

**Town of Haverhill
Select Board
WORK SESSION MINUTES
Monday, March 31, 2023, at 2:00 PM
J.R. Morrill Building
2975 Dartmouth College Hwy.
No. Haverhill, NH 03774
Or on ZOOM**

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Williams called the meeting at 2:06 PM.

Select Board Attendance: Kevin Knapp (Here), Joe Longacre (Here), Mike Graham (Here), Phil Blanchard (Here), and Katie Williams (Here), A quorum was met.

Town Employees Present:

Town Manager: Brigitte Codling (Present)
Assistant Town Manager (ATM): Jennifer Boucher (Present)
Recording Clerk: Joanna Bligh (Absent)

Members of the Public Present

In Person:

Kevin Shelton
Steve Wheeler
Dick Guy
Bill Daily
Erin Atkinson

Online: None.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA APPROVAL:

MOTION #1: Knapp made the motion and Chair Williams seconded the motion to approve the Agenda as amended.

- Knapp asked to amend the Agenda to read Work Session and not Emergency Meeting.

Voice Vote: All in favor, none opposed, none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Woodsville Fire District Ambulance Agreement

Chair Williams stated that the Board has gathered to review the Woodsville Fire District Ambulance Agreement and the suggested revisions by Town Administration.

Dick Guy: Guy noted that the Ambulance Service is a cooperative, and there is one contract for all towns, so if the contract is changed, all towns must collaborate. TM Codling stated that there is nothing to suggest that the Ambulance Service is a cooperative, and Haverhill should be able to negotiate the contract. Blanchard asked about the history of the contract, and Guy stated that the only recent change in the contract is that if a client did not pay their bill, the Town is responsible for payment.

TM Codling addressed the revisions to the contract, as follows:

- In 2019, the Administration researched other services in the area and found that WFD ambulance service was the least expensive in the general area, and even with the increase is still less expensive.
- There are no concerns about the quality of the Woodville Ambulance Service, but what is a concern is the admitted challenge of WFD to man ambulances, and more so to man ambulances with advanced level providers.
- The ambulance service will provide services to the entire Town of Haverhill.
- Chapter 53-A of the NH statutes allows municipalities to enter into intergovernmental agreements.
- #1, Emergency Coverage – add 24 hr./day service as promised by the WFD.
- #2, ALS providers, such as paramedics, are not always being provided as promised. The Town would like to solidify that WFD will provide at least one ALS provider on each emergency ambulance call.
- #3, The Ambulance Service shall ensure there is at least one fully staffed ambulance available to respond to emergency calls.
- Comments have been sent to the Town Manager stating that the ambulance was not available when needed.

Discussion:

- Guy replied that there are unexpected absences and not always replacements, and all staff can do everything except administer medications. Guy stated that paramedics are best served for long distance care. Blanchard asked that a level of service be listed in the contract.
- Vice Chair Graham stated that the updates to the contract might need to be done, but not at this time. Vice Chair Graham agreed with the insurance statements in items 6, 7, and 8, and Vice Chair Graham noted that this is not our contract to change.
- TM Codling stated that for 25 years she has managed contracts, and this is a non-negotiable contract. TM Codling stated that it is her job to protect the districts and the Town's interests.
- Chair Williams asked why the contract is due on 4-1 when the service begins 7-1, and Guy replied, "That's how it has always been."
- Guy addressed the comment that ambulances were not available when needed and noted that it is a staffing issue, and with more staff, the costs would increase even more. Guy discussed mutual aid agreements and ambulance transfers.
- Chair Williams stated that many of the contract changes seem legitimate and easily inserted, but this contract cannot be amended.
- Blanchard discussed in detail the process of mutual aid services.
- Chair Williams addressed #16, Renewal, and the Board discussed the time frame for agreement termination.
- Chair Williams summarized:

Select Board Meeting, March 31, 2023, at 2:00 PM

Zoom link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/_qDGyp_eLuA4T9tOCC0x5-JL3p_tw0FUUnpt6kzt5FUBfHQqEg_Z0xebNbtJB9yk.F4Otqxp0S3cjcBGG

Passcode: .g70k+nx