



TRI-TOWN AMBULANCE

West Tisbury • Chilmark • Aquinnah

Chief Ben Retmier, Tri-Town Ambulance Chief
P.O. Box 457 West Tisbury, MA. 02575
PHONE/FAX: 508-693-4992
Email: ttemschieff@Vineyard.net

Tri-Town Ambulance Committee

September 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes - 2

Approved by the Committee 10/8/2019

In attendance

Committee Chair Warren Doty, Committee Member Cindy Mitchell, Chief Ben Retmier, Jeffrey Manter, Kent Healy, Bill Rossi, Jim Malkin, Chuck Hodgkinson, Manny Estrella, Sharon Estrella, Jennifer Rand, Bruce Stone, Gary Montrow, Dough Ruskin, Greg Orcutt, Clark Rattet, Alan Rugg, Tom Murphy, Susan Murphy, Bruce Golden, Jason Blandini, Matthew Montanile, Eamonn Solway, Adam Wilson, Belinda Booker, Erika Berg

Committee Chair Warren Doty called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

- **Discuss shared payment options among the three towns for the new TTA Headquarters that will be built on Middle Road in Chilmark**

Committee Chair Warren Doty opened the meeting advising the audience that the intention of this meeting is to spend one hour talking about the issues. Town of Chilmark has worked for years to try to solve the location issue for the fire house and ambulance building. Warren continued to provide some history on the efforts that have taken place to purchase an appropriate piece of land to accommodate such a project.

Committee Chair Warren Doty also informed the audience that at Chilmark Town Meeting the residents voted to purchase the land behind town hall and appropriated the \$900,000.00 for that purchase. The closing is expected to occur next Monday.

Chilmark is dedicated to the idea that they are building two buildings next to town hall and the focus tonight is how to pay for the ambulance facility.

Prior to audience participation the committee and Chief Retmier explained the make up of the governing board of the TTA Committee. Committee members and the Chief also offered that the Committee thought a one third, one third, one third cost split of building costs seemed to make sense.

The meeting conversation was now opened up to public comment.

Questions and comments among audience and Committee are as follows:

- Building committee member stated that its imperative to resolve the funding issue before going forward with the architectural plan process, as work can not continue until this is resolved.
- Question on what agreement(s) the town have between each other. Committee Chair Warren Doty provided feedback regarding the MOU that's in place between the three towns.
- Question on how the finances are handled - who signs the checks, how much money is in the bank etc. Committee Chair Warren Doty explained that Town of Chilmark is the fiduciary agent for the TTA Operation. The treasurer and accountant work closely with the service to accurately keep the accounts.
- Comment that historically each town has housed an ambulance in their own town and none of the costs have been part of the TTA budget. In response Committee Chair Warren Doty advised that the cost of administration provided by Town of Chilmark has never been billed out.
- Question on cost of facility - Committee Chair Warren Doty advised that the estimated cost of the facility is \$2,000,000.00 and the cost per square foot is \$375.00 (with soft costs added in that gets closer to \$500.00/sq ft). This estimate does not include cost of land.
- Idea is to float a bond for 15 years at 3% - or an estimated annual cost to each town of \$64,000.00
- Committee Member Cindy Mitchell provide information on revenue's and informed audience that TTA receives about \$250,000.00 annually from insurance payments. Some of these funds could possibly be applied to the debt service.
- Should Tri-Town Ambulance own the building - group conversation on how that would work.
- Process question on how this will ultimately be decided. Committee Member and Committee Chair explained that this will go to each towns Board of Selectmen and then to vote.
- The TTA Committee is unanimous at least as a starting point for discussion with their boards of selectmen to have each town pay one third cost of the building

- **Adjournment**

Committee member Committee Chair Warren Doty motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 pm and Committee member Cindy Mitchell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Prepared by: _____
Allison Graczykowski Administrative Assistant