

MINUTES

AMBULANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY, JULY 25, 2022 WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM ONLINE NON-INTERACTIVE ON TOWN HALL STREAMS 6:30 p.m.

Committee members present: Scott Esancy (Appleton), Patrick Costigan (Appleton), Tracy Weed, Libby Casas (Washington), and Jeff Grinnell (Washington)

Others present: Jay Feyler (Town Manager), and Jesse Thompson (EMS Chief)

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** at 6:30 p.m.

Jesse made introductions and went over the material in their binders, including an informed community self-determination grant which he applied for and got through Friends of EMS. They come in and evaluate everything our EMS does. Kevin McGuinness, former director of Maine EMS, is the head person. It will go through December.

Among other topics, Jesse discussed the budget and how mutual aid works. Jay said we will be billing other towns when we respond to their calls (as many towns are doing, for approximately \$700 to \$800 per call).

The need for a second ambulance, more staff, and the ins and outs of the emergency services world were explained as well as how things have evolved over time. Many details – such as the fact that MaineCare only pays 80%, and that Jesse serves as EMS Chief while holding down a full-time job in Gardiner -- were eye-opening.

Jesse said he currently has on the roster eight medics, eight advanced, four basics, and two drivers. All the medics work somewhere else full time. Jay said we lose people due to the lack of full benefits.

Jeff Grinnell brought up having old-school first responders who may be for example 55+ and live in the community, not doing transport and having training perhaps once a month. This would be more like the past before the shift from volunteer to per diem. Patrick concurred with this idea.

Jesse said there is a blue-ribbon committee at the state level exploring EMS issues.

He added response time, time to enroute, is a minute and a half on average which has been consistent since they've done 24/7 per diem. The national average is two minutes.

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Jesse said the fire and ambulance departments merged back together because most of his fire department *is* his ambulance service, over 90%. Towns get a bigger bang for their buck as they are trained as firefighters; they don't just work as EMS – they can do both as long as that is what the chief will have them do.

Jay encouraged committee members to do community outreach by explaining the budget.

Possible political advocacy was discussed. Jeff said you have the Maine Department of Public Safety, then you drop down to the State Police and the Fire Marshal's Office. Buried in there is Maine EMS, which is a state agency. The director of Maine EMS is governor-appointed. He suggested committee members go online and check out www.maine.gov/ems which includes volunteer information. Jesse said he is part of the data committee; he added EMS used to be part of DHHS, and now in his opinion needs its own commissioner because it's such a different animal.

Libby Casas brought up grants. Jesse has applied for many. This is something the committee can work on.

The board intends to meet twice a month for the next two months, with the next meeting August 8. They will receive a line-item copy of the ambulance budget and tour the facility at some point (which Jesse said is in the bylaws).

2. **Election of Officers:** Next meeting.
3. **Roles and Responsibilities of the Committee:** Above.
4. **Adjourn:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo
Secretary