

MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH
Tuesday, October 11, 2011 – 5:00pm
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

Present: Barbara Miller, Elizabeth Thomas

Also Present: Pamela Brenner, Joseph Lenox, Brian Wall, Nancie Vaihinger, Nicole MacStay

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. **Ms. Brenner** began by saying that five years ago the ambulance was in the red, however with a lot of work by Chief Lenox, Mr. Kemp, Ms. MacStay, Heather McClusky and Emax Medical Billing, she is happy to report that as of today the ambulance service has a fund balance of \$102,000. Having said that, they continue to look for new sources of revenue, and when she heard that Rockingham Ambulance Service was going out of business and Monadnock Community Hospital was looking at an out-of-state company to take the transfer business over she approached MCH and offered to keep the business local. She explained that they have been doing transfers on a limited basis under this program for a couple of weeks and it appears that the program will be successful, but even during this trial period Fire and Rescue will need to hire someone full-time to run the program.

Deputy Chief Brian Wall then made a presentation to the Board and reviewed pros and cons of taking on the transfers business at MCH:

- Pros
 - Revenue will help to balance the EMS budget and will offset the cost of buying new EMS equipment and reduce Peterborough's taxpayer support of the program
 - Create jobs within the Department and with outside support services
 - 24/7/365 Paramedic coverage (up from 20hrs/week)
 - 3-5 minute response time in town 24/7
 - Increased ability to transport sick patients in a timely manner to specialized hospitals and free up beds at MCH to better serve the region
- Cons
 - More work for PFR Administrative Division, including training, license issues, controlled drug monitoring, personnel scheduling, etc.
 - More work for Administrative staff
 - Will need to hire a full-time Clinical Director to oversee the Transfer Division

Chief Lenox then reviewed the Clinical Director position, noting in particular that this employee would be fully qualified to provide training in house and would provide a consistent person to coordinate with MCH personnel and complete required reporting in a timely manner. He then reviewed the projected revenues and expenses associated with the program.

Ms. Brenner said that she feels that this is a great opportunity for the town, and thus is requesting, at least on a temporary basis, permission to hire a full-time Clinical Director, and then return to the Board to review progress in January and decide then whether or not to continue the program.

Chair Miller asked if someone could be hired on those conditions; **Chief Lenox** said that they can.

Ms. Thomas asked why Rockingham went out of business. **Chief Lenox** explained that the Federal government gives each state a medical grant. This year the State decided to keep the grant, which was in the past paid out to Rockingham, as well as all the hospitals. Hospitals in Manchester and Nashua decided to pass those cuts down to Rockingham, which was too much for them to absorb. **Ms. Thomas** asked if we also depended on that grant; **Chief Lenox** said that all of the

ambulance revenues come from Medicare, private insurance and patients. **Ms. Brenner** added that Rockingham had a much higher overhead than the Town, and where they covered many hospitals, the town only serves six communities and one hospital.

Mr. Kemp asked if the transfers will be tracked separately. **Ms. Brenner** said that they will, as will all the expenses associated with the transfers business. **Ms. Thomas** and **Chair Miller** agreed to allow the trial transfer program to move forward, to be reviewed in January of 2012.

As there was no further business, **Ms. Thomas** made a motion to adjourn at 5:38pm; **Chair Miller** seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nicole MacStay, Assistant to the Town Administrator

PETERBOROUGH
SELECT BOARD:



Barbara A. Miller, Chair



Joe Byk

Elizabeth M. Thomas

ACTION ITEM PENDING LIST

1.