

Special Town Board Meeting held August 11, 2014 at 5:00 P.M. at the Town Hall

in Schroon Lake N.Y.

Present:

Town Supervisor: Michael Marnell

Councilpersons: Roger Friedman, Don Sage and Clara Phibbs and Meg Wood

Highway Superintendent: Dana Shaughnessy

Town Clerk: Patricia Savarie

Also Present: Jay Phibbs, Albert May, Rosemarie Ritson, Gail Simon, Linda Milsom, Bill and Kris Tribou, Mark Whitney, Lynn Giffor, Helena and Larry Vanderburgh, Arlene Whitty, Fran Filshie, Pam Scavera, Mary Jane McCoy, Lynn Donaldson, Fran and Tony Ramirez, Amy McCoy, Wayne Dewey, Glen and Sue Repko, Bob Smith, Tim Vander Wiele, Carole Ann Greig, Bob and Jane Claus, Dan Riggins, Don Dresser, Marshall Gero, Ron Moore and Ann Veverka

Supervisor Marnell called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. with a salute to the Flag.

Discussion on the Future of the Schroon Lake Ambulance Squad

Supervisor Marnell stated that the Schroon Lake Emergency Squad have not been able to meet the amount of calls in order to keep their ALS (Advanced Life Support) certification. The lack of volunteers and the amount of training that needs to be done before you become a member has made it very difficult to keep going as a volunteer squad.

Chris Swinton, Captain of the Schroon Lake Ambulance Squad, stated the time has come to have paid staff on for 12 hours a day 7 days a week. We will still maintain our volunteers who are very dedicated but just can not get to all the calls with so few of them. In order to keep the ALS certification the Squad needs to make 75% of their calls, responding in a 10 minute time frame, at present they are making about 60% of them. The cost of having one ALS Technician and one EMT and driver combination 12 hours a day, 7 days a week would cost around \$200,000.00 a year. If you were to operate out of the Fire House the Fire Department could not bill the patient and the Schroon Lake Fire District Commissioners would have to approve this.

Travis Howe, the CEO for Mountain Lakes EMS Council, stated the best thing to do is to have everyone work together. The Fire Department and the Ambulance Squad need to stick together. The billing revenue will help pay for employees making it less on taxpayers. Travis stated that the en route to the patient is 10 minutes and you need to make the standard 75% of the calls. REMAC (Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee) has given the Squad a year to see if they can improve on the

percentage of calls they can make. If they can have a schedule in place it would help show that they have a plan. REMAC can never pull your ALS certification. If you have a plan in place, see if you can get it back up to 75%. If you go to a payed staff, give your volunteers the first chance where they can work and fill in the rest of the hours with payed help.

Patty Bashaw, with Essex County, stated that you can use an agency for billing but that the Fire Department can not bill directly to the patient and still work out of the Fire Department. The agency will collect from the Insurance Companies and take care of billings for a percentage.

Councilwoman Wood stated that the Town Board needs to see the different options that are out there and let the entire community know what their options are before a decision is made.

Bob Smith stated the Squad has \$400,000.00 set aside to purchase a new ambulance and wanted to know if they should go ahead and purchase it with all that is going on. Bob stated that if you charge a revenue you will be able to pay for a building and employees. Supervisor Marnell stated that the Town owns a Parks building which maybe used for housing.

Bill Tribou, stated that the Squad does not want to loose their ALS license because it would mean patients would wait another 15 minutes longer before getting help.

Supervisor Marnell stated that they need to know how many calls we have had from the County to see what our revenue would be and that we do need and ALS and and EMT 12 hours a day 7 days a week. We need and answer from the Commissioners to see if they will be allowing them to stay at the Fire House. If not we could possibly house them at the old Parks building.

Travis Howe stated that the Ambulance Squad needs to get a plan in place and needs to try to get to 75% of their calls. You may get an extension that way if you have something in place and a schedule made up. Working with all the members do what is best for the Squad.

Bob Smith stated that North Hudson would need to be informed and that their portion would increase when they go to a paid Squad. Ron Moore, the Town Supervisor from North Hudson was present, and stated he would like to know what their share would be with Budget time coming up in the near future. We need more information for budget time.

Roger Friedman read a paragraph from the Fire Service Laws of the State of New York: "Any decision of a REMAC (Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee) regarding provisions of a level of care including staffing requirements, may be appealed to the State emergency medical advisory committee by any regional EMS council ambulance service, ALS service, certified first responder, emergency medical technician or advanced EMT adversely affected. No action shall be taken to implement a decision regarding existing levels of care or staffing while an appeal of such

decision is pending.” With that being said it would possible give us some time to have it start in our new budget year before we would have to pay for the services.

Supervisor Marnell made a motion to adjourn at 6:00 P.M., seconded by Councilman Sage; carried.

I, Patricia J. Savarie, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct transcript from the minutes now on file in my office and of the whole such original minutes.

Dated: August 14, 2014

Town Clerk