



**TOWN OF NORTH HAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE
JOINT MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE
APPROVED MINUTES**

SPECIAL MEETING –THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2013 –7:30PM
NORTH HAMPTON TOWN HALL

1. Call to Order

Chair Maggiore called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Those in attendance from the Select Board: Chair Maggiore, Selectman Wilson, Selectman Miller. Those in attendance from the Budget Committee: Margaret Allen, Rick Stanton, David Peck, Bob Hamilton, Michael Golden, Mike Walzak and Dickie Garnett. Absent: Victoria Kilroy.

Chair Maggiore stated at the May 20, 2013 Select Board meeting, Chief Cote informed the board the ambulance is now at the point where it needs to be replaced. Numerous repairs, breakdowns and costs upwards of \$8,500 have failed to fix the ambulance and it has become unreliable and dangerous.

2. New Business

2.1 Discussion of Replacement of Rescue 1 – Chief Cote

Chief Cote stated the current ambulance is a 2004 Ford 6.0L Diesel that has encountered a series of issues that have not been able to be rectified. He stated that the EGR valve has been replaced four times. Another issue has been with the heater core and heater lines for which Ford no longer makes part for as this engine has been discontinued. A problem with stalling and lower power has also plagued the ambulance and there have been no technicians that can resolve the problem.

Chief Cote stated that an ambulance was slated to be a warrant article for FY2014, but due to a miscommunication with the Interim Town Administrator and the Department of Revenue Administration, it was left off of the warrant.

Selectman Wilson asked Chief Cote if he did not have to be concerned with fitting an ambulance in the fire station, what would he be asking the Select Board to purchase.

Chief Cote stated he would be requesting the same vehicle.

Selectman Wilson stated that the town has had a terrible experience with the current Ford and there a lot better diesel choices that could be made that are far better than any gas model.

Rick Stanton asked what the warranty was on the ambulance, and Chief Cote summarized the eight pages on the warranty.

David Peck asked about mileage on the current ambulance as well as the cost of a commercial size versus an E Series.

Margaret Allen raised her concern regarding purchasing another Ford E Series and having the same issues come up in a few years.

Michael Golden stated that the town can no longer take the risk of the current ambulance stalling with a patient that needs to be transported to a hospital.

Chair Maggiore asked if there was an escape clause in the contract if there were any issues in using the loaner vehicle that might cause the town to not want to purchase the ambulance. Would there be any way out of it.

Rick Stanton stated that he would like to see the budget committee give the Select Board a recommendation for the purchase of the ambulance. Mr. Stanton also thanked the Select Board for inviting them to the meeting as it helps with creating transparency.

Motion by Rick Stanton to recommend that the Budget Committee presents to the Select Board its concurrence with the acquisition of a new Ford ambulance to meet the conditions that Chief Cote described by getting a loaner vehicle and purchasing a new one. Seconded by Dickie Garnett. Motion carries 7-0.

Selectman Wilson stated that we have reached the point where it is necessary to purchase a new ambulance due and it cannot wait because it is public safety issue which overrides a delay until the next town meeting. The Select Board prefers to have these matters voted on by the legislative body but the public safety issue makes it necessary for them to make a decision.

Arthur Nadeau, 34 Pine Road stated that he wondered how bad it has to get before the town does something. He understands the financial issue, but if he was in the back of the ambulance he would certainly want to be sure it was running.

Susan Hills, 145 Mill Road read a prepared statement in support of purchasing a new ambulance.

Motion by Selectman Miller to replace the existing ambulance with a new E450 Ford with the price of \$202,000 with the use of a loaner ambulance until the new ambulance has been built, and to authorize the Town Administrator to execute the documents on behalf of the Select Board. Seconded by Selectman Wilson. Motion carries 3-0.

3. Closing Comments

3.1 Closing Comments by Visitors

3.2 Closing Comments by Select Board Member

4. Adjournment

Chair Maggiore adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet L. Facella