshoff said she expects the subject will be up for discussion at the next meeting of the Genesee Association of Municipalities. It's a hard situation, she said, because officials feel a responsibility to taxpayers to have "something in place."

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Most communities in the county have local volunteer ambulance services or rescue squads for basic or in some instances intermediate levels of emergency service.

Alexander's ambulance has covered for the town in the past, Hulshoff said, but doesn't have the advanced life support capability that the city provides.

GAM sought proposals for a countywide service about a year ago, but the city was the only responder.

--By Roger Muehlig

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Ioriladd wrote on Jan 27, 2009 1:30 PM:

" None of these towns saw this coming? They have been unwilling to pay their fair share of this service and were basically holding the City hostage. Now we all lose. "

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westernnyer wrote on Jan 28, 2009 9:47 AM:

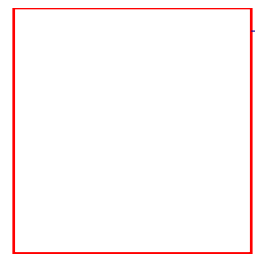
" Iori...if you want to put the blame on a specific group....didn't a past city council get the amubulance service in financial trouble in the first place??? we all need to stop passing the buck and get together and solve this problem we are all in the same boat here, and as far as i'm concerned mistakes have been made on BOTH sides county and city. let's stop pointing fingers and solve this mess "

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