LVAC members to protest budget cut

by Lancaster Volunteer Ambulance Corps on Sunday, December 5, 2010 at 11:40pm

Members of the Lancaster Volunteer Ambulance Corps (LVAC) will turn out en masse Monday night at Lancaster Town Hall to protest the town board's decision to cut LVAC completely from its budget and put the town's emergency medical service contract up for bids from other agencies.

"We don't know why the town board is not signing a new agreement with us," LVAC President Chester Popiolkowski said.

The nonprofit LVAC has served the communities of Lancaster and Depew for 57 years. Its 60 volunteer and paid EMTs and paramedics have been asked to attend the board's work session and meeting Monday at 7 p.m. in full dress uniform. In addition, many of the corps' emergency response vehicles -- including its six paramedic-level ambulances -- will be parked in front of the town hall on Central Avenue.

LVAC President Chester Popiolkowski is expected to address the board and urge it to sign another five year contract with LVAC.

"We don't know why the town board is not signing a new agreement with us," he said. "LVAC provides excellent care to the Lancaster community."

In addition to its annual $45,000 contribution to LVAC, the board also cut workers' compensation for volunteers. But Popiolkowski mainly questioned why the town would consider changing its EMS provider to one not locally based. LVAC charges less than other agencies for patient transport and care.

"LVAC members have a long, proud history of saving lives," said Popiolkowski.

"No one cares more about the quality of emergency care in this town than we do."

LVAC is the first volunteer ambulance service to be founded in Western New York. It responds annually to more than 3,000 emergencies.

Visit www.lancasterambulance.org for more information.