

**Regional Selectmen's Meeting  
Ossipee Freight House  
Wednesday, August 6, 2014**

The Regional Selectmen's Meeting took place at 6:00 PM on the evening of Wednesday, August 6, 2014 at the Freight House in Ossipee. The following were in attendance:

From the Town of Ossipee: Selectman Richard Morgan, Selectman Robert Freeman, Selectman Franklin Riley and Ellen White, Town Administrator

From the Town of Effingham: Selectman Henry Spencer, Selectman Timothy Eldridge and Selectman Lawrence Edwards

From the Town of Freedom: Selectman Les Babb

From the Town of Madison: Selectman Mike Brooks, Selectman Josh Shackford and Selectman John Arruda

From the Town of Eaton: Selectman Rick Young, Selectman Dick Fortin and Lianne Boelzner, Town Administrator

From the Town of Tamworth: Selectman John Roberts, Selectman James Hidden and Selectman Steve Gray

Also in attendance were Scott Quilty and Eric Damon from CarePlus Ambulance.

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 PM. Brief discussion took place on fuel pricing.

Selectman Morgan opened the discussion stating that the multi-town agreement is back on the table but the pricing proposed must be evaluated further. Selectman Brooks added that the towns in the current agreement must be able to justify any increase to their taxpayers by showing some type of long-term savings. By seeking other proposals, it will show due diligence by the Selectmen.

Selectman Spencer stated that Effingham cannot accept any agreement without first putting the contract out to bid.

Selectman Babb questioned whether CarePlus will hold the pricing offered while the service is put out for proposal. Damon stated that the figures given to each town in confidentiality have been leaked and it puts CarePlus in an unfair disadvantage where competitors can undercut their pricing.

Selectman Morgan stated that the figures offered were for only one year and the RFP will be for a longer term of 5-6 years to provide more incentive. He encouraged CarePlus to provide a proposal for the extended term.

Selectman Brooks promoted the idea of a gradual increase in the annual subsidy for the existing towns in the tri-town agreement with Ossipee taking on a larger amount in the beginning years and decreasing for the subsequent years. Damon stated that he is willing to look into this as an option.

Ossipee, Madison and Tamworth agree that the lowest proposal may not be option chosen.

Discussion took place on the formula that will be used to determine the subsidy for each town. Selectman Riley stated that if using population as a base for the formula, year-round figures must be

used. Riley further discussed going back to the figures originally discussed in the beginning of the regional conversations.

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Selectman Shackford stated that the original figures were good for Ossipee but not good for the other towns. Damon added that the figures were only good for one year of service. Selectman Gray stated that a population based figure will not sell.

Additional discussion took place on how to approach an increase in subsidy at Town Meeting. It was agreed that the RFP would be for service beginning after Town Meeting.

Selectman Spencer stated that regionalizing the ambulance service would be most advantageous, beneficial and economical over a longer period of time. Babb stated that it would also be an improvement to service.

Quilty questioned if an RFP would be needed if they are able to figure a way to show a gradual increase. Morgan answered that they have to put out an RFP to get Effingham in on a multi-town. Selectman Roberts asked Quilty and Damon how they would handle it if they were Selectmen and added that they have to put it out for proposals in good conscience to show the taxpayers their efforts. Selectman Gray stated it to be part of their fiduciary responsibility.

Selectman Freeman questioned whether each Town should put out requests proposals for their own coverage to help sell the regional at Town Meeting. This was opposed by most. Selectman Morgan stated that the purpose is to save money, stabilize service and improve services.

Selectman Morgan asked if an extended contract would be beneficial. Damon confirmed stating it would be a way to ensure work for his employees who reside in the area.

Selectman Spencer questioned what the reasonable expectations are for an RFP. Selectman Brooks distributed copies of the 2010 RFP from the current multi-town agreement. Brooks stated that it would have to be updated to include Ossipee and Effingham. Brooks also stated that only 5 responses were received from the 13 companies who were contacted to provide figures.

Selectman Eldridge questioned how the towns figured additional service options that may be required to fit their individual needs. Selectman Babb answered that the Town of Freedom added requirements and paid a higher subsidy to account for it.

Selectman Roberts questioned whether the Ossipee Fire Chiefs are in agreement with regionalizing the ambulance service. Selectman Morgan answered that they have always been in agreement; it was the former Selectmen who were not in favor.

Selectman Brooks asked each town to have a working draft of the RFP available to finalize at the next meeting. The next meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 27, 2014 at 6:00 PM at the Freight House.

Being no further input, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen White

Town Administrator – Town of Ossipee