

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF PEMBROKE, NH
October 5, 2022 at 6:30 PM**

Present: Selectman Richard Bean, Selectman Peter Gagy, Selectman Karen Yeaton, Selectman Rick Frederickson, Selectman Sandy Goulet

Staff: Town Administrator David Jodoin

I. Call to Order:

Chairman Yeaton called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

II. Citizens Comment:

None

III. Scheduled Meetings

Steve and Tammy Boucher - Purple Heart Discussion

Diane Schuett, Pembroke Street,

Tammy Boucher, 240 Alexander Drive, discussed her dad, Roy Edwin Annis, who served in WWII and is a Purple Heart Recipient. She is requesting he be recognized with a Purple Heart Sign on the Purple Heart Trail that runs through Town. Roy was a paratrooper and rifleman in the US Army Company E, 511th Parachute Infantry Regiment. Roy earned his Purple Heart after being shot while saving a comrade on Leyte Island in 1945 as well as a Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, and a Distinguished United States Badge. After returning home, Roy spent 35 years working at the Suncook Post Office. He also served on the Pembroke Board of Selectman, Planning Board, Budget Committee, and the Pembroke School Board.

Diane Schuett, Pembroke Street, explained the Purple Heart Trail runs along Route 3 and the Town can post a sign with Roy's name on it. Another option is designating Pembroke as a Purple Heart Community.

Rich Caruso, Allentown Resident, explained that in August, Allentown was designated a Purple Heart Community. The Select Board will need to approve a proclamation and declare themselves a Purple Heart Community. Signs would be allowed to go anywhere in town but any signs that are put up along State roads will need to be approved by the State. If the Town chooses to post a sign along the trail rather than a full community designation, it will not require a formal proclamation and Boucher's can do it themselves. Towns are allowed to put one sign in each direction and only one name is allowed to go on the sign. There is currently one

heading into Town from Route 106 but there is not a sign coming the other direction. The sign is \$60 and there are discounts available.

Trish Caruso, Allentown Resident, clarified that if they choose to do a Purple Heart Community, they can have as many signs as they want with names on them and they do not have to be on Route 3.

Selectman Goulet made a motion to become a Purple Heart Community. Selectman Gagyi seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

The Board will form a sub-committee to understand costs and reach out to the community to see if there are other Purple Heart Recipients. The Boucher's volunteered to be on that committee.

Chris Gamache – Discussion on meeting with Allentown Selectboard

David Jodoin and Chris Gamache, EMS Director, met with the Allentown Selectboard to discuss the letter that the Allentown Board set to the Town of Pembroke Board with their desire to eliminate the intermunicipal agreement for Ambulance service effective July 1, 2025.

David explained to them that the current structure is working well for both communities providing the best service available and also explained the dissolution process.

Chris explained in detail what services are provided by Tri-Town and how the budget is working for both Towns. The Selectboard had several questions for them but seemed firm in their decision.

David explained that he will be trying to schedule a special meeting for the EMS Board to discuss the 2023 proposed budget. Since the Allentown Board's message was clear to him that they are proceeding with the dissolution, it would be his opinion that the EMS Board should not look to purchase a new ambulance. He also does not want to set additional funds aside for projects and items that may not come to fruition which will have an overall effect of a decrease in both Pembroke and Allentown's planned appropriation for 2023. David read an email chain with Allentown's Fire Chief Lambert where they are requesting service contracts and a listing of assets.

Director Gamache discussed with them the potential budget for the new Allentown only service would be roughly \$1,275,000. They are projecting \$600,000 in revenues. When looking at their proposed staffing model, it is similar to the Town of Bow's service. Bow's annual budget is \$1,365,000. Allentown's current budget for their Fire Department and their Tri-Town Appropriation is roughly \$800,000. Chris feels confident in his analysis that a best-case scenario for Allentown is paying roughly \$230,000 more per year for less coverage. Their Fire Chief disagrees and is

confident in his projections. Chris believes that part of their purpose is to save their Fire Department which Chief Lambert was clear in his discussions at the Allenstown Board meeting on October 3rd that he is having problems with responding to calls.

Fire Chief Gagnon stated he spoke to the Fire Chief in Allenstown the day before the letter came and he cryptically said there are changes coming but the relationship between the two Towns needs to stay strong. He also shared they are missing 25-30% of their calls. They feel they can save the department by having two people on duty for ambulance/fire. Chief Gagnon has concerns about only having two people available to respond to fire and EMS calls and has no interest in providing EMS calls as part of Pembroke Fire.

Selectman Goulet asked what their response would be if in the near future Allenstown changed their minds. She went on to ask the other Board members if they also had a bad taste in their mouth on how this went down. The consensus was that there was.

David stated that Pembroke has to move forward that the intermunicipal agreement is ending and the Board needs to work on a plan that will benefit and cover the residents of Pembroke.

Chris suggested giving them a May 31, 2023 hard stop deadline for reconsideration. June is when the budget process for 2024 will begin. David shared concerns about giving them that long to decide because they need to purchase an ambulance and with the delivery dates being 18-24 months, it pushes that out further. Chris stated that 18-24 months' time frame is unlicensed and not outfitted so it is actually longer.

Selectman Goulet asked if there are contracts between Tri-Town with surrounding Towns. Chris explained they are a part of the Capital Area Mutual Aid. One of the comments that came from Allenstown was that they were abusing mutual aid and that Hooksett was also having problems with Candia in the fact that they were in Candia more than their own Town.

Chris Gamache shared his concerns that based on the way the conversations have been happening since the initial letter was sent, Allenstown is going to move on this quicker than the 2025 contract end date. Pembroke should set themselves up to be ready when Allenstown is ready. On January 6, 2022, Chris met with the Town Administrator the Chairman of the EMS Board Mike O'Meara and Chairman Scott Macdonald from Allenstown. They were discussing ways to grow the service and their commitment to Tri Town EMS. Chris felt confident in the direction the service was headed. When this letter was sent, they said they have been discussing this issue for 8 months. Which would be right after that meeting where they committed to the growth of the service. This has eroded his confidence in them keeping up their end of their end of the contract. Chief Gagnon stated that was also around the time their Board approved a renovation for bunk rooms in the second floor of their station and

the Selectman approved a purchase of a used ambulance. They have not purchased anything yet.

Selectman Goulet made a motion to request from the Town of Allenstown all copies of the minutes and business plan relating to the proposed ambulance service. Selectman Frederickson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Chris Gamache – 2023 Tri-Town EMS Budget

The budget will need to be revised to reflect the added costs of the dissolution. The Town Administrator will report back to the Board.

2023 Budget -Elected Officials, Town Administration, Auditing, Tax Collection, Information Systems, Budget Committee, Legal, Planning/Zoning, Health Administration, Welfare Administration, CAP Contribution, Direct Assistance Recreation Commission, Patriotic Purposes, Old Home Day, Christmas in the Village, Conservation Commission, Economic Development Committee, Debt Service

David shared some highlights from the 2023 budget:

- Dental is increasing 1.5% Health is going up 6.7%.
- This budget factors in putting a full-time person into the Clerk's office.
- There is still room for a part-time position in the Admin lines but whether or not that is filled depends on how it works out with full-time person.
- There is money added to the Election lines because they need new booths.
- Auditing Services lines have an increase because the Town might be required to do a single audit since over \$700,000 was received in federal money.
- 2023 is supposed to be a revaluation year. The Board will need to decide if they do it or put it off a year.
- General Government Buildings – the Town used to have a service to clean the buildings, but the Town hired a part-time person.
- Welfare Administration shows an increase for a cost-of-living adjustment in wages
- Recreation had a minor change for field maintenance.
- Conservation Commission has more in their legal lines for research with conservation deeds and surveying.
- Debt Service include the Main Street Project. This is the last year for the debt on the Safety Center and Library.
- \$826,850 for capital reserve funds deposits

IV. Old Business

None

V. New Business

Manifests/Abatements

Selectman Goulet made a motion to accept the manifests and abatements as presented. Selectman Bean seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Minutes - 9/21/22

Selectman Goulet made a motion to accept the minutes of September 21, 2022 as presented. Selectman Gagyi seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0. Selectman Goulet abstained.

VI. Town Administrator Report:

Two copiers are up for renewal. Right now, the Town pays \$331.04/month for both B&W machines. To get color, it would be \$336.96/month per machine. David is asking for one B&W downstairs and color for upstairs.

Selectman Goulet made a motion to waive bid requirements for photocopiers and enter into a contract with RICOH for one color copier and one black and white. Selectman Gagyi seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Stephen Reeve sent a letter requesting a permit to build a barn on his property at 733-749 Hardy Road which is a Class VI roadway.

Selectman Goulet made a motion to accept the letter into the record from Stephen Reeve for his property located at 733-749 Hardy Road and to forward it to the Planning Board and Safety Services for comment. Selectman Frederickson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

VII. Committee Reports:

Selectman Gagyi – None

Selectman Yeaton – Energy Committee had first public hearing at PA. Next one is on November 1st at 6:30pm.

Selectman Fredrickson – Planning discussed the plan for 98 Sheep Davis Road. Approved with some conditions. Lindy Street project is postponed. The Pembroke Hill wetlands crossing project was resubmitted.

Selectman Bean – Roads met regarding Hillcrest and Horse Corner Road. Both paving projects have been completed. Committee also discussed plowing of Main Street.

Selectman Goulet – None

VIII. Other Citizen Comment:

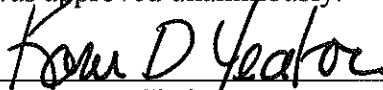
None

IX. Non- Public Session:

None

X. Adjourn:

Selectman Frederickson made a motion to adjourn at 8:49 PM. Selectman Gagyi seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen D Yeaton", written over a horizontal line.

Karen Yeaton, Chairman

For more detailed information, the meetings are now taped and can be seen on www.townhallstreams.com click on Pembroke NH and look for the day of the meeting under the month.