

Board of Selectmen
April 18, 1995
Police/Fire Station
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairwoman Carolina Kiggins, in the Police/Fire Station. Selectmen present included Robert S. Costa, David Ernst, Cynthia Paine and Ira Wood. Town Administrator Julia Enroth also attended.

This meeting was scheduled in response to citizen concerns and was requested by former Selectwoman Virginia Crossman to specifically address her three questions.

Chairwoman Kiggins listed the three issues Town Counsel addressed in a letter to the Board.

- 1) The legality of Do Not Resuscitate Orders
- 2) The broadcasting of Paramedic names on Emergency Radio Fire Frequency
- 3) Prohibition of certain Fire Department/Rescue Personnel from entering certain private property.

Fire Chief Roger Henson provided the Board with a copy of "Initiation of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Do Not Resuscitate Orders", dated September 1, 1994, developed by Cape & Islands Emergency Medical Services System, Inc. and is the current policy used by the Wellfleet Fire Department and all other Cape towns.

Chief Henson introduced Director Glenn Luedtke of Cape Cod and Islands EMS Systems, Inc. to the Board. Discussion included:

- Under current law, EMS personnel must begin resuscitation even if there is a DNR order in place.
- After contacting a physician or hospital personnel, and getting permission to do so, EMS personnel may stop resuscitation.
- The State is discussing plans for a new policy called "Comfort 1", which is modeled after DNR's in other states. It is hoped to be approved and in place by Fall.
- If a person does not want to be resuscitated - do not call the Fire Department.

The Board discussed the broadcasting of names of Paramedics on the Emergency Radio Fire Frequency. The letter from Michael Ford indicated that he finds no legal requirement for the broadcasting the names of Paramedics over the radio.

The Board discussed the prohibition of certain Fire Department personnel from entering certain private property. Mr. Luedtke said that according to state law, all personnel on duty must respond to an emergency call. A member of the community cannot choose only certain Fire Department/Rescue personnel to answer an emergency call. If the caller wishes he/she may sign a form refusing all emergency care. Similar information was also provided in Town

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Counsel's opinion letter.

Members of the Fire Department are concerned that legal action might be brought against certain personnel responding to an emergency call and hope that the Board of Selectmen will support them. There was a general consensus of the Board to develop a policy to reflect their support.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Berrio
Beth Berrio
Principal Clerk

Carolina Kiggins
Carolina Kiggins, Chairwoman

David Ernst
David Ernst

Ira Wood
Ira Wood

Robert S. Costa

Cynthia Paine
Cynthia Paine