

Selectmen's Workshops
Monday, June 16, 2014

Chairman Morgan called the workshop to order at 10:00 AM. Present were Selectmen Richard Morgan, Robert Freeman and Franklin Riley, Ellen White, Town Administrator, and Fire Chiefs Carl Huddleston, Mike Brownell and Adam Riley.

Morgan stated that the next regional ambulance meeting is this Thursday, 6/19/14 at 6:00 PM. Huddleston stated that he will not be able to attend.

Discussion took place on discrepancies in the figures presented for the regional coverage. Huddleston stated that the current tri-town contract with the 120% increase still figures to be only \$220,000 and to add Ossipee it will be an additional \$389,619. Morgan stated that we have been told the first ambulance is a minimum of \$450,000 figuring the overhead and questioned how the tri-town figures add up. Chief Riley stated he questioned the formula used for calculating the subsidies and was provided an unclear answer. He stated it to be based on a formula Medstar created that worked to keep the towns happy while adjusting to get the figure needed to support their bottom line.

Huddleston stated that Tamworth, Madison and Freedom have more calls and transports than Ossipee. Additionally, CarePlus lost more than half the transports to Memorial Hospital.

Riley questioned where the Tamworth ambulance is based from. Huddleston answered that they are stationed in the old SAU building on Route 41 and are contracted through 2015.

Morgan stated that a \$200,000 per year contract is no longer feasible. He questioned what will happen when other towns do not join in. White stated that the last quarter report showed collected revenue around \$40,000 and there was a balance of uncollected of approximately the same. She questioned why the subsidy is so high if they are on path to collect \$300,000 over and above the subsidy.

Morgan stated that we must ensure adequate coverage for less money.

Discussion took place on the billing and collection process. It was noted that CarePlus has an aggressive collection process and it appears that they are not following their process as far as working with the patients. Riley expressed his concern with balance billing beyond the Medicare and insurance payments.

Long term solutions for medical service were discussed. Huddleston questioned whether the town will be looking toward purchasing and staffing our own ambulance. Riley stated he thinks a parallel path will be a long-term solution. He would like to see the town provide its own service with a contacted ambulance as a backup. Billing and collection procedures, costs of equipment, insurance requirements and staffing and shifts of coverage were discussed in detail.

It was agreed by all that an alternative plan needs to be in place prior to next Town Meeting.

Morgan stated that CarePlus must present real numbers for the regional collaboration. Riley added that all towns must also be treated equally.

Facts and figures will be compiled from other towns that operate their own emergency service.

Being no further input, the workshop was adjourned.

Adjourned at 11:10 AM.

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Richard H. Morgan

Robert C. Freeman

Franklin R. Riley

To be approved 6/23/2014