



# **TRI-TOWN AMBULANCE**

## **West Tisbury • Chilmark • Aquinnah**

**Chief Ben Retmier**, Tri-Town Ambulance Chief  
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### **Tri-Town Ambulance Committee**

### **November 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes 12:00 P.M.**

### **Approved by the Committee December 10, 2019**

Committee Chair Warren Doty called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

#### **In attendance**

Committee Chair Warren Doty, Committee Member Cindy Mitchell, Committee Member Jim Newman, Chief Ben Retmier, Administrative Assistant Allison Graczykowski

- **Approval of October 8th, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Committee Member Jim Newman motioned to approve meeting minutes from October 8th, 2019 as written. Committee member Cindy Mitchell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Old Business**

- **New Business**

- **TTA Chief report**

### **Three Month Review**

Chief Retmier shared that from August 19th 2019 to November 19, 2019, Tri-Town Ambulance had a total of 93 incidents. Last year for this same period, there were 95 incidents.

The year to date total thus far for 2019 is 346 incidents. At the same time last year Tri-Town Ambulance had 342 incidents.

### **Discussion of Full Time EMT's**

After speaking with his counterparts, full time staff and volunteer staff, Chief Retmier said there was pushback and concern from folks that going to full time EMT's would take away from Tri-Town's culture. The first thought was to pay volunteer staff an hourly rate. After discussing this idea with Chilmark Chief Retmier was advised that he'd need to limit hours to 19 per week and that it's difficult to manage. Without drastically changing culture his thought for FY2021 is to increase stipends with hope of obtaining seasonal certification and paying hourly during the summer.

With this being said, salary increases for budget year FY2021, shows a large increase for night shift EMT. Current stipend is \$130.00. This stipend hasn't been increased in 5-6 years. The off season EMT is currently \$110.00 for an off-season shift. In an effort to entice folks to sign up for these shifts he'd like to consider increasing the off season EMT stipend to \$225.00.

Chief Retmier offered that adding two full time EMT's would be a budget increase of approximately \$200,000 per year.

If TTA was to increase stipends for off season and night EMT's the annual budget increase would be approximately \$100,000.00.

Chief Retmier would like to try this for a year. However, if there continues to be a problem filling shifts, he'll need to look at full time EMT's for the next

fiscal year. His priority is ensuring that they can respond appropriately to all 911 calls.

The Committee unanimously approves of the thought process and decision to increase stipend pay for fiscal year 2021 understanding that if it's problematic to fill shifts that full time EMT's will be on the table for fiscal year 2022.

### **Dukes County Retirement**

Committee Chair Warren Doty advised that the Town accountant determined that each town owes an additional \$94,000.00 for the retirement account for TTA employees.

The Committee discussed how this debt should be paid back and considered ideas such as building a payment schedule over a period of time.

Chief Retmier will put together a proposal and work with Town Administrator Tim Carroll and share the proposal with the Committee for input at the December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Building Committee Update**

Chief Retmier shared that things are going really well with the building committee.

Tuesday, there was a site walk through with three architects and a project manager has been hired.

Three architects will be selected for an interview in December and if all goes well the hope is to have a building design for the April Town Meeting.

## **FY2021 Budget**

Chief Retmier shared that in prior years, that vehicle maintenance has been over budgeted so he's decreased that line item for fiscal year 2021.

Yellow line items such as OPEB and health insurance are out of his control.

Chief Retmier states that for the first draft run thru, the total budget increase is 9.89% and it's an 11.8 increase to town assessments. This is due to salary increases.

It's notable that approximately 80% of the salary increase is due to increasing stipend pay.

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- **Comstar Update**

Collections continue to go well.

- **Next Meeting Date**

Tuesday December 10th 12:00 pm.

- **Adjournment**

Committee Chair Warren Doty motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:53 pm and Committee Member Cindy Mitchell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Allison Graczykowski Administrative Assistant