

Selectboard Minutes
May 5, 2021

Meeting opened at 6:30pm

Present: Judith Hoag, Chair; Ann Marie Visconti; Tonya Santaniello
Duane Pease, Town Administrator (TA); Angela Mulkerin, Director of Hilltown
Community Ambulance (HCAA); Members of Fire Dept.: Ron Radwich; Larry
Pease; Crystal Kruzyna and Diane Lewis.

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$17,337.88; Expenses: \$11,795.41
Minutes reviewed and approved with changes on motion by Judy, Tonya 2nd; vote
3-0.

Town Clerk presented Caucus Warrant for board to sign, signed by board
members.

Angela Mulkerin presented HCAA proposal for providing service to Middlefield.
Angela has been a paramedic for 13 years and at HCAA for 7 years. She said
HCAA has contracts with all 6 towns they provided service to and the contract
requires 66% of shifts to be at the paramedic level and currently they are at 80%.
In 2020 they received 708 calls and were able to answer 94% of them with only
6% passed to their mutual aid coverage departments. They provide staffed
coverages 24 hours/day. Angela stated there is a difference between EMS and
Paramedic service; paramedic service can administer a variety of meds for various
health and trauma injuries prior to arrival at the hospital, can discuss case remotely
with doctor and treat appropriately. EMS cannot administer meds.

HCAA has an annual budget of \$690,000 with 34% coming from member towns
and the balance from service billings. HCAA also has an Internship Program
associated with Gateway high School, are involved with community activities with
COA's, give instruction in CPR/First Responders, work with the Worthington and
Huntington Health Centers and provide training to the fire departments. They also
have a subscription program, this allows members to have any charges not covered
by insurance to be waived, the program costs are: \$50 for single; \$70 for couple
and \$90 for family. The 6 towns covered are billed on a per capita basis, currently
it is \$24.24, there is also an additional \$1.99/capita charge for ambulance upgrade.
The cost to Middlefield would be at a reduced rate of \$17.24 for the first year
(\$9,214) and then an increase of 2% for the next two years and the fourth year
would be the same rate as the other 6 towns.

Judy asked what the yearly increases are and was told they average around 2% a year. She also questioned if the ambulance was not available, who would respond, Angela said an ambulance would be sent from a mutual aid provider closest to the call. HCAA has signed contracts with their mutual aid partners to provide coverage. Also, if the ambulance is staffed by EMT's and the call requires Paramedic care and intercept it arranged with a paramedic ambulance.

Crystal said from her experience, Hinsdale does a good job even though they are not staffed and respond on a volunteer basis. Ann Marie said she had talked with our State Rep., Natalie Blais and discussed regionalization of the services. There was continued discussion regarding the ambulance services provided to the town, regionalization and options for residents when it came to choosing a hospital as Hinsdale only goes to Berkshire Medical Center while HCAA goes to the 6 area hospitals. Angela was thanked for her presentation.

Mail: FRCOG sent letter requiring a contact for the bids, Highway Superintendent, Skip Savery, was designated and form will be emailed back.

MFD letter supporting Hinsdale was reviewed and discussed. Judy also said she mentioned the ambulance issue at the Senior Center and most there felt they were okay with the present ambulance. Diane said that Ron should speak with the Hinsdale chief about possible regionalization.

TA advised he would be posting bid requests for diesel, propane and heating oil in the Country Journal. Also, Chester Electric is going to replace the pump at their gas tank and was looking for a contribution on the repairs. This is where Middlefield obtains their gas for the Police Cruisers, new pick-up truck, chain saws, lawn mowers, pumps, etc. TA will get a firm price and advise board.

Judy motioned to adjourn, Tonya 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Judith Hoag, Chair

Ann Marie Visconti

Tonya Santaniello