

GREENFIELD, LYNDEBOROUGH, TEMPLE & WILTON
AMBULANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WILTON AMBULANCE AND EMS SERVICES BUILDING
DECEMBER 06, 2019

CALL TO ORDER - Chairman Boland called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lyndeborough Town Administrator Russell Boland, Greenfield Town Administrator Aaron Patt, Greenfield Select Board Chair Margaret Bliss, Temple Selectman Ken Caisse, Wilton Town Administrator Paul Branscombe, Ambulance Chief Steve Desrosiers, Ambulance Captain Karen Artemik, Finance Officer Deb Harling, and Greenfield Selectboard member Karen Day, Greenfield Selectboard member Robert Marshall, Wilton Selectwoman Kellie-Sue Boissonnault, Greenfield Fire Chief Richard McQuade

COMMUNITY FORUM AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Administrator Patt stated that the Greenfield Fire Chief wrote a nice article about the Wilton Ambulance program for the Greenfield Spirit, the town's newsletter. The newsletter was complimentary of the work that the individuals at the ambulance service are providing to Greenfield. The newsletter was mailed to every home in Greenfield.

Administrator Branscombe noted that the Wilton Select Board agreed to pay the \$1,336.00 annual premium for the insurance coverage on the building.

NEW BUSINESS:

2020 Proposed Budget – Ambulance Chief Desrosiers provided several budgets for review. The budgets contemplate either full or partial staffing of A-2 calls, and revenues of \$265,000 and \$300,000 for comparison. Chief Desrosiers outlined that budget projections are based on staffing from 6AM to 6PM during week days. Weekends and weekday nights will continue staffing as they have been. The budgets provide for the rapid response vehicle. The Chief explained that he looked at several types of vehicles as well as a Ford F150 truck. Because of the weight of the gear carried in the vehicle, and the gear cabinet, the vehicle has to have a weight carrying capacity that is greater than some consumer rated vehicles. This was the reason for including the truck in the review. Other vehicles reviewed included the Ford Expedition. Lease pricing is based on municipal discounts.

Chief Desrosiers said that he contacted Primex, the town insurance provider, about the possibility of the program using personally owned vehicles (POV). Primex will not insure POVs when used for the ambulance program, except for the deductible and only up to \$500. He stated that Primex considers this a State oversight, which requires a legislative correction. Chairman Boland observed that if POVs were used, the ambulance program would have to require insurance as a policy and then account for mileage for each call.

A discussion on the cabinet contents in the Rapid Response vehicle was held. Specifically were there any narcotics in the gear on board the vehicle. The Chief stated that there are no narcotics on the Rapid Response vehicle. The response vehicle is set up to deliver stabilizing care until an ambulance is on-scene with appropriate medical staff such as a paramedic.

There followed a discussion on average call time responses. At the conclusion of the conversation, Chairman Boland brought up a question regarding the Committee's recommendations on cost allocation to the towns. He framed the question as to whether there is a preference for call volume vs. population data as a metric of allocation. Administrator Patt stated that since the beginning of the year, this was a question that the Committee agreed to look at in the 3rd quarter when there was data on hand to compare. Currently the allocation is based on 51% to Wilton and 16.3 percent to the three other towns. He stated that during the spring the Chief reported that the call volumes were coming out at 51% to Wilton and 48.5% to the three towns. While there is some difference in the actual percentage between the smaller

towns, overall the metrics that were adopted at the beginning of the year were bearing out. There has been no move to adopt call volume, or, population to date.

Next, Administrator Patt took up a discussion of the budgets (1-6); three of which are cast with \$265,000 in revenue and three are cast with \$300,000 in revenue. After a short polling of the group and with help from Finance Director Harling, there was agreement that the \$265,000 revenue number was the correct budgetary number (reducing the number of budgets overall to three). Next, Administrator Patt asked Chief Desrosiers to identify the budget that accomplishes the highest level of service...i.e. fully staffing A-2 calls. This was compared to the budget that partially staffs A-2 calls most similar to the current budget. Administrator Patt stated that the budgets have been winnowed down to two (#1 & #3). These budgets are \$100,000 and \$140,000 greater than the current budget respectively. The difference between the two is \$40,000 to fully staff A-2 calls stated the Chair.

Administrator Patt asked Chief Desrosiers to explain the need to staff A-2 calls. Specifically, are the tone-back calls that are outlined in Addendum C of the Inter-municipal agreement working? The Chief stated that the tone-backs are not happening. That is why he is projecting a need to staff A-2 calls during the 6AM-6PM time frame Monday thru Friday. Administrator Patt asked the Chief to provide a recommendation on the best budget for the department. Chief Desrosiers explained that Budget #3, which staffs A-2 calls is the best budget for the communities.

Finance Director Harling provided the following population based town portions for reference:

Budget #1 based on payment of \$458,676 from towns

Lyndeborough	\$91,735
Temple	\$73,388
Wilton	\$197,231
Greenfield	\$96,322

Budget #3 based on payment of \$498,980 from towns

Lyndeborough	\$99,796
Temple	\$79,837
Wilton	\$214,561
Greenfield	\$104,786

A poll was taken of Selectboard members responsible for presenting these budgets at Town Meeting. A consensus was reached that both budgetary figures were much more than the towns could afford, regardless of allocation formula. Selectman Caisse stated that he understood that the Ambulance Service needs to increase its budget, but this increase was not something his Selectmen would approve. Chairman Boland stated that the Inter-municipal agreement carries a clause that suggests that best efforts would be made toward a 5% (or less) increase year-over-year. These budgets are nearly 20% increases.

There followed a discussion about affordability and the need to reach a consensus on a budget prior to the Wilton budget committee meeting on January 9th. It was agreed that there should be another meeting and that Chief Desrosiers would present a budget based on a 5% increase over the current year for discussion.

Lastly, Chairman Boland stated that there is some concern that regardless of the work done by the committee that Wilton will choose to exert leverage over the process and potentially derail the budget process by mandating unwarranted cuts. Administrator Branscombe stated that a majority of the Wilton Selectboard believes that this is a partnership.

It being agreed to meet again on Friday, December 20th at 6PM in Lyndeborough, Chairman Boland requested a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT – Administrator Patt moved to adjourn at 6:05 PM and Selectman Caisse seconded. All were in favor; motion passed.

DRAFT