

**TOWN OF ALLENSTOWN  
TRI-TOWN BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
247 Pembroke Street  
Pembroke, New Hampshire 03275  
September 14, 2022**

**Call to Order**

The Allenstown Tri-Town Board of Directors Meeting of September 14, 2022 was called to order at 3:37 pm by Chair Jodoin.

**Roll Call**

Present on the Board: Robert Bourque (Pembroke), David Jodoin (Pembroke), Paul Gagnon (Pembroke Fire Chief), Chief Eric Lambert (Allenstown Fire Chief), Mark Solimanto (Citizen Rep, Allenstown), Derik Goodine

Also Present: Chris Gamache (Pembroke, Tri-Town Ambulance Director)

- **Approval of Minutes July 13, 2022**

Mr. Bourque made a Motion for Accounts Payable to approve the Minutes from July 13, 2022. Mr. Lambert seconded the Motion.

Roll Call vote was taken.

Robert Bourque - Aye

Paul Gagnon-Aye

David Jodoin – Aye

Eric Lambert- Aye

Mark Solimanto- Aye

The Motion was approved.

- **Approve Payroll/Expenditures**

Chair Jodoin said they have an Accounts Payable Manifest for September 13, 2022 in the amount of \$6,178.52; Payroll for August 25, 2022 and September 8, 2022.

Mr. Bourque made a Motion to approve Accounts Payable Manifest for September 13, 2022 in the amount of \$6,178.52; Payroll for August 25, 2022 and September 8, 2022. Mr. Gagnon seconded the Motion.

Roll Call vote was taken.

Robert Bourque - Aye  
Paul Gagnon-Aye  
David Jodoin – Aye  
Eric Lambert- Aye  
Mark Solimanto- Aye

The Motion was approved.

- **Old Business- Approval of 2023 Budget Review**

Director Gamache said the 2023 budget is \$1,191,133.00 of which \$75,000 is for CIP, which means an operating budget of \$1,116,131.00. The total increases over the 2022 budget is \$232,704 of which \$140,062 is for the funding of the second ambulance.

He said that leaves an increase of \$92,642. Of that, \$76,702 is for the pay equity increase that they approved a few months ago (2023 COLAS, merit and all associated fees). Which leaves increases to the rest of the budget of \$15,940 which is basically the health insurance, etc.

To keep both towns level funded so there is no increase in what the town's owe, because of unknowns and increases of revenues for next year, the loss in the budget through transfer of funds balance is at \$194,00 which is an increase of \$88,300. The intent is that most of it will be picked up by ambulance billing.

Director Gamache stated that he is proposing the following cuts to the budget

Mr. Bourque made a Motion to approve the 2023 budget in the amount of \$1,110,234 Mr. Gagnon seconded the Motion.

Robert Bourque - Aye  
Paul Gagnon-Aye  
David Jodoin – Aye  
Eric Lambert- Aye  
Mark Solimanto- Aye

The Motion was approved.

The Board discussed when they were meeting with the Budget Committee to go over their 2023 Budget at the Community Center.

- **New Business**

- **COMSTAR BILLING REPORT**

With regard to Comstar's billing report, Mr. Jodoin said he sent out the month of July and since then, August came in. He said July's revenues (total billings) were \$66,072.50. As compared to August with \$144,460.00.

Revenue for August was \$33,809.71. Billing was \$144,460.00 and write-offs for that month was \$47,261.10. He said, from there, they have an accounts' receivable balance of \$1,118,926.72 of which \$507,493.48 belongs to Allenstown. He said Pembroke is \$544,691.86, and the other communities are \$66,741.38.

Mr. Jodoin said that \$1,118,000 gets written off substantially by the auditors.

- **Director's Report (s)**

For the month of August, it was a busy month with a 141 runs, with 62 in Allenstown and another 59 in Pembroke. He said there were 72 transports with a transport percentage of 51.06% and they had quite a few public assists throughout the month. Of that 126 runs for Tri-Town, Mutual Aid was provided 20 times and they received it 15 times.

He said the big changes for the 2023 Budget, as that they removed the 53rd week from the pay period. They resent it and discussed it at the last meeting.

He said they worked with Sugarloaf Ambulance Rescue Vehicles and they have an updated ambulance spec. He said one of their ventilators was sent out for repair and has since returned to service so both are now up and running.

Mr. Gamache said the Town of Concord was notified last month about Tri-Town's plan regarding the second ambulance and they started that last Monday. He said today, they actually had both ambulances up for a critical call on North Pembroke Road.

He said on August 31, they received notification that the Town of Allenstown intends to terminate the contract with the Tri-Town Ambulance in July of 2025.

- **Purchase Orders**

None.

- **Other Business**

Mr. Jodoin said the lifespan of the two current trucks will be over in 2025. The Board discussed the current status of both Ambulance 3 and Ambulance 8 and how they would go forward with splitting any equipment or assets.

Mr. Jodoin said he would like to have the dissolution done by December 31, 2024. He said obviously they need to decide what happens with the ambulances. He said he doesn't know what the licensing requirements are or how long it will take to do the transition. He said both of those vehicles are registered with the Town of Pembroke and transferring those over for insurance purposes may not be difficult but he does not know what the other avenues are.

He said when they have this dissolution agreement set up, there has to be a clause that both communities are responsible from the date of inception to the date of termination any and all litigation. He wants to get this done as smooth as possible.

The Board discussed how they were going to deal with Comstar billing.

Mr. Gamache said they are going to replace everything in the truck when it comes in so in a 12 year period, everything is out of date and non-serviceable and he is in favor of service agreements. He said they have made their money back on every piece of equipment that they have had a service agreement on and it is all very expensive to maintain. However, the Service Agreements are starting to get very expensive.

He said if they were to continue down this road, he would recommend a power load on any ambulance they get will be in the same boat as everyone else. He said the power load, stretcher plus the Service Agreement for six years for 2023 numbers is \$79,000.00. He said the costs are just going to keep going up, and he doesn't agree with the dissolution and it is more economic to run more towns than less towns. He recommends that Allenstown talks to other Fire Departments.

Mr. Bourque said he would like to see the service continue as the two towns together. He doesn't think Allenstown leaving the service would be a good idea. He would ask them to reconsider.

Chief Lambert said he was asked to present something from the Allenstown Selectboard and he is just as surprised as they are. He acknowledged that their Fire Department is struggling to get themselves out the

door almost 25% of the time. The model they are considering will work better for them. He said that it was nothing against Tri Town but that he wants to go forward with no ill will.

Mr. Goodine invites Mr. Gamache to the Allenstown Selectboard meeting at any time to discuss further.

Mr. Jodoin wants everyone to know that running an ambulance service is not a money making opportunity and this will not sit well with some in both communities.

Next meeting is November 9, 2022.

Mr. Bourque made a Motion to adjourn. Mr. Gagnon seconded the Motion.

Roll Call vote was taken.

Robert Bourque - Aye

Paul Gagnon- Aye

David Jodoin – Aye

Eric Lambert- Aye

Mark Solimanto- Abstain

The Motion was approved.