

TOWN OF NEWPORT
Board of Selectmen
6:30 pm Special Meeting, SRVRTC
Lou Thompson Room NMHS

Minutes for February 24, 2015 - REVISED (WITH NPS ADDED)

Non-Public Session: SRVRTC

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Gary Nichols, Chairman; Todd Fratzel, Vice Chairman; David Hoyt, William Wilmot, Jeff Kessler

STAFF PRESENT: Paul J. Brown, Newport Town Manager

PUBLIC PRESENT: Steven Powell, Richard Riley, Pam Duniak; representatives of New London Hospital.

Chairman Nichols opened the meeting at 5:30 pm.

At 5:32 pm, on a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Fratzel; *the Board voted by roll call vote to unanimously enter non-public session RSA 91-A3 II(c) Reputation of others.*

Town Manager Brown, Mr. Powell, Mr. Riley and Ms. Duniak all joined the Board for the NPS.

There was discussion regarding the Town's (Newport's) decision on EMS coverage and the effect on NLH.

On a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Hoyt; *the Board voted to extend existing levels of EMS service to the NLAS coverage area to 06.30.15 based upon the commitment from the New London Hospital to staff a second ambulance from 9 AM to 9 PM seven days a week. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

On a motion by Selectman Wilmot, seconded by Selectman Kessler, *the Board voted to exit the NPS at 6:19 PM. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

Special BOS Public Meeting:

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Gary Nichols, Chairman; Todd Fratzel, Vice Chairman; David Hoyt, William Wilmot, Jeff Kessler

STAFF PRESENT: Paul J. Brown, Town Manager; Wayne Conroy, Newport Fire Chief; Captain/Paramedic Ken Carleton, Newport EMS

Chris Marcotte, Deputy Chief/EMT

Tyler Nelson, Fire Fighter (FF)

Ryan Palmer, FF/EMT

Zack White, FF

Bryan A. Brunt, FF

Kristal Rowe, Communications Specialist

Don J. Attenhofer, FF/EMT I-career

Dustin Holmes, FF /AEMT-career

Tyler Bonneau, FF/AEMT-career

Eric B. Benson, FF

Ron Parenteau, EMT-B

AJ Smith, FF

William Hardy, Jr. FF/EMT-I career

Joseph L. Moulton, FF

Ian Gill, EMT

Susan Gregory, EMT-I
Chris Smith, FF/AEMT
Sarah Benner/ Zackowski, EMT
John Early, FF
Sara Godkin, FF

Keith Gregory, EMT-I
Jake Clarke, FF/EMT
April Premo, EMT
Corey Conroy, FF/EMT-I-career

COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND PUBLIC PRESENT: Bert Spaulding, Sr.; Archie Mountain, Michael and Carol Dixon, Chris Young, Debbie Porter, Cindy Conroy, Jay Fountain, Dan Peterson, Heather Hardy, Kim C., Vanessa A., Gayle H., Cindy Gallagher, Ida Lee Wallace, Kaitlyn Rosato, Steven Zackowski, Gail and Edmund Smith, Thomas Moore, Molly Conroy, Lisa Nelson, Samantha Nelson, Kevin Pollari, Mario Cusanelli, Brandon Langlois, Lempster fire department; Phil Turrell, Coordinator SWF & MA (VT/NH); Robert Hoffman, EMT; Gary Dion, Paramedic and resident of Newbury.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Nichols called the special meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 6:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Captain Carleton.

Chairman Nichols welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting. He requested that the staff, community members and public present give him the floor to explain the history of the Newport EMS, how it has grown and where the Town of Newport and EMS department stands now. He passed out one sheet of information (see attached) regarding the monetary restraints imposed by the current situation. He also addressed the subjects of personnel, vehicle wear and increased run times (both in town and out of town) to those in attendance and the viewing public. Continuing, Chairman Nichols explained coverage or lack of local coverage in area towns that Newport has been asked to assist.

Chairman Nichols emphasized that the mutual aid agreements in the fire department that are currently in place with neighboring towns and cities would remain in place. Nothing would change. Concerning mutual aid agreements for EMS; there are no mutual aid agreements in place between Newport and surrounding towns. Current contracted agreements for ambulance would not change (Golden Cross). Chairman Nichols listed area towns and questioned their lack of ambulance/mutual aid. The second sheet (see attached) gave figures showing the costs a town would incur (and the tax impact) to have and man their own ambulance. He stated that what the Newport Board of Selectmen was saying was that the area towns needed to step up to the plate for their residents.

Chairman Nichols addressed those in attendance and asked three questions:

1. How will Newport address staffing?
2. Why aren't EMS/FF in surrounding towns doing the same thing as Newport's?
3. Why should we continue doing backup calls to the area towns when they have not stepped up to the plate and provided for themselves?

Chairman Nichols concluded by stating the Newport Board of Selectmen had met with the New London Hospital. The BOS agreed to extend the deadline (for coverage) to June 30, 2015. Chairman Nichols concluded by giving a synopsis of the important points stated.

Selectman Kessler addressed Chairman Nichols and added one comment to his presentation. The cost to the other towns to buy and man an ambulance was not only money spent; there was revenue from charges to patients. Continuing, he stated that that revenue has assisted Newport in keeping their ambulance costs affordable. The towns should look at that.

Chairman Nichols then opened discussion to anyone from the public who wished to address the Board. He requested that individuals go forward to the microphone for NCTV and that names be given for the record.

Mr. John Early explained that Fire/EMS personnel had met when they found out about the BOS policy. He thanked the Board of Selectmen for holding the meeting in order for the parties to discuss it. He wanted to give the BOS their (FF/EMT) general consensus. He read a prepared statement into the record. Within it, he stated that the limited notice given of the EMS assistance (out of Newport) has harmed their reputation with outside parties. He asked that the Board put the policy to a vote of the residents of Newport at Town Meeting 2015.

Mr. Gary Dion, paramedic and resident of the town of Newbury, addressed the Board. Referring to Chairman Nichol's presentation, he stated that Newport relied heavily on call-back. He stated that reliance on call-back indicated a poorly staffed department. He cited state and federal standards that dictate the level of response for (FF/EMS) departments. He repeated he was a resident of the town of Newbury and explained the coverage (or lack of) by New London Hospital. Mr. Dion explained the options for Newbury if Newport was not able to respond. He commended the BOS for wanting to protect the citizens in Newport. But he stated that the impact of the policy was far greater than the Town of Newport. Mr. Dion asked the Board if they had been approached by Newbury or the other towns in the area. Chairman Nichols asked Mr. Dion if he had taken the initiative and gone to the Newbury Board of Selectmen. There was lengthy discussion between Mr. Dion and Chairman Nichols on coverage.

Selectman Fratzel addressed Mr. Dion and stated that his responsibility was to the Town of Newport and its citizens. He gave scenarios showing possible lack of care to Newporters. He requested Mr. Dion go to Newbury's Board of Selectmen as well as New London Hospital (who they have a contract with). Selectman Fratzel gave a short discourse on the subject.

Selectman Kessler stated that if the subject was a regional ambulance, it would take people like Mr. Dion to go to the Newbury BOS and others to go to their local BOS; not Newport BOS going to the area towns. Continuing, Mr. Kessler stated that the area towns needed to know what the public safety issues were and what they needed to do to step up.

Chief Conroy addressed the Board concerning regional ambulances. He stated that there has been talk of having a regional ambulance in the last four years. He explained the difficulty of coordinating one. Continuing, Chief Conroy stated that it was again being looked at it with area Chiefs and Boards. Hopefully it will work out now.

Mr. Bert Spaulding, Sr. addressed the Board and EMTs in the audience. He asked for them (out of town EMTs) to call a meeting (such as 02.24.15) and have people show up. He discussed the monetary burden on Newport taxes for the (Newport) ambulances. He addressed the Newport EMTs and asked who their first allegiance was to. He expressed the monetary and other responsibilities of communities if they wanted the assistance of the EMS in Newport. He thanked the Board.

Mr. Steve Zackowski, resident of Newport, discussed mutual aid. He addressed the Board and stated that he had heard that other towns had approached Newport concerning mutual aid. Continuing, Mr. Zackowski acknowledged a money issue. Towns that approached Newport and asked for assistance without the reciprocal ambulance coverage, but through a contractual fee should be considered for assistance. Newport could call it something else; not mutual aid. He reiterated many aspects discussed earlier in the meeting. Mr. Zackowski thanked the Board.

Town Manager Brown addressed Mr. Zackowski's questions. He explained that the Towns currently contracting with New London could go to them (NLH) and say they wanted more staffing (better care). Continuing, he explained the quality of care issues that Newport has with taking on some of the area towns. He stated that the decision by the Board has made the other towns rethink their resources. He

explained. Town Manager Brown addressed the question of additional ambulance contracts. He stated it would be on a case by case situation. He explained.

Mrs. Sarah Zackowski, EMT and resident of Newport, addressed the Board of Selectmen. She stated that the local EMTs understood the BOS stand; she stated that for the EMTs it was an ethical issue. She read the Code of Ethics for EMTs. Mrs. Zackowski explained the emotional reaction that the EMTs will face with the implementation of the policy. Addressing the Board members, she thanked them for the extension to June 30, 2015. Mrs. Zackowski suggested options for the towns to take, discussing items from the meeting. She thanked the Board.

Chairman Nichols addressed Mrs. Zackowski and discussed good patient care and the limitations of Newport staff. He repeated what had been stated throughout the meeting; Newport did not have contracts with area towns in question. These communities had to step up to the plate and take responsibility for their citizens. He explained further.

Selectman Kessler addressed Mrs. Zackowski and gave scenarios in town/out of town for quality of care and quick response. He asked what was fair.

Mrs. Zackowski stated that Newport acquiring contracts would help with the local taxes. She explained.

Selectman Fratzel addressed Mrs. Zackowski and explained the BOS/Newport municipality side of things. He explained that there had to be limits. The community pays taxes for EMS services. They are grateful for them and want the EMS when they need them. There was a discussion between Selectman Fratzel and Mrs. Zackowski.

Mr. Bert Spaulding, Sr. addressed the audience and illustrated the problem with the current system using Lempster as the example. He explained the contract Lempster had, the service Newport gave and the fact that Newport was not paid by Lempster. He addressed what Lempster would have to do when Newport removed services to their town. Addressing the audience, he stated it boiled down to economics and quality of care for Newporters. He passionately explained.

The Chair acknowledged Fire Chief Conroy. Fire Chief Conroy thanked the Board for the great presentation. He thanked the BOS for coming and listening to everyone who spoke. He thanked everyone for the support they have given in the Department. Continuing, Chief Conroy stated that it was a difficult situation for all. He explained.

Mr. Phil Turrell, Coordinator of South West Fire and Mutual Aid (SWF & MA), addressed the audience. He stated that he had served as the Fire Chief of the Town of Lempster for thirty years. Mr. Turrell stated that Chairman Nichols stated the truth and that the Newport BOS is dealing with a problem common throughout the state. Mr. Turrell listed current difficulties: disbandment of volunteer services and elimination of small ambulance departments due to costs. It taxed the remaining EMS in the area: Golden Cross, Newport, and New London. There was discussion at the meeting about response time. Mr. Turrell stated that in Vermont's mutual aid, some towns have a response time of one hour. He explained. Mr. Turrell returned to the Lempster situation. He gave the history of EMS (contracted) service in Lempster. It started in Newport, went to Golden Cross and then went to Marlow. It was because of monetary concerns, not about quality of service. He explained further. Mr. Turrell stated that as Coordinator of SWF & MA he could still count on Newport to assist with MCIs. He explained additional aspects of Lempster's emergency medical situation. Addressing Mr. Spaulding, Mr. Turrell stated that Lempster had asked Newport for contract negotiations. He stated that he hoped the Lempster BOS had contacted Newport BOS concerning the situation. Chairman Nichols stated they had not. There was discussion on other towns communicating with Newport BOS.

Town Manager Brown stated that the administrator in Grantham had acknowledged his email (curtailing assistance). He had asked for a copy of the town's (Grantham) call history. Town Manager Brown had also talked with the Town of Sunapee to tell them they were not adversely affected. Mr. Turrell stated that he had emailed Town Manager Brown. As Coordinator he needed to know how mutual aid assistance (MCI) stood from Newport.

Selectman Hoyt addressed Mr. Turrell and stated that as a Board they had not been approached by anyone. Negotiations and contracts have to go through the Newport BOS. Mr. Turrell stated that Lempster had contacted Captain Carleton about a contract with Newport previous to the letter being sent out. Mr. Turrell asked for verification that Newport has extended the deadline to June 30, 2015. Chairman Nichols stated that was correct. The Chair also said it was Newport's understanding that the requested order for ambulance response would be: Marlow, Golden Cross and then Newport. Mr. Turrell restated the order; saying it would be: Marlow, Washington, Golden Cross and then Newport. He explained the problems in the past with assistance in Lempster and the current ones statewide. Mr. Turrell thanked the Board.

Mr. Brandon Langlois, Lempster Fire Department, addressed the Board members. He stated he understood what the Board was saying and repeated reasons from earlier (in the meeting). He stated that they (Lempster) were not aware that Newport would consider an agreement. Chairman Nichols responded explaining good effective care was the key. Continuing, Chairman Nichols stated the Board would be consulting with their EMS division and looking at each request case by case. Mr. Langlois explained the problems they had had with emergency services. He stated that Newport had been quick to respond whether it was for a fire or an ambulance call. He stated that they were resolved to the fact that Marlow was not working. He explained the difficulties with the townspeople (to change contracts) and the difficulties for out of town ambulance services to assist the town, and the monetary limitations of the town.

Selectman Fratzel addressed Mr. Langlois and corrected him. Citing the paper that Chairman Nichols had passed out explaining the cost of an ambulance and EMS staff, he stated that looking at the tax dollars Lempster could afford it; they chose not to spend the money. He encouraged Mr. Langlois to go to his BOS and urge them to consider it (purchasing and staffing an ambulance). There was a debate on this between Selectman Fratzel and Mr. Langlois.

Chairman Nichols spoke to Mr. Langlois and those in attendance, stating that Captain Carleton would have to address staffing and see how Newport could effectively accomplish the additional workload. He continued and explained how overtaxing the Newport staff could happen. There was lengthy discussion.

Selectman Fratzel stated it was important to understand that Newport could not solve everyone's (other towns) problems. He repeated that the representatives present needed to go to their own Board of Selectmen.

Chairman Nichols acknowledged Town Manager Brown. The Town Manager addressed Mr. Langlois and asked if Lempster had approached Marlow about putting on a per diem crew. He explained. Continuing, he stated that regionalization was going to have to happen. He explained.

Mr. Langlois stated he hoped that his BOS would contact Newport's BOS and discuss the issue. For clarification, he asked if Newport would not cancel all ambulances into Lempster. Chairman Nichols stated that was correct and gave the stipulation (as outlined by Mr. Turrell) for Newport involvement. Mr. Langlois thanked the Chair and the Board.

Mr. Spaulding asked about contracts with the Newport EMS. Chairman Nichols stated that Newport had contracts with Goshen, Croydon and ½ of Sunapee.

Members of the audience and the Board discussed contracts, good patient care and liability. Town Manager Brown again stated that contracts would be considered on a case by case situation.

Selectman Kessler addressed the Chair and stated that all of the towns had a pumper and some a tanker, too. Continuing, he said it showed they were willing to invest in local fire equipment (save property), but would forgo investment in a local EMS service (save residents). He clarified.

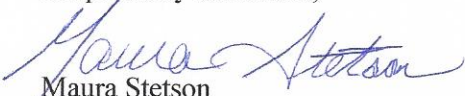
Mr. Mario Cusanelli addressed the Board and stated for clarification that when Lempster calls for an ambulance, their patients are given medical care (FAST squad). They just need the (Newport) ambulance to transport patients to the hospital. Patient care is available in Lempster. Chairman Nichols thanked Mr. Cusanelli for his clarification.

Chairman Nichols stated that on behalf of the Newport Board of Selectmen he wanted to thank everyone that attended the meeting and also for the service of the EMTs and other medical personnel. In conclusion, he succinctly expressed future stages to address.

On a motion by Selectman Kessler, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; the Board voted to adjourn at 8:22 pm. The motion passed 5-0-0.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Monday, March 2, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Maura Stetson
Scribe

Attachment 1
Attachment 2

Cost for one ambulance:

\$163,000	Ambulance
\$ 24,000	Radio with rear remote
\$ 14,000	Stretcher
\$ 1,000	C-Pap
\$ 1,500	2 Portable radios
\$32,000	Defib. Unit
<u>\$ 64,500</u>	All other equipment
\$300,000	TOTAL

Cost to run one ambulance for one year.

\$353,558	8 full time employees @ \$17.98 for 2408 hours per year. (Includes 10 Holidays and 104 hours of overtime.)
\$252,080	benefits for 8 employees. Inc. health, dental, retirement, workman's comp., disability
\$ 15,737	Cost to operate 1 ambulance for a year.
\$ 30,000	Cost of ambulance per year. \$300,000 divided over 10 years.
\$651,375	Sub total
<u>\$ 48,625</u>	Contingency
\$700,000	TOTAL

SHARE 1 AMBULANCE

TOWN	VALUATION	COMMITMENT	ADD COST	NEW COMMITMENT	NEW TAX RATE	CURRENT TAX RATE	ADDED COST
Grantham	\$ 517,147,509.00	\$ 11,888,024.00	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 12,238,024.00	\$ 23.31	\$ 22.27	\$ 1.04
Springfield	\$ 202,800,535.00	\$ 4,299,910.00	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 4,649,910.00	\$ 23.17	\$ 21.39	\$ 1.78
Sutton	\$ 270,892,931.00	\$ 6,476,200.00	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 6,826,200.00	\$ 25.23	\$ 24.19	\$ 1.04
Willmot	\$ 180,750,689.00	\$ 3,729,436.00	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 4,079,436.00	\$ 22.71	\$ 20.92	\$ 1.79
Newbury	\$ 704,469,467.00	\$ 10,847,507.00	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 11,197,507.00	\$ 15.98	\$ 15.49	\$ 0.49
Bradford	\$ 221,759,710.00	\$ 5,104,627.00	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 5,454,627.00	\$ 24.59	\$ 23.27	\$ 1.32
Lempster	\$ 161,500,762.00	\$ 3,100,525.00	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 3,450,525.00	\$ 21.76	\$ 19.98	\$ 1.78
Marlow	\$ 66,407,038.00	\$ 1,636,889.00	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 1,986,889.00	\$ 29.91	\$ 24.90	\$ 5.01

COST OF 2 AMBULANCES

TOWN	VALUATION	COMMITMENT	ADD COST	NEW COMMITMENT	NEW TAX RATE	CURRENT TAX RATE	ADDED COST
New London	\$ 1,101,173,324.00	\$ 17,066,769.00	\$ 1,400,000.00	\$ 18,466,769.00	\$ 16.77	\$ 15.31	\$ 1.46
NEWPORT	\$ 420,680,350.00	\$ 13,120,458.00	\$ -	\$ 13,120,458.00	\$ 31.64	\$ 31.64	\$ -

COST PER TOWN TO OPERATE 1 AMBULANCE

TOWN	VALUATION	COMMITMENT	ADD COST	NEW COMMITMENT	NEW TAX RATE	CURRENT TAX	ADDED COST
GRANTHAM	\$ 517,147,509.00	\$ 11,888,024.00	\$ 700,000.00	\$ 12,588,024.00	\$ 24.34	\$ 22.27	\$ 2.07
LEMPSTER	\$ 161,500,762.00	\$ 3,100,525.00	\$ 700,000.00	\$ 3,800,525.00	\$ 23.53	\$ 19.98	\$ 3.55
NEW LONDON	\$ 1,101,173,324.00	\$ 17,066,769.00	\$ 700,000.00	\$ 17,766,769.00	\$ 16.13	\$ 15.31	\$ 0.82
NEWBURY	\$ 704,469,467.00	\$ 10,847,507.00	\$ 700,000.00	\$ 11,547,507.00	\$ 16.39	\$ 15.49	\$ 0.90
SPRINGFIELD	\$ 202,800,535.00	\$ 4,299,910.00	\$ 700,000.00	\$ 4,999,910.00	\$ 24.65	\$ 21.39	\$ 3.26
SUTTON	\$ 270,892,931.00	\$ 6,476,200.00	\$ 700,000.00	\$ 7,176,200.00	\$ 26.27	\$ 24.19	\$ 2.08
WILMOT	\$ 180,750,689.00	\$ 3,729,436.00	\$ 700,000.00	\$ 4,429,436.00	\$ 24.50	\$ 20.92	\$ 3.58