Town of Rowe - FY 2015
Board of Selectmen – Minutes
Thursday, September 17, 2015 – 3:00 pm
Rowe Town Hall

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Wilson at 3:00 pm.

Present: Chair Wilson, Vice-Chair Susan Gleason, Selectman Quist and Administrative Clerk Janice Boudreau

Audience: JoAnn Brown, Christopher Hyytinen, Betty Lenth, Jenn Morse, Robin Reed, Buster Reed, Julie Shippee,

Business

Discussion About Ambulance Service:

a.) Ambulance Response Time Concern:
Chair Wilson opened the meeting explaining the urgent need to remedy the ambulance response time for Rowe. In recent years the response time for an ambulance are excessive. Recent events were cited that it took over and hour and other occasions that were close to an hour and that long response time which could greatly affect outcome for the patient. She felt it had reached a critical level due to the fact that our current listed first ambulance to respond was Charlemont Ambulance and the statistics were that in 2013 out of 18 calls 3 were responded to and in the last 18 months 3 out of 35 calls. She said there was an Ambulance Task Force created and meetings were held with the towns serviced by Charlemont Ambulance to work on issues with having an adequately staffed Ambulance service. After meeting for over a year and a half , there has been no improvement.

b.) Distance Considerations: Emergency Medical Services Director Selmi Hyytinen explained the distances for each of the area responding ambulances. He explained another factor affecting response time is that an unmanned ambulance needing to be staffed by a volunteer group coming from home or work as compared to an ambulance that was fully staffed at the ready.

c.) Paramedic Consideration: Selmi compared the staffing of each service and whether they provided First Responder, EMTs or Paramedics. It was explained that Paramedics are able to provide all the care offered by EMTs plus enhanced trauma and medical-emergency care. They perform many of the lifesaving stabilization procedures that an Emergency Department provides, including advanced airway management, IV insertion, EKG interpretation, and medication administration. EMTs provide oxygen, bleeding and wound care and CPR, as well as spinal and fracture immobilization.

d.) Call Sequence: Selmi explained the sequence and process that was used by 911 Dispatch to determine who was available to answer the response. Charlemont was first on the list for Rowe and others in sequence are: Shelburne, Colrain, North Adams Ambulance Service (NAAS), Deerfield Valley (Wilmington, VT) , Baystate Health Ambulance (Greenfield) and Highland Ambulance (Goshen).

e.) Protocol order: Fire Dept. Administrative Assistant Jennifer Morse asked whether the protocol order could be changed and said it was at the discretion of the Fire Chief to do so.

f.) Costs Outlined: Selmi explained the basic cost of the Charlemont Ambulance Service that is billed to the patients insurance as $500 (average) for each response. They charge an additional fee of $1200 if advanced life support is required and this is added to the basic fee of $500. He noted that other ambulance services include the $500 fee in their $1200 fee. It was also noted that Rowe has contributed (as have other member towns) to the purchase of an ambulance for Charlemont Ambulance Service but Rowe is the only member town that contributes annually toward their operations ($3000 per year).

g.) Final Considerations: Following discussion, it was agreed to contact and set up a meeting with North Adams Ambulance to discuss their services in greater detail since they were staffed with paramedics and had fully staffed ambulances at the ready. Selectman Quist added that a professionally staffed ambulance would have their training up to date.

Audience:

Adjournment: Seeing no further business, Chair Wilson made a motion to adjourn the Meeting at 4:05 p.m. The motion, seconded by Selectman Quist, was accepted. (3/0/0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Boudreau

Approval Date: October 7, 2015

Approved:

Marilyn Wilson, Chair

Susan Gleason, Vice-Chair

Walter J. Quist, Selectman

Attachments:

- Agenda 09/17/15