

Mike advised that Dan has been exploring the possibility of having calls dispatched for the northern tier of Westford through Essex rather than St. Albans. If Essex is amenable, the Town of Westford would purchase the equipment for approximately \$2,000, which would be a significant savings to the Town. John will contact Essex.

John advised that residents were told when the switch was made to split the town between Fairfax and Essex that 99% of the time they would be transported to their hospital of choice. He knows of at least two cases where this was not the case. The Town has sent a letter to the medical director informing him of the Town's desire of FAHC being the default hospital for residents served by Fairfax Rescue. Residents prefer FAHC due to it being a trauma unit. John provided a map to show the area of Westford affected by the protocol in place which enables hospital choice if the difference between two hospitals is 10 minutes or less.

Based on call response reports, Mike advised that 96% of those in need of transport services by Fairfax Rescue were taken to their hospital of choice. He is aware of two patients who requested FAHC but were not taken there until after they arrived at NMC. He feels this is two too many however it was a decision made by the medical director on duty, not Fairfax Rescue. Since July 2009, requests to transport to FAHC have not been declined. Conrad Racine asked how much time was lost as a result of the redirection. Mike estimated 55 minutes. Mike added that in most cases the medical director on duty is part of the emergency care unit at NMC. Occasionally, a private practice physician may fill in due to vacations, etc.

The Board wants to pursue establishing FAHC as the default hospital. John will request attendance at the next District 1 meeting and meet with the medical director. Mike advised that this issue may need to be addressed at the State level.

Conrad Racine thanked the Board for taking this issue seriously. He would like to know how much time the Board will spend on pursuing this matter until it decides it may need to break its contract with Fairfax Rescue if the request for FAHC be designated as the default hospital is not resolved. The Board would like it resolved by the end of the fiscal year.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN UPDATE

Erik Brennan and Maurice Rathbun met with the Board to discuss the status of the Emergency Operations Plan. They met with the Regional Planning Commission early summer to draft a plan. RPC was supposed to forward it however Erik has not received the draft. Unfortunately, Erik's computer crashed and he has not been able to retrieve emails and documents pertaining to the draft. The other residents appointed by the Selectboard to serve on the committee have not been responsive to correspondence from Erik. John will contact RPC to find out if they still have a copy of the draft. If not, he will ask if they have a good template to work with or possibly use Underhill's plan.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was read. The Board would like to meet with Comcast to discuss courtesy Internet and cable services for the town office and library and hopefully get answers to PEG Access questions.

MINUTES

Bob Bancroft made a motion to approve the minutes of December 3, 2009 as amended, seconded by Dave Tilton. Motion passed 3-0.

SCHOOL BUS TURNAROUNDS

Nanette advised the Board that people are being instructed to call the town office when there is a problem with a school bus turnaround. The Board feels that issues concerning school bus turnarounds should be handled by the school. The only time the Town may be involved is if the school bus is using a turnaround which is owned and maintained by the Town. A letter will be drafted to CCR and presented to the School Board for their input.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

The Board reviewed the Road Foreman's highway budget request and reviewed the draft budget presented by the Treasurer.

ADJOURN

Dave Tilton made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bob Bancroft. Motion passed: 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Quinn, Chair
Westford Selectboard

Nanette Rogers
Town Clerk