



## Selectmen's Meeting Summary December 12, 2019

Chairman Ken Ross-Raymond	Present
Selectman John W. Herbert	Present
Selectman Jim Hoyt	Present
Town Administrator April Rollins	Absent
Municipal Assistant Jill Colardeau	Present

**Visitors:** Chief Bill MacDuffie, Jr., Deputy Chief Joshua Nixon, Penacook Rescue Chief Shawn Bretchel, and Marcia Murphy.

Chairman Ross-Raymond opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

### **Emergency Medical Services: Discussion of Emergency Medical Response Incident –**

- The Town of Salisbury is contracted with Penacook Rescue to respond to and provide transports for BLS, (Basic Life Support), and ALS, (Advanced Life Support), to Salisbury citizens after many meetings with Penacook Rescue and other town officials.
- Chair Ross-Raymond noted the Select Board wanted to meet, not over the recent contract with Penacook Rescue, but about questions and comments brought to his attention by a resident. Chair Ross-Raymond noted a resident contacted him with concerns regarding a medical emergency response on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> and the ambulance was not brought to the scene. He noted he wanted to meet with everyone involved for information in order to answer questions and be able to relay this information to the resident. He noted going forward he will refer any future questions or comments to either Chief MacDuffie, Jr. and Deputy Chief Nixon.
- Chief MacDuffie, Jr. noted Penacook Rescue does the majority of our transports and it has been close to a year since Salisbury has done a transport. He noted once a call is received the Salisbury Fire & Rescue and Penacook Rescue are both on their way to the scene.
- Selectman Hoyt noted of the three volunteers responding, one was qualified to give medical assistance and questioned why the ambulance was not picked up first before going to the scene.
- Deputy Chief Nixon noted the call came through as a Delta level, which is the next to the last severe determinant. Upon hearing of a pediatric in respiratory distress and as Deputy Chief he knew he could possibly save a life if he stopped at the scene to administer rescue breathing first. Otherwise, he would have to pass the scene in order to get the ambulance and then return to the scene. He was able to stabilize the child and Penacook Rescue was informed the patient was now a Status 3 and in stable condition. He noted the weather and roads were not very good that evening due to the snowstorm.
- Both Chair Ross-Raymond, Chief MacDuffie and Deputy Chief Nixon noted volunteerism has dwindled over the last decade in Salisbury and nationwide. Due to low numbers of volunteers, our Fire & Rescue Department could not ensure a response to every medical emergency so the Town contracted with Penacook Rescue to respond and transport medical emergencies. Salisbury EMS members still respond to medical emergencies and assist Penacook Rescue with whatever is needed for patient care. NH State laws states an ambulance is not supposed to respond and transport unless there are two licensed members on board. Often times, Salisbury may only have one member responding to provide care prior to Penacook Rescues arrival. He noted the department would love more volunteer EMT's. There are 140 hours of training involved and 40 hours of continuing education every year. The Fire & Rescue department has had many campaigns encouraging people to sign up as volunteers.
- Deputy Chief Nixon noted the Fire Department has a current roster of 20 members. Of those, about half are active, 5 are semi-active, and 5 are inactive. Currently 10 members are licensed at various levels to provide

BLS (Basic Life Support) care. Of these 10 members, 5 - 6 are active, 1 - 2 are semi-active and 2 are inactive having not responded to a medical emergency this year. The Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department does not have any volunteers that are Paramedics. Of the active EMT members, two are full-time fire fighters working shift work and one member is a hospital emergency room nurse working various shifts.

- Citizens of Salisbury may ask “Why do we have an ambulance that we are paying taxes on?” Penacook Rescue provides services to the towns of Salisbury, Canterbury and Boscawen and responds to Concord under a Mutual Aid Agreement. Of those two ambulances, only one is staffed. If the first ambulance is responding to another emergency call and no personnel are available for the second ambulance then an ambulance from Franklin Fire, Hopkinton or Concord would respond, meaning delayed care. By keeping an ambulance in Salisbury we are still able to respond to calls, hopefully with two members, to transport patients or at least administer emergency care until an ambulance arrives.
- Chief MacDuffie, Jr. noted our ambulance is over 15 years old and barely passed inspection this year. It was due to be replaced last year. The Town is looking into a used ambulance for a fraction of the cost of a new one. Shawn Bretchtel noted the cost of a new ambulance for Penacook Rescue is \$193,000 and change.
- Deputy Chief Nixon noted factors in response times. A volunteer EMT responds either from home or work. Calls come at all times of the day and night and in all kinds of conditions; weather being a major factor. A responder must be able to arrive safely in order to benefit the patient and save a life. Volunteers do not do this for the money or glory, since it is a volunteer position. They do so because of a genuine desire to help the residents of the Town. Even though a hand shake or thank you is appreciated it is not necessary. It can be discouraging to the morale of the Fire & Rescue Department making them wonder, “Why do I continue to volunteer?”
- The Select Board noted their appreciation and support to Chief MacDuffie, Jr., Deputy Chief Nixon and all the volunteers of the Fire & Rescue Department for volunteering their time, skills and service for Salisbury residents.
- Deputy Nixon noted if anyone has any questions, concerns, or complaints he would welcome them to contact him or Chief MacDuffie, Jr. to answer their any and all questions and concerns.
- Selectman Hoyt asked if the Town of Salisbury has any programs or if there are any organizations around to help families out in need of Christmas gifts for their children. Selectman Herbert noted the Town Administrator is also the Welfare Officer and we have a welfare budget. Chair Ross-Raymond noted this budget is generally used for heating fuel, food, etc.... Deputy Chief Nixon noted the Marines do the Toys for Tots, WMUR TV has a toy drive, Friends of Forgotten Children and Angel Trees. Marcia Murphy noted the Town of Boscawen has an Angel Tree where people can choose an item off the tree, purchase the gift and donate the gift to a child. MA Colardeau noted an organization called KREM, Kearsarge Regional Ecumenical Ministries, located in New London services the Town Salisbury. The Town of Salisbury is involved with distributing Holiday Food Baskets for some residents.
- **Public Comments:** Nothing noted.

**Chair Ross-Raymond made a motion to adjourn at 7:30 PM. Selectman Herbert seconded. All voted in favor.**

Respectfully submitted:

Jill Colardeau, Municipal Assistant

Meeting Summary reviewed and accepted at the December 18, 2019 meeting.

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Selectmen, Town of Salisbury

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