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## Wayland pullout won't change plans

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**Bath Courier**

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Bath, NY — The recent pullout by the village of Wayland from a study on consolidating volunteer ambulance service the proposal from going forward, according to Steuben County Emergency Services Director Michael Sprague. Sprague said the committee representing the remaining municipalities – the town of Wayland, village and town of C hamlet of Atlanta – will continue to review the mid-December draft for possible ways to improve emergency medica area.

The draft was prepared by a consultant paid for by a \$25,000 state grant and outlined a number of ways the munici back each other up better in medical emergencies, Sprague said.

“That’s what I just don’t get about this,” Sprague said. “It was a draft. Nothing was set in stone. I guess my biggest q anybody actually read it?”

Sprague said the draft starts out with the best-case scenario of emergency medical care, with a fully staffed Advance base.

“None of us want that,” Sprague said. “We don’t need it. You take that as a place to start and you work your way to be.”

Sprague said the groups intend to keep services at their current basic life support with advanced support back-up.

According to the Genesee Country Express in Dansville, Wayland trustees charged the proposal would shift an unfai the cost to the village.

Last year, Wayland ambulance responded to 480 emergency calls, while Cohocton medics covered 100 calls and Atl. responded 60 times, according to county records.

Trustees opted out at the request of the Wayland ambulance corps, which estimated start-up costs at \$2 million, the reported.

The village board’s action will prevent them from shaping any future recommendations.

“I don’t know how they can justify that,” Sprague said. “It would cost them nothing to move forward and be a part of Sprague said at least two public hearings will be held once the joint committee has reached a final proposal.

The plan was first set in motion two years ago, as a way to provide more stable emergency medical response in the r three ambulance corps now provide mutual aid and respond to calls on the nearby Interstate 390.

However, the problem for rural volunteer ambulance squads throughout Steuben is recruiting and staffing, particul day, when many volunteers work.

Sprague said the remaining agencies will continue their review of the study.

“It’s not derailed,” he said. “We’ve just got to work around it with a hole in the middle.”

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