

**Joint Board Meeting Minutes
(Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance)
September 5, 2018 @ 6 pm
Town Hall – Room 1**

Present: Rosemary Coyle, Jim Ford, Art Shilosky, Denise Mizla, Stan Soby (by phone), Roberta Lepore, Andreas Bisbikos, Andrea Migliaccio, Nilda Negrón (arrived at 6:35) and Rob Tarlov

Also present – Maggie Cosgrove, Laura Steinmeyer and Chief Cox

Art called the joint meeting to order at 6:15.

Comments and Questions:

Andrea - she supports the Optimal Plan and believes we should move forward as this service is needed.

Rob - asked questions regarding the number of additional people under each option and asked if we are able to meet the current call value with the number of people we currently have. Laura replied to the first question that the Minimum Option added 1/2 a person; Acceptable Option, and additional 1/2 and the Optimal Option would add an additional firefighter EMT. She also added that two of the current EMTs are certified parameds and would receive a bump in pay (\$5/hour) and that we would need to add 88 hours/week using per diem compensation. Chief Cox replied to the second question that for the most part we are covering, however sometimes we receive many calls in a short period of time and then need to depend on mutual aid. In addition, he is down one person as is waiting to replace, waiting on decision on this program.

Andreas stated that he had done a lot of research and met with several parameds from other towns and believes that the Optimal Plan is the way to go as he felt the response car was important to response time as well as opportunity for future additional revenue.

Roberta asked if Maggie had vetted the numbers. Maggie said she had not. Roberta said that is a must before the next step. Roberta asked how long it would take to reach a breakeven. Laura replied, conservative estimate would be 3 years.

Stan (by phone) - agreed that Maggie vetting these numbers is a must. Stan questioned how revenue estimates were arrived at, and wasn't sure if the town used for the comparison was a comparable town. He asked a number of questions that he would need answers to will send those to Town for responses, which will be distributed to the board members.

Art stated that Lebanon had asked about the status of this plan as if moved forward, they would be interested in being a customer for this service.

Rosemary - had no questions as she had been involved in the planning since the start and said she felt the optimal plan was the way to go as the response car was important

Jim - asked if we have considered a part time program. Laura replied that we had but the State had told us they were not approving any more part time programs. She had heard that in some cases

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2018 SEP -6 AM 8:47
Maggie Cosgrove
SECRETARY

they were approving, so she would ask again. Jim support moving forward as this is a service that will work better if we have control and that we should provide this service in house and not depend on other provider outside our town. He said that although Middlesex had slowed down their plan to charge Colchester planned increases. (Art had stated we were still at \$16K per year but the plan was to increase us gradually up to \$84K per year). He also stated we should make sure we can handle the town calls before offering our service to other towns.

Rob asked if we could project the additional revenue possible from the Optimal Option. Roberta who had worked with Laura and Rosemary on the plan stated, we could not with the available data as the revenue estimates were based on current call volume and how many of those calls needed advance life support. He also asked if the cost of maintenance, fuel and insurance had been calculated into the costs of the Optimal Plan. No current answer could be provided.

Art stated we needed to see if we have enough money in Equipment Reserve to pay for the response car. Rob asked how we planned to pay for the \$100,000 startup costs for all options. Unassigned Fund Balance? Why couldn't car be appropriated from the same?

Roberta asked how long it would take to implement once the decision to move forward is made. Laura and Chief Cox stated it would take about 3-6 months to become certified and another 3 to 6 months to be fully operational. Andrea asked if there was any reason we would not be certified. Chief Cox replied, none that he could think of.

Rob asked for initial budget year, how much additional revenue we should project. Laura replied maybe 50% as they could not hire additional personnel until the new budget year.

Rob said he supported the Optimal Option if we moved forward, but thought to minimize the budget impact, that we should budget for the Acceptable Option in year 1 and then add the car and additional EMT in year 2.

Rob asked what the next steps were. Art replied that the answers to Stan's questions needed to be distributed and that both Boards should add this to their October 3 and 4 agendas, with the plan to make a decision.

Citizens comments - none

Motion to adjourn by Rosemary, second by Jim. Passed 10-0 and meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Rob Tarlov, BOF Chair