

## Middleton EMS Committee Meeting May 18, 2021

### Board Members:

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

Scott Ferguson called the meeting to order at 5:40pm.

Roxanne Tufts-Keegan made motion to nominate Scott Ferguson as Chair for the EMS Committee. Christine Maynard seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0-1.

Roxanne Tufts-Keegan made motion to nominate Andrea Bowden as Vice-Chair for the EMS Committee. Scott Ferguson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0-1.

Andrea Bowden made a motion to nominate Roxanne Tufts-Keegan as secretary for the EMS Committee. David Morrison seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0-1.

Andrea provided a brief recap from the EMS Committee meeting held on May 11, 2021. The meeting was meant to be a "meet and greet" for the committee members to introduce themselves to one another. She provided a brief history of the EMS department. She stated options were discussed for EMS coverage, along with challenges the committee/town faces.

Scott stated the process is for the committee to provide the BOS (board of selectmen) with several EMS coverage options for the town. The BOS will then hold a meeting and present to the public for final their input.

Scott said everyone on the committee will be given tasks to gather information. The information would be brought back to the committee to help develop various options. He states that he would like the committee to provide the BOS with the options by the end of June.

Jim Knapp is to provide the committee the EMS Exploratory Committee document along with the letter from Milton EMS.

John Stevens commented in prior years (prior to the 1990's) Middleton used to contract out to Farmington for EMS coverage.

Jake was tasked with reaching out to Farmington to confirm Middleton doesn't get billed for EMS calls.

There was discussion as to when the EMS committee will meet for future meetings. The committee decided the next meeting would be on Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. Jim Knapp will reserve the OTH (old town hall) thru mid-June for the EMS committee.

Roxanne asked Jake to provide her with a list of the email addresses for the committee members. She stated she would provide the minutes to committee members by email once they're available.

Scott asked the committee members what they would like to see this committee accomplish. Several committee members stated they would like to have a long-term solution for EMS coverage for the town. To provide the best solution that is most equitable for the taxpayer. It was also stated to try to keep the money in town.

John Swift commented that public safety is a huge concern for the police department. He stated as money starts to come in for Middleton covering its own calls the police EMS coverage would be phased out.

Andrea stated she would like to see a fiscally long-term solution and for the us to stop "kicking the can down the road".

Christine Maynard commented we needed to think outside the box and stop with the band-aid approach to fixing the problem.

Jake stated he was open to any and all solutions.

Members of the public were asked what they would like the committee to accomplish. Tracy Donovan-Laviolette stated she would like a long-term solution. She also stated the budget committee did increase the EMS budget line to cover per diem coverage.

Dave Maier would like to have good response time and coverage. He also commented about having data from prior years to help determine the best options.

Jake stated the town may not be growing however the age of the population of the town is a concern.

Scott asked the committee members to complete the following tasks:

- Jim & John Swift – Provide a Police proposal
- Jake & Andrea – Provide the costs and revenues of in-house 24/7 coverage.
- Andrea & Jake – Provide EMS call counts with detail including day and time of calls. Pull statistics for both 2019 and 2020.
- David – research for available grants
- John Stevens – Reach out to Wakefield.

- Figures for contracting with Milton.
  - Monday-Friday 8am-5pm coverage
  - 24/7 coverage
- Scott – Reach out to Farmington.
  - Get Call stats
  - Figures for contracting with Milton.
    - Monday-Friday 8am-5pm coverage
    - 24/7 coverage
- Christine & Jake – Reach out to Milton.
  - Get Call stats
  - Figures for contracting with Milton.
    - Monday-Friday 8am-5pm coverage
    - 24/7 coverage

Scott stated he reached out to Chief James Reinert of the Farmington Fire & Rescue department. Chief Reinert commented about splitting the town for coverage between Farmington and Milton. Jake commented that Milton and Farmington used different dispatchers.

Scott will contact the BOS for numbers of third-party contractors.

Scott asked John Swift to provide the number of calls the PD has gone to for EMS.

Christine stated she spoke with Chief Cooper about the PD responding to medical calls. He told her the PD stopped going to EMS calls when COVID hit.

Jake said he reached out to Frisbie Hospital and State Bureau EMS about the PD transporting. He said for the PD to transport they would either have to be their own entity or join the Middleton Fire department.

There was discussion about the ability of Middleton being able to provide Mutual Aid when utilizing the PD. Andrea stated when a person is on-call they have a duty to respond and if they don't it could be a liability to the town.

Roxanne made a motion to close the meeting and adjourn at 6:32pm. Jim seconded, all in favor, 9-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Roxanne Tufts-Keegan

Original ambulance purchased mid 1990's

Strong recruitment push for EMS responders

Second ambulance purchased 2000?

Oct 2006 Fire Services Organizational Analysis done by MRI – need to determine future of providing EMS services to town – need to bill for services rendered.

Fall 2007 – Farmington Selectmen & Farmington FD officers requested a meeting with Middleton Selectmen & FD officers to discuss the to frequent use of the mutual aid system in their response to Middleton to cover Middleton EMS calls.

2008 Town Meeting – Article #20 – see if the BOS will create a committee to investigate and evaluate the options available to the town to provide for fire and rescue service and report back to the 2009 town meeting with options for providing such service, and the costs related thereto, for future town meeting action.

Committee was never formed.

2009 – Chief Pageau was hired

2009 - Under the rein of Chief Pageau – instituted a per diem on call pay scale for EMS – Voted and approved at 2010 town meeting – article #30 – to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for the purpose of establishing a trial pay per call system for emergency medical services. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation and will not lapse until the project is complete or December 31, 2015.

Strong recruitment push was done

Comstar was brought on board to do ambulance billing

2011 Town Meeting – Article 16 – see if the town will vote to establish a Middleton ambulance revolving fund for the purpose of paying for the costs of providing ambulance and emergency response services. All revenues received from operations of the ambulance will be deposited into the fund, and the monies in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the town's general fund unreserved fund balance. The town treasurer shall have custody of all monies in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of BOS and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. The funds may be expended only for costs related to the ambulance and for providing emergency response services including the purchase, repair, maintenance and replacement of equipment and vehicles necessary and payment of personnel to operate the ambulance and to provide the service. No expenditure shall be made in such a way as to require the expenditure of other town funds which have not been appropriated for that purpose. - approved

2012 Town Meeting – Article 14 – see if the town will vote to establish a capital reserve fund for the purpose of Ambulance & Equipment purchase and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be place in this fund. – approved

Feb 2013 – Chief Pageau resigned

April 2013 – Chief Morrill was hired

Summer 2015 – Chief Morrill resigned, and Chief Lawrence was hired

Annual town Report – Ambulance Revolving Fund \$79,394.24 end 2016

Annual town report – Ambulance Revolving Fund \$126,820.87 end 2017

Annual town report – Ambulance Revolving Fund \$158,458.06 end 2018

March 2019 – new ambulance purchased (funds taken from the revolving fund as well as the capital reserve fund)

2019 – Chief Lawrence resigns – Chief Bourdeau hired

Comstar 2019 year end report - \$26,266.69 collected and sent to Middleton (year end total unknown)

Comstar 2020 year end report - \$15,431.42 collected and sent to Middleton (year end total unknown)

July 2020 – Letter sent to BOS and Chief Bourdeau from Milton Fire – Rescue Chief Marique – letter summed up the over usage of Milton EMS to cover Middleton EMS calls for service. The letter stated that eff 10/1/20 the town of Milton would begin charging Middleton \$500 for each request for EMS services to the town. Chief Marquie felt that this would give ample time for Middleton to address such issues. The letter went ignored by the BOS. Milton subsequently began charging Middleton. As of 5/5/2021 \$11,500 has been paid to Milton.

October 1, 2020 – Comstar stopped servicing Middleton for EMS billing

April 1, 2021 – Quick Med Claims brought onboard to provide billing services for Middleton EMS. (Quick Med will be billing retro back to 10/1/2020)