

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 15, 2018

PRESENT: Michael Strait, Jonathan O'Keefe, James Cross, Doug Niles, Ray Fontaine, Jeff Noyes, Mark Castonguay, Joel Cope, Teresa DeBonville, Newport Ambulance Service, Lyndon Rescue, Newport Daily Express, The Chronicle, and about 40-50 town voters.

Chairperson, Michael Strait called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Michael informed all that were present that the meeting would start with Newport Ambulance's presentation followed by a question period and that the meeting would then go into public comment. Michael asked that all questions be conducted in a civil matter and that each person be limited to three minutes.

UPDATE AGENDA: None.

NEWPORT AMBULANCE PRESENTATION: The president of the Newport Ambulance service, Charlie Pronto addressed the townspeople with the proposal from them. Mr. Pronto stated that over the past few months that the select board had been doing its due diligence to keep ambulance service here in Brighton; but it didn't work out. Mr. Pronto re-capped on the fact that the board asked Newport Ambulance to contract with them to keep a full time ambulance here in Brighton, as well as with two other services and they all denied the request.

Mr. Pronto informed the townspeople that as of 6:00 PM on August 15, 2018 that Newport Ambulance would be covering Brighton from Newport at the cost of \$2000.00 per week. Although this is not ideal, it does work for a short term solution.

The proposal set forth with Newport Ambulance will be to build a sub-station in Morgan to house the ambulance and have a full staff available there 24/7. This would mean coverage 8 to 10 minutes away. The only way for this to be possible would require Morgan, Charleston and Brighton being on board and would require each town to sign a 5 year contract with them. The board is still a little hesitant on this because they are not sure what the voters want to do. At this time, it was also explained that Morgan, as of Monday was on board with this, and Newport was waiting for Brighton's decision to start the ball rolling. Michael Paradis, from the Newport Ambulance squad stated that at night someone would be at the sub-station in Morgan at all times, instead of "On Call" so this means better nighttime coverage for Brighton than what we have now.

At this time the floor was opened for questions for the ambulance service. Hope Powers asked if Brighton had coverage at this time. Mr. Paradis informed her that effective immediately that Newport would be covering Brighton, but coming from Newport at this time to do so.

Harry Weatherstone asked why Newport Ambulance would not use our fire station instead of building a sub-station in Morgan. Mr. Paradis explained that Newport covers Newport, Newport Center, Derby, Derby Line, East and West Charleston, Coventry, Holland, Morgan, and now Brighton, and that Morgan was the centralized location. Mr. Paradis also assured the townspeople that this sub-station in Morgan would always be staffed. If the

ambulance gets called out the Derby Line for example, Newport will send another crew to Morgan to cover until they return. Mr. Paradis also stated that Newport would not be covering UTG or Norton, as they will be getting coverage with the 45th parallel.

Jenn Hanlon asked where the ambulance would be dispatched from. Mr. Johanson, from Newport Ambulance informed her that Monday thru Friday, the ambulance would be dispatched through Newport City Police Department dispatch. On Saturday until 3:00 PM Newport PD would also be dispatching. The remainder of Saturday and Sunday would be done through Williston.

Connie Bizzaro asked about response time. Mr. Paradis said at this time typically it would be about 30 minutes.

Peg Muraca asked if there was a specific timeline as to when the sub-station in Newport would be done. Mr. Paradis informed her that at this time Newport was looking for a place for temporary housing so they could get this moving as quickly as possible.

Gaston Boisvert asked if Brighton offered the station to Newport. Mr. Paradis informed him that they did, but it was not feasible to use our station.

Tiffany Niles asked about staffing. Mr. Paradis assured her that they had enough staff to cover; and if not, they would hire more.

Melinda Gervais-Lamoureux asked if Newport would consider using the individuals that were trained and qualified from town. Mr. Paradis told her that he had spoken with two of the individuals and that they had applications in with Newport already. The other option would be to set up a fast squad here in town. This would require training, licensing and insurance. The board will be looking into this as an option as well.

Mr. Pronto informed the towns people that at this time, he didn't have exact numbers on the cost of this proposal, because it takes a lot of work, and they were not sure if Brighton would be on board with the sub-station in Morgan. Mr. Pronto did state though that it would more than likely be cheaper than what we are paying now, because other towns would also be involved with covering the cost.

At this time Michael Strait took a non-binding poll to see if the townspeople favored Newport's proposal. The townspeople that were present, were in favor of the proposal. Jonathan O'Keefe motions to support Newport Ambulance's proposal to build a sub-station in Morgan to house their ambulance, and provide service with a 5 year contract. James Cross seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Frank Maloney asked how we got to the point of having a 5 year contract with Lyndon Rescue that was terminated. The Board explained that it was in error on the town's behalf; not realizing that the town already had a signed 5-year contract in place and signing a new one made the old one null and void.

Harry Weatherstone asked about the ambulance that the town purchased. Michael Strait told him that the town would either use this to set up a fast squad here in town, or put it up for sale.

Billy Hawkins informed the board of a teacher that does EMS Training in Hardwick. The board thanked him for the information.

BUILDINGS AND MAINTENANCE: Joel informed the board that the town did not receive the grant for the stage. Joel said the board had a few options, one would be to come up with \$6000.00 to pay for this ourselves. The board decided to put this project off until next year, and look into applying for another grant.

Joel informed the board that the depot project will begin next week.

Ray informed the board that he had seeded the park. Michael Strait said the park looked really good.

ROADS: Mark informed the board the line painting had been done. Mark also informed the board that the catch basins had been cleaned out.

Mark told the board that the price of the guardrails would be \$2500.00 and asked the board if they still wanted to proceed with the South Street project at this price. The board said to proceed.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT: Doug updated the board on the upcoming pond-a-thon. Doug told the board that swim lessons had been wrapped up.

A lady from Easter Seals requested use of the gym three afternoons a week once school starts. The gym is busy then, so the board suggested that maybe she could use the room on the second floor.

Doug informed the board that a tai-chi certification class would be available in November, and that he was interested in taking the class.

Doug is looking into setting up a pond-athalon for the stronger athletes.

CASTROGIOVANNI PROPERTY: No updates.

BUDGET REPORT: The board reviewed the budget report. No concerns.

APPOINT NEW E-911 COORDINATOR: Joel informed the board that Roger O'Keefe has resigned as E-911 coordinator, so a new coordinator will be sought. No appointment was made at this time.

PAYORDERS: The board reviewed and signed the road pay orders, and the general pay orders.

APPROVE PREVIOUS MINUTES: The board reviewed the minutes of the August 1, 2018 meeting. A motion was made by Jonathan O'Keefe to accept the minutes as printed. James Cross seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: Carmen Murray asked about looking into a "Three Way" stop sign by the depot. Jeff Noyes said that he and Mark Castonguay would look into installing one.

Jeff informed the board that he spoke to the fire chief Rick Hannux and will be storing the cruiser in the fire station.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:50 PM.