

The Formation of the Ephrata Community Ambulance Association

February 16, 1961 – An editorial in the Ephrata Review reported a recent ambulance call for a critically ill patient who received a two hour response from the Legion owned ambulance when the dispatcher was unable to locate a crew.

February 23, 1961 – A meeting was called by Robert M. Lutz III, president of the Ephrata Chamber of Commerce, for Feb 28, 1961 to discuss the local ambulance service.

February 28, 1961 – 70 persons representing 30 local civic organizations met to discuss various options and the need to form a new ambulance organization.

Ephrata Community Hospital, who owns a \$3.5 million building, but has trouble getting patients transported to it, stated the ambulance could be stationed at ECH, but they were unable to staff it. Ephrata Pioneer Fire Company also stated they could not operate an ambulance service.

February 28, 1961 – The general consensus was the new ambulance service should become an Ephrata Community Hospital service.

It was estimated the service would cost from \$15,000 to \$20,000 annually supported by charges made for the service. This revenue was estimated it would cover 95% of the actual cost, with the balance being recovered through annual contributions to a hospital or independent fund drive.

It was proposed the maintenance of the ambulance and provisions for new equipment would be provided by local civic organizations through Ephrata Fair promotions.

The Ephrata Police Department agreed to use the existing police dispatchers 24 hours per day to replace the two individuals currently doing telephone dispatching for the Legion .

The telephone number to request an Ephrata ambulance or to report an emergency, was REpublic3-xxxx. Being on call meant staying within hearing distance of the corded phone in your home.



The telephone call went to the Police Department dispatcher. The dispatch center was located at 114 East Main Street in Ephrata in a glass enclosed area inside the front lobby. The building is now known as the Ray H. Good Business Center.



May 3, 1961 – A second public meeting was held to discuss the progress of the new ambulance committee, which had a series of meetings since March 1961.

Committee members visited other communities in Lancaster, Berks and Lebanon counties which had a volunteer or subscriber form of ambulance service, seeking information which would be beneficial to the local effort.

Under the proposed subscriber system, ambulance service would be provided free to members on an annual basis, with non-members paying a flat rate plus a mileage fee.

It was noted the police department dispatchers have made a noticeable improvement in the Legion's ambulance service.

June 8, 1961 – A meeting was held to organize a new ambulance service. T.G. Rogers Jr. was elected president. Other officers elected were: Landis Martin, first vice president; George Stradling, second vice president; Abram Summers, third vice president; Florence Hackman, secretary; Robert Wenger, treasurer.

Also, eight other members were elected to the Board of Directors, most representing a local civic organization involved in the formation of the organization. They were Richard Binner, T. G. Davis, Ella Mae Denlinger, Charles Mentzer, Vernon Nelms, Edward Siekierka, Raymond Stauffer and Clarence Weik.

The Board also included members at large from the Kiwanis Club, Rotary Club, Baron Stiegel Lions Club, and the Ephrata Pioneer, Lincoln and Mt. Airy and Durlach Fire Companies.

The startup assets of the corporation were listed as:

Real property = None

Personal Property = \$1,500

June 15, 1961 - The Board of Directors held its first meeting at the Ephrata Borough Hall. One of the first items of business was to make plans for an association membership drive.

13 volunteer members signed up for service.

The Legion donated its Cadillac ambulance to the new organization

August 18, 1961

The new ambulance organization was incorporated
as the

Ephrata Community Ambulance Association, Inc.,

a non-profit organization.

