

Update on Town of Ulysses Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Billing Policy and Rates

Background:

- In 2015 the Town of Ulysses was the last municipality contracting with the Trumansburg EMS to start billing for ambulance services.
- In agreeing to charge fees to help offset the growing cost of EMS, the Town committed to a very generous financial assistance policy to assure that no one would encounter a financial hardship as a result of the new billing policy.
- Each person billed is supposed to receive a letter from the Town along with guidelines that indicate that the Town's Financial Assistance Policy allows anyone making 300% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines, to be updated each year.
- The Financial Assistance Guidelines need to be updated and the 2018 federal guidelines and the 300% guidelines on which they are based are included for action by the Town Board.

EMS Fees & Revenue Update

- Fees were set for 2016 to match those charged by the Village of Trumansburg
- Revenue raised from ambulance billing:
 - 2016 = \$82,809
 - 2017 = \$105,757 (This includes revenue from high volume use by CARS)
 - 2018 projection = \$80,000
- The Village EMS coordinator annually surveys other ambulance providers to identify the fees they charge. The attached Fee Schedule lists our current fees set in 2015, the minimum, maximum and average fees for key services and includes the Village's 2017 fees.
- If the Town were to increase fees to 2017 Village rates, increases would range from 10% to 14% with a 33% increase in the charge per mile for one-way trips to the hospital from \$15 to \$20.
- For 2018, the Town budgeted \$80,000 in anticipated revenue.
- A 10% increase in fees for the second half of 2018 may mean the Town would realize approximately \$45,000 (2017 adjusted for CARS reduction for 6 months) x 10% = \$49,500 + ~ \$ 45,000 for first half of 2018 at current rates or an estimated \$94,500

Town of Ulysses Ambulance Billing Financial Assistance Policy

It is the policy of the Town of Ulysses to offer financial assistance to patients in the Ulysses Ambulance District who are billed for their share of ambulance transport and treatment and earn less than 300% of the Federal Poverty Income Guideline.

For 2018, the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines are as follows, based on the number of people in a household. This Chart will be updated annually using Federal Poverty Income Guidelines available from: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty>

2018	Financial Assistance Eligibility								
	Based on the number of people in your household and your income, the Town of Ulysses can reduce your share of ambulance bill. Do not hesitate to ask for assistance.								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Each Extra Add
Federal Poverty Guideline	\$12,140	\$16,460	\$20,780	\$25,100	\$29,420	\$33,740	\$38,060	\$42,380	\$5,400
Ulysses Allowance	\$36,420	\$49,380	\$62,340	\$75,300	\$88,260	\$101,220	\$114,180	\$127,140	\$16,200

TOWN of ULYSSES AMBULANCE BILLING FEE SCHEDULE
Effective July 1, 2018

The Ulysses Town Board hereby establishes the following schedule of fees for Ambulance Transport and Treatment Services rendered in the Ulysses Ambulance District, effective July 1, 2018. The fees may be amended by further resolution of the Town Board.

1. For Basic Life Support (BLS) transport services: BLS is defined as the emergency response and transport of a patient that requires assessment and treatment by a BLS Technician and no Advanced Life Support procedures.
2. For Advanced Life Support Level 1 (ALS1): ALS1 is defined as the emergency response and transport of a patient that requires assessment and treatment by an ALS Technician and one for more Advanced Life Support procedures.
3. For Advanced Life Support Level 2 (ALS2): ALS2 is defined as the transport of a patient that requires defibrillation, pricing, intubation, or the administration of 3 or more Schedule IV medications.
4. For Ground Transport Miles (GTM): GTM is defined as the charge per patient transport mile, loaded or non-loaded transport mile.

Fee Information for Discussion on Whether to Update 2018 Rates

	2015 Town Fees	EMS Survey Min Fee	EMS Survey Max Fee	EMS Survey Average	2017 Village Fees	2018 Town Fee ??
BLS Non-Emergency	\$500					
BLS Emergency	\$700	375	1505	940	800	
ALS 1 Non-Emergency	\$850					
ALS 1 Emergency	\$950	500	2310	1405	1050	
ALS 2	\$1,050	600	2625	1612	1150	
Specialty Care Transport	\$500					
Paramedic Intercept	\$500					
ALS Assist no Transport	\$850					
Mileage	\$15/mile	11.00/mi	40.00/mi	25.50/mi	20.00/mi	