

## Middleton EMS Committee Meeting August 3, 2021

**Board Members:**

Scott Ferguson, Chair	Andrea Bowden, Vice-chair
Roxanne Tufts-Keegan, Secretary	Jake Bourdeau (absent)
Jim Knapp (absent)	Christine Maynard
David Morrison	John Stevens
Jon Swift (absent)	Sarah Ferrazzani

**Public:**

Tracy Donavan-Laviolette

Scott Ferguson called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Scott Ferguson.

Roxanne made a motion to accept the 7/5/2021 minutes. Christine seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0-0.

Scott stated he spoke with the BOS regarding the EMS committee structure. The EMS committee is made of 10 members, of which 8 are voting members. Scott stated the BOS clarified that both the BOS representative and Police representative were not voting members. The BOS representative is on the committee for information purposes and the Police representative is not a taxpayer in the town of Middleton therefore doesn't have a vote on the committee. A quorum would consist of 5 members. Scott said he told the BOS he wasn't looking to fill any vacancies on the committee since the committee was close to providing a presentation.

Scott commented that he was still waiting on numbers from Farmington Chief Reinhardt. The chief was meeting with the Farmington BOS today (8/3/2021) and we would have a response to the committee this week.

Andrea provided figures for April thru June and part of July from Quick Med. The figures represent Middleton covered calls. The total amount billed was \$16,838.68. The total amount to collect is \$15,742.93. The average transport was \$2,138.54. The numbers below are not exact and are rounded.

April	\$7,800
May	\$2,500
June	\$1,700
July	<u>\$5,000</u>
	\$17,000

Scott stated the plan going forward is to finalized numbers and have a working session. The working session would be to pull all the figures together and prepare the various options.

Scott asked John, Jake, and Andrea to provide numbers and the level of care.

Scott commented that per diem is the only option that would be able to cover both EMS and Fire calls. The coverage would allow to perform fire inspections and fire drills at the school.

Scott expressed concern with the lack of current coverage during the day and coverage at the school.

Tracy Donovan-Laviolette commented about having coverage during the day and being able to cover calls at the mill.

Christine suggested showing all the transports for the year and the potential money coming back to the town if Middleton was able to cover all the calls.

There was conversation about 24/7 coverage. Scott stated the BOS has tasked the chief of police to be able to provide police coverage 24/7. Currently this is not feasible.

Andrea provided numbers she had previously provided to the committed for per diem coverage. She stated she provided figures for 24/7 coverage (7 days M-F, 6a-6p per diem coverage at \$15/hr. and on call for 6p-6a M-F and on call for weekend at \$5.50/hr.), the cost is \$155,376. She also provided the costs of \$65K would be for just 6p-6a for on call only, \$5.50/hr. She stated per diem coverage affects worker's comp because the EMT is considered an employee of the town and not a contractor. It was also stated that per diem workers should not go over 40 hours otherwise benefits may need to be provided.

Scott stated his opinion was to have per diem during the day and on-call in the evening. Other committee members agreed.

Christine will reach out to Milton Chief Marique for level of care provided.

There was discussion of Police EMT coverage. It was stated the cost would be less, but the town would run into operational issues. There was discussion of the Police-EMT guidelines. The committee was concerned with the limitations of the guidelines. (see attached sheet) There was discussion regarding the "duty to respond" and "abandonment". The committee has concerns with training of the officer, the funding, certifications, and what umbrella would they fall under for liability coverage.

Scott commented he spoke with the chief from Waterville Valley. They discussed Middleton's situation and how it compared to Waterville Valley. Based on Middleton's numbers Middleton would not be able to sustain the Waterville Valley model. This model would create a huge liability for the town. The cost would be substantial, and the town wouldn't be able to support it. Only a few other towns across the country can handle the Waterville Valley model.

Christine stated she had spoke with Chief Cooper about training. She stated Chief Cooper training would consist of having officers do ride-a-longs in other towns while a part time officer covered the full-time officer's hours in town.

Scott stated he email Chief Cooper requesting the chief's proposal for Police to cover EMS.

Scott stated the Town of Wakefield was not interested in providing a proposal for providing coverage to Middleton. Christine stated she would like to know what the policy annual cost would be for training. It was stated if police provided EMS coverage that it would be mandatory to have the training, it wouldn't be optional. Job descriptions would need to be rewritten to include EMS certified. All officers, full time and part time, would be required to be certified.

Andrea expressed concerns about being in this same situation a year from now. The members all agreed the goals is to find a long-term solution.

Scott stated other towns are having the same issues with staffing levels. Towns (Farmington/Milton) don't want to commit to more than a 1-year contract due to staffing concerns.

Scott will send an email to the BOS regarding insurance coverage (worker's comp) for per diem workers. Andrea stated it was based on payroll.

There was a question asked, how does the police being certified affect the worker's comp rate?

Scott asked Andrea if the goal is to have all firefighters to be EMS trained. She responded, yes.

Andre made a motion to close the meeting and adjourn at 6:37pm. Christine a seconded, all in favor, 7-0-0.

Scott made a motion to re-open the meeting at 6:47.

Andrea asked if the ARPA funds could be used for EMS services.

Scott stated there are a lot of EMS grants, however, for grant purposes Middleton doesn't qualify because the EM (Emergency Management) director is the police chief and requires it to be the fire chief.

Roxanne made a motion to close the meeting and adjourn at 6:50pm. Sarah a seconded, all in favor, 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Tufts-Keegan

## **Police-EMT guidelines**

### **Rough Draft**

- All Calls will be answered based on their level of priority.
  - In the event that two priority calls come in at the same time Police calls will take precedence
  - When an Officer arrives on scene he will act as a Police Officer first and an EMT second unless the situation dictates otherwise.
  - When acting as an EMT, the Police Officer will follow the current EMS chain of command.
  - As a general rule Police Officers will not be going to mutual aid EMS calls in another community, unless there is a critical incident or some type of catastrophe
  - If an Officer is involved in an incident where a suspect has become injured or is in need of EMS, he will not act as the transporting EMT.
  - If it is clear that the patient has an issue with a Police-EMT treating them, the officer should not transport during this situation.
  - If more than one EMT or higher-level provider is present the Police Officer should not assist in transporting unless the situation dictates otherwise.
  - Prompt return to town will be a priority for the Police-EMT.
  - When an Officer is involved in the transportation of a patient to the hospital, they will request another available agency to cover priority calls
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