

FINAL

PRESENT: T. C. Tocci, Chairman; S. C. Hanson, M. J. Farinola, Selectmen; E. N. Small, Town Administrator; L. A. Ruest, Administrative Assistant

PUBLIC HEARING – AMBULANCE SERVICE:

Bidder	Annual Cost/Current Contract	24 hour/7 day Cost
American Medical Response	\$42,250	\$175,900
Hampton Falls Fire Department	No Bid	\$50,000
Care Plus	\$40,000/\$35,000/\$30,000 First/Second/Third Year	\$85,000/\$85,000/\$85,000 First/Second/Third Year

T. C. Tocci provided a history of the meetings held in the past with regard to the ambulance contract that is expiring year end. Decision was made to bring the matter to public hearing. The current service provided by contract with American Medical Response covers 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. with 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. covered by the Hampton Falls Fire Department. Three bids have been received as noted above. T. C. Tocci read the public hearing notice for the benefit of the 50 +/- persons in attendance, identified rules and opened the public hearing to the public.

Charles Leto, Drinkwater Road, read a prepared statement indicating he felt the bidding process was flawed and that the process should start anew. He identified a company (Rockingham Regional) he spoke with that indicated they did not receive a bid request and would like to bid on the contract. J. M. Lord confirmed that a bid request was mailed to Rockingham Regional and that no response was received. He stated concern with the Fire Department requesting direction to bid with no definitive answer by the Board of Selectmen. He added that he felt the RFP was inadequate as it did not request information on training, services, response time, etc. and was not printed in a local newspaper.

Referring to the \$50,000 Fire Department bid, Chris Merrill, East Road, restated his concern with requests made by the Fire Department in the past with increasing costs relating to personnel. He asked whether responding to every call is appropriate and questioned whether other towns do so. He also stated that information presented at past meetings is inconsistent (i.e., ambulance only to be used as back up, AMR misses calls and no longer keeps ambulance stationed in Hampton Falls). He suggested the Board take the bid for 24 hour coverage cutting the costs of the ambulance and fire budgets.

Leann Dufour, Kensington Road, provided her experience with regard to needing emergency services in Hampton Falls compared to the previous town she lived in. She stated that response time is important. In her situation, the Fire Department arrived before the ambulance but was unable to transport. She stated it is ridiculous to have two entities providing the same service and added that Hampton Falls has a Fire Department capable of providing these services. She questioned why the Board is arguing about an ambulance service that will cost more money when the Fire Department can provide the service(s).

J. M. Lord explained the way in which paperwork is handled, the forms required and the time reporting takes given the nature of the call. He explained the reasons for two ambulances sent to

FINAL

a call by reviewing a scenario from the call being made to arrival on the scene. He stated that decision is made to send a fire truck versus an ambulance based on the nature of the call. With regard to paramedic service, J. M. Lord reported that Hampton Falls has an agreement with Exeter Hospital where paramedic service is provided at no cost to the Town. He reviewed the levels of trained personnel and the training and certifications that go along with the levels. AMR does offer paramedic service; however, the agreement with the Town is for basic truck service. J. M. Lord stated bids were sent to those ambulance companies who work in the area given the practical matter of response time. The Hampton Falls call department has a response time of 6.5 minutes on average. He added that the Fire Department proposal would be a reduction of 30% of the budget.

David Solomon, Drinkwater Road, provided information on an emergency call that resulted in a four minute response time by the Fire Department. He questioned why the Town would pay to train people, to include 19 EMTs, who can respond quicker than others and not utilize them. He added that the Fire Association paid for 90% of the equipment and that the Hampton Falls ambulance has equipment other ambulances don't have.

Tim Samway, Old Stage Road, asked why the Fire Department bid on one year when the other companies bid on multi years and secondly, questioned the five year plan. J. M. Lord stated the bid was based on the RFP that was written for one year. S. C. Hanson stated he asked for a five year plan for emergency medical services provided by the Fire Department.

Janice Palin, Goodwin Road, stated had it not been for the quick response by the Fire Department to an emergency situation involving her daughter that she could have lost her. She stated that the Fire Department dealt with the situation in a qualified, supportive manner. She questioned how paying a lesser rate for an outside company would benefit the town. She thanked the Fire Department personnel.

Larry Smith, Old Stage Road, stated he feels the Department has earned the right to provide ambulance services to the Town given the demonstrated ability to respond faster than others and that the money savings is a bonus.

Charlyn Brown, Exeter Road, stated she agrees with Larry Smith's comments and that she also feels it is important to have an ambulance committed to this town. A Careplus representative stated that if awarded the contract, Careplus would likely move to Hampton Falls. Careplus' back up ambulance is housed in Dover.

Larry Anderson, Governor Powell Drive, stated he's been part of the emergency situations identified this meeting and emphasized that time is of the essence. He noted that other ambulance companies are in the transport business in addition to emergency response and that all personnel have the same training as Fire Department personnel. He added that transport funds go into a Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of purchasing emergency equipment.

Peter Robart, Curtis Road, stated his support of the Fire Department and asked the Fire Chief to explain the purpose of the Capital Reserve Fund and whether it would pay for an ambulance in the future. J. M. Lord reviewed the billing process and ultimate deposit into the Fire Department Vehicle Fund (2005). He reviewed the purchase of the current ambulance through Government

FINAL

Surplus and the projected date of 2012 to replace it. If an ambulance is available through Government Surplus, the Department will purchase it in the same manner. J. M. Lord added that mutual aid organization consists of 43 towns; if Hampton Falls can respond in kind; other mutual aid towns will send an ambulance to Hampton Falls. J. M. Lord reported that AMR has benefited the Town in the past where 19 ambulances were provided in 20 minutes time for a weather event. P. Robart stated he strongly feels service should be kept in town and feels the reduction of \$72,000 to \$50,000 is the route the Town should go.

Richard McDermott, Coach Lane, noted that Hampton Falls is in close proximity to Routes 1 and 95. He added that there is a great value to the townspeople of the Fire Department knowing who is calling, where they're located, and that they can arrive within the first five minutes.

Lillian Walker, Exeter Road, stated she has lived in town for 54 years and never needed an ambulance, but that as she ages, she wouldn't want anyone else but the Fire Department to come to her aid.

Forrest Brown, Exeter Road, asked that the Board consider response time before consideration is given to hiring an outside ambulance. He noted that Careplus is 12 minutes away and that private companies make money whereas the Fire Department is trying to provide a service at the best cost. He stated he fully supports the Fire Department.

Rob Garrant, Drinkwater Road, inquired as to the number of EMTs participating in the Department as compared to the time when six full-time personnel were requested. J. M. Lord reported that five EMTs were on the Department then compared to 22 now (30 members then, 50 now). R. Garrant stated that Careplus does not cover any 911 systems at present and does emergency transports from healthcare facilities. He added that the statement that no towns run two ambulances is incorrect.

T. C. Tocci opened discussion to Board members. M. J. Farinola stated the voters said no in the past to the request for six full-time personnel as well as to purchase an ambulance. He added that AMR was to remain first responder with the Fire Department ambulance as backup; it was not voted by the town to increase service. He stated he is concerned with the full-time employee benefits at present and doesn't want to increase them. He added that he admires the volunteer nature of the Department, but vote in the past was to sustain 24 hour coverage. Given that AMR is not in the area as strongly and Careplus has offered an excellent proposition, the town has paramedic service and mutual aid, M. J. Farinola stated he sees no reason to change the way people voted. He added that he doesn't want to add more full time personnel to the department as government has a way of growing; the Department used to have all volunteers and now has a Chief, part-time position and stipends. S. C. Hanson indicated he feels the Board did not do the best job putting this matter out to bid and feels it should be re-bid. He stated he feels the Department does a fantastic job but is concerned with how it has grown. S. C. Hanson asked for a five year plan in order to understand where the town will be five or seven years down the road with respect to personnel, equipment and coverage. He suggested a committee to conduct a study. T. C. Tocci requested E. N. Small regenerate the request for proposals.

FINAL

MOTION: To re-look at the Request for Proposal, update, resubmit to contractors, expanding the list to include Trinity, to include notice in the newspaper/standard RFP process.

MOTION: S. C. HANSON
SECOND: M. J. FARINOLA
UNANIMOUS

On behalf of the Board, T. C. Tocci thanked all for attending and indicated the Board would take comments under advisement. T. C. Tocci closed the public hearing.

TOWN CLERK: H. E. Knowles reported that the Town Clerk convention was informative with respect to information for the upcoming election. She reported that the ability to process dog licenses on line is becoming available and that she signed up Hampton Falls for information. She noted that all dog licenses are current. H. E. Knowles stated that new State printers have been obtained and now prints registrations on new forms.

FEES FOR STATE STICKERS: H. E. Knowles distributed a copy of an RSA relating to the passing of an increased cost from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per registration. This became effective September 9, 2008 and put into effect within the office effective October 2, 2008. If persons choose not to pay this fee, they can process registrations through the mail or at Dover Point.

RESTORE FOUR ADDITIONAL TOWN RECORD BOOKS – GRANT: As part of an awarded grant, money is available to restore records books. H. E. Knowles reported that record books are restored in accordance with condition. One book has been restored this year with budget funds. A representative of the restoration company will be visiting the Town to make recommendations within the available funds.

WARRANT FOR THE NOVEMBER ELECTION: The Board signed the warrant for the upcoming election.

ROAD AGENT - MONTHLY REPORT:

REPORTS ON TREE REMOVAL, ROADSIDE MOWING AND CRACK SEALING: R. B. Merrill, Jr. reported that roadside mowing is complete, crack sealing is to begin Friday and that the tree removal contractor has yet to be reached by phone. E. N. Small will follow up with the tree contractor. One large branch was removed from Drinkwater Road.

RFP FOR SHOULDERS AND DRAINAGE: R. B. Merrill, Jr. stated he has not had time to view and measure areas for improvements to shoulders and drainage.

RFP FOR PAVING PARSONAGE ROAD: E. N. Small indicated that it is late in the season to be considering this project and suggested postponing to the spring. The Board agreed.

DECISION ON BRUSH CUTTING: The areas of King, Brimmer, Depot and the intersection of Curtis/Nason, Brown Road (at Barkers) and the field near Old Stage Road were identified as needing attention by R. B. Merrill, Jr. and C. Batchelder. Details on the number of feet or

FINAL

hours/days are not available. E. N. Small will contact those who bid on brush cutting to obtain an estimate of time to complete these areas. C. Merrill, East Road, asked if the Board would re-bid the work now that areas have been defined. T. C. Tocci and S. C. Hanson were in favor of proceeding and M. J. Farinola stated brush cutting should be re-bid.

QUOTES FOR CLEANING OF CULVERTS AND CATCH BASINS: E. N. Small reported that he was unable to contact the contractor.

QUOTES FOR WINTER SAND: E. N. Small will talk with Dan of Melican Construction to determine the amount of road sand needed for the winter at a meeting scheduled for October 31 and report next meeting.

WORKSHOP TO MEET WAYNE BARKER – REPAIRS TO BROWN ROAD

CULVERT: E. N. Small plans to meet with Wayne Barker in advance of a meeting with the Selectmen to review this matter. Packets of information were provided to Board members and a meeting date of October 27, 6:30 p.m., was scheduled. It was agreed to address this matter for one hour and then continue with the budget workshop scheduled for this date. E. N. Small will adjust the budget workshop meeting schedule with department heads. The Board also agreed to review the RFP for ambulance services at this meeting. S. C. Hanson volunteered to assist with obtaining another template for ambulance RFP.

BUILDING INSPECTOR / CODE ENFORCEMENT / HEALTH: K. C. Kelley was not present for this meeting.

MONTHLY REPORT: A copy of K. C. Kelley's report for September was provided to the Board.

MOSQUITO CONTROL – SEPTEMBER AND SPRAYING AT GOVERNOR WEARE PARK

FIRE CHIEF / EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MONTHLY REPORT: J. M. Lord referred the Board to his report for September reviewing incidents and statistics with the Board.

ENGINE 1: J. M. Lord reported that the radiator for Engine 1 needs replacement. He added that Engine 3 is planned for service next year.

SECOND DRILL AND GRADED EXERCISE: J. M. Lord reported that representatives of FEMA will be grading this exercise. He stated that the majority of the Board needs to attend. J. M. Lord reported that Seabrook Station will be conducting a test of the sirens. Sirens will sound on October 25 at 12:30 p.m. Information has been provided to residents through the newspapers and mailing.

POLICE CHIEF - MONTHLY REPORT: R. Dirsra reviewed his report for September noting incidents and statistics. He referred the Board to photos taken of a tree contractor operating in an unsafe manner on a town street without traffic control. He noted this is a matter of poor planning

FINAL

and poor safety on the contractor's part. M. J. Farinola inquired as to whether the RFP required the contractor to have a safety person. R. Dirsa stated this contractor was aware of the expectations in Hampton Falls.

R. Dirsa reported that a car impounded by the Department has been vandalized while stored at the Brush Dump. He noted that the car was originally held in the back parking lot of the Public Safety Building and that he was asked to move it to the Brush Dump. An insurance claim will be submitted, however, R. Dirsa stated the Town should be able to do a better job of securing people's property. He suggested the Board consider an area enclosed by chain link fencing. T. C. Tocci suggested the town garage, however, it was determined that this area is used by winter road maintenance vehicles. M. J. Farinola suggested a deer camera be placed that would take pictures or fence in another area of the Brush Dump. E. N. Small will check with Dan Melican to determine whether he plans to use the town shed.

TRICK OR TREAT – OCT 30, 5-7 PM: M. J. Farinola asked that R. Dirsa reconsider the date and time set for Trick or Treat each year to the actual day and later in the evening.

- **OLD BUSINESS**

FINANCIAL REPORTS: E. N. Small reported a General Fund balance of \$1,046,000.

TOWN CLERK – RECEIPTS - 43,243

MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS - 11,570

TAX COLLECTOR – RECEIPTS - 46,969

CURRENT USE – 100% - 18,770

SELECTMEN'S ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: E. N. Small provided the Board with an updated listing of action items.

THANK YOU - AMY BEAULIEU – TRAINING - “EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION IN THE WORKPLACE:” The Board signed a letter of thanks prepared for Amy Beaulieu for her informative presentation to staff members.

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE PREVIOUS MONTH was provided to the Board.

PROGRESS REPORT ON EVERY OTHER WEEK RECYCLING: E. N. Small reported that complaints were received when recyclables were first not collected. E. N. Small will check with Northside Carting to determine whether the schedule of recycling collection could be changed to specific days such as the first and third Fridays.

WHITE GOODS DAY – OCTOBER 25: E. N. Small reported that all is set for the October 25 white goods collection day at the Brush Dump. M. J. Farinola requested permission of the Board to bring items to the Brush Dump the day before so that he can be available to assist during the day. Board members stated it would be okay for him to take a break during the day to take care of his items. T. C. Tocci asked that volunteers be contacted and the Board agreed to maintain the decision to not allow removal of metals by individuals from the Brush Dump.

FINAL

FUEL ASSISTANCE – STAYWARM NH: T. C. Tocci reported that a state sponsored energy assistance program is available to town residents. Information is available at www.staywarm.org

• **NEW BUSINESS**

RIGHT TO KNOW LAW – RSA 91-A :1 – 91-A:6 “ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION:” A poster outlining the amendment to the Right to Know Law (effective 7/1/08) was provided to the Board. These posters will be provided to Department Heads and Committee members.

APPLICATION FOR CURRENT USE ASSESSMENT – WAKEDA CAMPGROUND: This matter was put on hold to allow for additional information to be obtained.

APPEAL TO THE BOARD OF TAX AND LAND APPEALS – 22 KING STREET: E. N. Small reported that the Assessor sent the appropriate paperwork to the BTLA. These property owners did not submit a PA-28 Inventory form and therefore, the BTLA will not entertain appeal. The town did grant abatement.

HAMPTON FALLS BROWNIES – USE OF PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING ROOM – STARTING OCT 8 & 9 EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, 2:30 – 5:00 PM: The Selectmen’s Permit form was not available for signature. The Board approved the use of the Public Safety Training Room by the Hampton Falls Brownies.

RESIGNATION OF TRACY HEALEY-BEATTIE: The Board acknowledged receipt of a letter of resignation from long-time Conservation Commission Member Tracey Healey-Beattie. The Board requested that a letter of thanks and acknowledgement of service be prepared for signature.

MOTION: To accept the resignation of T. Healey-Beattie from the Hampton Falls Conservation Commission with regret and thanks for service with the Conservation Commission.

MOTION: S. C. HANSON
SECOND: M. J. FARINOLA
UNANIMOUS

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the August 25 meeting as written.

MOTION: S. C. HANSON
SECOND: M. J. FARINOLA
UNANIMOUS

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the October 1 meeting as written.

MOTION: S. C. HANSON
SECOND: M. J. FARINOLA

FINAL

UNANIMOUS

OTHER

TIMBERLAND – SERVAPALOOZA – MARSH LANE PRESERVE: The Board signed a letter of thanks for the efforts of the employees of Timberland with regard to the Marsh Lane Preserve.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Chris Merrill, East Road, asked when the step increases in the employee pay plan got instituted, how and whether it's binding. E. N. Small reported that this was voted approximately three to four years ago. M. J. Farinola stated it is in effect unless otherwise acted upon.

With regard to the ambulance, C. Merrill stated it was to be used as a back up. S. C. Hanson stated the Board of Selectmen signed a contract to reduce three shifts to two. C. Merrill stated the Board approved the Fire Department purchase of an ambulance to be used as a back up and never acted differently.

TREE LIMB – DRINKWATER ROAD: E. N. Small reported that C. Leto called regarding a tree limb overhanging his driveway and requested removal. Board members stated they would view the area for consideration and discussion at the next meeting. S. C. Hanson stated he feels the limb should be taken down if other Board members determine the limb a safety matter.

**NEXT SELECTMEN'S MEETING – WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2008, 6:30 P.M.,
TOWN HALL**

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

MOTION: S. C. HANSON
SECOND: M. J. FARINOLA
UNANIMOUS

101508