

MINUTES OF THE FOUR TOWN AMUBLANCE MEETING

**Town of Charlemont
Town of Hawley
Town of Heath
Town of Rowe**

January 28, 2008

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The meeting was convened at 7:00 P.M. by Charlemont Selectman Winston Healy. Mr. Healy reminded the attendees to sign in on a sheet that was being passed around (see attached).

1. Mr. Healy explained the reason for the meeting was to first explore if the Towns interested in continuing to provide an ambulance service for residents. The second reason for calling the meeting was to explore if the Towns were interested in replacing the current ambulance which is 10 years old.
2. Hand outs (attached) showing the three year average of fees collected, operational costs, cost of a new ambulance, and 10 year average percentage of runs per Town were circulated.
3. Billing write-offs were discussed along with the possibility of an alternative accounting service to reduce write-offs and increase collections.
4. A homeland Security Grant to fully or partially fund a new ambulance was suggested.
5. Changing out the chassis was suggested. Dana Johnson, Charlemont Ambulance Director questioned the wisdom of this option.
6. Mr. Johnson stated that the current ambulance is currently safe but due to the length of time between the order date and date of arrival it is crucial to order a new ambulance in FY2009.
7. All Town agreed to continue the ambulance service and to go forward with the purchase of a new ambulance, subject to cost and approval of each Town at Annual Town Meeting. Contributions for the new ambulance would be based on each Town's percent of runs stated in the handout. Of course, contributions exceeding the percentages will be gratefully accepted.
8. Mr. Johnson explained that the Ambulance Association, a non-town entity, has been receiving contributions from several Towns. Since the contributions did not specify the contribution, the Association may use the funds as it sees fit. The Association recently voted to donate \$30,000 towards the purchase of a new ambulance.
9. Mr. Johnson stated that instead of trading in the old ambulance, which is of relatively little financial value, it might be preferable to use the old ambulance not as a frontline vehicle, but as a standby supplier. This idea is still on the table.
10. Those present were advised that Towns might be invited to meet in the future if operational costs started to significantly outrun receipts.

11. Mr. Healy thanked everyone for attending the meeting which was adjourned at 8:00 P.M..

Respectfully submitted

Approved by:
Charlemont Board of Selectmen

Kathy A. Reynolds
Executive Secretary

This document is to be considered a draft until approved and signed by the Board of Selectmen.