Watertown Town Council renews ambulance squad's contract; Guilfoyle denied

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 2011

The Watertown Town Council approved a new agreement Thursday night with the town's ambulance squad, despite a Guilfoyle Ambulance Service official who contended that his company could provide the service at a fraction of its cost.

Council members voted 3-1 for the new contract, with Councilman Edward Smith voting against it and Councilman Stephen L. Rich abstaining. Mr. Rich is a board member for the ambulance squad.

Before the vote, there was no discussion by the council, but David C. Sherman, Guilfoyle's general manager, told council members his company "was ready, willing and able" to provide ambulance service to town residents. He also told them that Guilfoyle could handle the service for $30,000 for the year.

The contract with the town's ambulance company is for $150,000 for the year. That is up from $140,000 in 2010. The other terms of the contract remained the same.

The only question came from Councilman Paul V. Desormo, but it was after the vote.

He wanted to know whether Guilfoyle had a contract to provide backup service for the town's
squad, and Mr. Sherman replied that attorneys for the two sides were still working on it.

The service, staffed by paid full- and part-time personnel and volunteers, works out of the town fire department’s satellite station on Arsenal Street.