

TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN
WILLIAMSTOWN SELECTBOARD INFORMATIONAL MEETING
DECEMBER 11, 2023 – PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

Present: Larry Hebert, Clayton Woodworth, Chris Wade, Scott McCarthy, Chris Peloquin

Town Manager, Jackie Higgins

Call to Order: Larry called the meeting to order at 6pm.

Discussion of Barre Town EMS Proposal to Contract Williamstown Ambulance Services:

Larry opened the meeting by answering some questions regarding the Contract that was provided since the last informational meeting regarding the proposal with BTEMS. He spoke regarding the contract that was just created and the proposal that had previously been discussed. He discussed the proposed coverage locations for the services, as well as the building usage with building rental agreement. Larry discussed the Termination and Opt-Out option for the town as well.

Josh Dobrovich questioned the town correcting the issues with the Ambulance Service, as well as the priority of calls and BTEMS servicing other towns.

David & Chris from BTEMS responded about the service priority to Williamstown being the same quality of service to all of the serviced towns that BTEMS coverage.

Tyler Mitchell spoke regarding the Contract questions and research of ambulance services.

Phil Winters spoke to urge the Selectboard to take the Ambulance Services to a vote at Town Meeting.

Chris Wade questioned the Ambulance Billings that Tyler Mitchell had provided to the meeting.

Ben Webster questioned the age of our ambulance if the town should just purchase a new one and if that would help fix the issues in the service.

Rodney Graham referenced the Selectboard handbook with the former boards recognizing the issues in the service but not taking actions in leadership to correct the issues. He also mentioned the building being voted on and built for the purpose of a full time staff 10 years ago.

Scott McCarthy questioned why the Ambulance Director and the services were in this position in the first place. He said that if more time is given, how are they going to bring in anymore people in to be trained?

Russ Ashe asked Dave with BTEMS if they could guarantee an ambulance at the PBS at all times, Dave responded that the ambulance may be on a call but that the service would be fully staffed 24/7 and the response time will be significantly less.

Ben Webster referenced the pay for the Ambulance Staff and raising it.

Josh Dobrovich questioned the proposed budget of a full time Ambulance staff. Jackie stated that the budget was drawn up based on pay and benefits.

Dave of BTEMS stated that the current Ambulance Director is covering over 100 hours per week of service time, if he decides to leave, that's over 100 hours of time that will be a void in the current schedule.

Courtney Wade asked why it had to come to changing the service for the current members to step up and provide the services required.

Jackie Higgins provided a cost sheet breakdown of Ambulance Services.

Marie Graham questioned other options for the Ambulance or even a Fast Squad.

Russ Ashe stated that new recruits have come in and are awaiting training.

Executive Session: 10 Minute recess taken at 7:11pm. Chris W. made the motion to enter Executive Session at 7:23pm, seconded by Clayton, excited at 7:38pm, No action taken.

Selectboard Meeting - Call to Order: Larry called the meeting to order at 7:39pm.

Set the Agenda: Chris P. made the motion to amend the agenda to add the Warrant SB22077. Clayton seconded the motion. So moved.

Review of Open Comment:

Selectboard Announcements:

Public Announcements: Rama Schneider asked about the Open Meeting Laws and requested the Selectboard to agree with the VLCT laws. Josh Dobrovich requested that more towns people show up to the Selectboard meetings to know what is going on in town. Barbara Graham mentioned the petitions are available at the Town Office for upcoming elections.

Commissions, Committees, Trustees, Other Board Announcements: Megan Keys spoke on behalf of the Williamstown Recreation Board regarding the Tree Lighting Event on December 2nd and how wonderful it was to have the Library and Billtown Wheelers join in. The WRB would also like to put in an Ice Rink at the Hoyt-Seaver Field and host a fundraiser Bingo on January 7th to raise money for it.

Approve Warrants: Chris P. made the motion to approve SB22074 & SB22075, Clayton seconded. Clayton made the motion to approve SB22076, Scott seconded. Chris P. abstained. So moved. Clayton made the motion to approve SB22077, Scott seconded. Larry abstained. So moved.

Approve Meeting Minutes: Chris P. made the motion to approve minutes from 12/4/2023 as written. Clayton seconded the motion.

Town Manager's Report: See attached.

New Business:

Ambulance Service Contract Vote: Chris P. made the motion to approve the contract with BTEMS as written. Clayton seconded the motion. So moved. Rama commented regarding the Open Meeting Laws discussion option for towns people. William Graham spoke up regarding thanking the Ambulance Service members for their service. Larry spoke on behalf of the Selectboard and would like to Thank our Ambulance Crew for their services over the years.

Pump and Pantry Liquor License & Tobacco License Approval: Chris P. made the motion to approve all three licenses. Chris W. seconded the motion. So moved.

Moderator Appointment: Chris P. made the motion to appoint Winston Chambers for the Moderator position for the term of Town Meeting Day. Clayton seconded the motion. So moved.

Old Business: N/A

Around the Table: Chris P. thanked the Road Crew for continuing efforts with the recent snowstorms and keeping our roads clear. Clayton stated his Thanks for the Ambulance Services members.

Marie Graham questioned the option of a Fast Squad and if a meeting could be set up with the SB and BTEMS regarding putting that together. Chris W. stated that he had discussed it with BTEMS and thought it would be an option to meet with them.

Chris P. questioned the budget for the Planning Commission and if they would be able to discuss it at the next meeting.

Adjourn: Chris P. made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12, Scott. seconded. So moved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Keys

Scott McCarthy

Chris Wade

Larry Hebert

Clayton Woodworth

Chris Peloquin