



**Town of  
Cornwall**  
Orange County, New York



# FACT SHEET

## CORNWALL EMS SERVICE

### FACTS ABOUT LOCAL EMS

- Town & Village residents currently pay \$300,000 in taxes to support ambulance services for fiscal year 2022.
- COVAC is a private 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation with a governing board of directors that submits an annual IRS 990 tax filing.
- New Windsor EMS is a private 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation with a governing board of directors that submits an annual IRS 990 tax filing.
- New Windsor EMS provides Cornwall with Advanced Life Support (ALS) for \$12k per month.
- COVAC provides Cornwall with Basic Life Support (BLS) and transport to hospital for \$10k month.
- COVAC has declined to become licensed to provide ALS services.
- New 3-year contract with NWEMS would provide both ALS & BLS for \$24k per month in year 1, \$26k per month in year 2, and \$28k per month in year 3.
- COVAC has proposed \$15k per month to provide BLS in 2022 to remain solvent. Combined with paying at least \$12k per month to NWEMS for ALS, we believe this arrangement is not sustainable nor in the best interest of residents and taxpayers.

### CURRENT SERVICE BY COVAC

- Failing to notify 911 center when there is no crew scheduled for duty to ensure New Windsor EMS answers Cornwall's calls without delay.
- Failing to respond to cardiac arrest calls and other life threatening emergencies.
- Leaving Cornwall to respond to calls in other towns without ensuring district coverage.
- Missed more than 150 requests for an ambulance in last 2 years.
- Provided courtesy transport of COVAC members at area hospitals, facilities, and homes without ensuring district coverage for emergencies.
- Vehicles not registered or inspected with NY DMV for periods of time.
- Failure to provide requested access to COVAC's web based systems for New Windsor EMS and Cornwall's OEM Director to better understand and work to address gaps in scheduling and ensure residents get proper care.
- Facilities and poor hygiene including bedbug infestation at Town of Cornwall owned ambulance facility.

Under the new proposed service, all current COVAC volunteers and paid staff can apply to ride with "Cornwall EMS Operated by New Windsor EMS" by submitting an application and requesting assignment to the Cornwall station.

**See reverse for proposed  
new service details.**

## Cornwall EMS Operated by New Windsor EMS

- NWEMS will staff an ambulance 24/7 at current Cornwall Ambulance building, 1 Clinton Street to ensure timely emergency service.
- NWEMS will provide paramedics—no change from current service.
- A new ambulance will be stationed at Clinton Street facility and will be labeled Cornwall EMS.
- Staff and volunteers stationed at Clinton Street facility will wear Cornwall EMS uniforms.
- Cost savings to patients as NWEMS billing rates are lower for BLS and transportation mileage than COVAC.
- Residents who lack insurance coverage are billed at Medicare rate.
- No charge for refusal of service.
- NWEMS has a charity policy to ensure that patients are not faced with out-of-pocket costs, in line with government regulations.
- Cornwall will be backfilled by other ambulances from New Windsor when additional calls occur.
- NWEMS has not missed a call in over 10 years.
- Town and Village will appoint a resident to sit on NWEMS board.

### Excerpt from Joint Public Statement from Town of Cornwall and Village of Cornwall-On-Hudson Boards May 19, 2022, signed by Supervisor Wojehowski and Mayor Gagliano

“On balance, we believe that this decision for establishment of a contemporary public/private partnership model—created and supported by multiple municipalities, including Town of New Windsor, Town of Cornwall and Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson—will ensure our residents receive the high-quality emergency medical care they deserve. NWWAC enables Cornwall leadership to remain confident in the model’s financial viability and sustainability, administrative transparency, leader oversight, and accountability while serving as an example for the region.

“This was not an easy decision. Careful consideration was given to all impacted equities. Town and Village elected officials reflected deeply on the many decades of selfless service that COVAC and its volunteers have provided to our community; indeed, it is an honored local institution. But the primary responsibility of public officials is ensuring their constituents are afforded best available services for their hard-earned tax dollars. In our estimation, the proposed three-year contract with NWWAC ensures this. Know that we have explored innumerable options to guarantee confidence in the provision of EMS. And we have reviewed a number of similar municipal consolidated-services agreements. This is the best path forward for Cornwall.”