Hurleyville disbands ambulance corp

By Michal Lumsden

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Hurleyville — The Hurleyville fire district commissioners have voted to temporarily disband the hamlet's Emergency Relief Squad as of midnight, New Year's Eve. At that point MobileMedic Emergency Medical Services will take over.

"It's a very emotional decision for everyone involved," said Jim Sullivan, acting chairman of Hurleyville's fire district.

After about two years pondering the fate of the volunteer ambulance unit, the five-member board of commissioners finally agreed that tougher medical regulations are making it too difficult to maintain an appropriately trained corps.

The squad was started in the late 1960s for local residents who couldn't afford to pay up-front for an ambulance ride to the hospital.

A certified EMT is now required to be present for every trip. Because of increased training hours and requirements, Sullivan said, it has been difficult to recruit certified EMTs. Hurleyville currently has just three.

"A lot of times it's just a taxi ride to the hospital, but you can't do that because there's not an EMT," Sullivan said.

The board of commissioners will re-evaluate the relief squad's service on April 1, 2008.

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