

TOWN OF SEABROOK

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

JANUARY 24, 2014

Present: Aboul B. Khan
Edward J. Hess, Jr.
Raymond Smith
William Manzi

10:00AM

Mr. Khan opened the meeting at 10:05AM.

Mr. Manzi explained why they were here today and the reason for the public hearing. He said they have been working with Comstar to modify the rates and bring additional revenue to the Town. Support letters have been provided by the Fire Chief, Fire Union and former Fire Chief Jeff Brown.

PUBLIC HEARING - AMBULANCE RATE INCREASE

Mr. Khan opened the hearing at 10:10AM. Jeff Brown was present for this hearing. Mr. Brown said since they started the billing process with Comstar they had a lower rate even with the Medicare +5. All other towns have been charging the Medicare +5 and he feels the town should do the same.

Mr. Manzi said the town would see an additional \$60K per year with this proposed new rate change. He feels with a little more effort it could be a little more. He said the services wouldn't change for the residents; this would only impact the insurance companies. Mr. Manzi recommends the Board adopt the increase.

Mr. Brown said the only impact would be a positive one to the taxpayers. The new rate is with the insurance companies but this would not impact their insurance bill as it is already a service provided through the insurance companies.

Mr. Brown said since this was instituted back in 2007 they have purchased 3 ambulances, which has saved the taxpayers over \$600K. They also had expenditures to run the ambulance service and said with those expenditures included it would have been well over \$1 million, which the taxpayers did not have to fund.

Mr. Brown explained how the billing service works and who receives a bill. If they are a Seabrook resident the only cost is to the insurance company, if they have no insurance or have a co-pay the Seabrook resident does not pay it. Mr. Brown explained the Medicare 150 which is 150% of what the base is that Medicare will pay. There was further discussion and explanation on this. He said Comstar has been recommending this increase yearly but the Town has not done it. The Town will

look into doing this yearly, which will require a public hearing.

Mr. Khan asked about billing the Town employees and the insurance if it meets the deductible. Mr. Manzi said they would look into this and report back to the Selectmen.

MOTION: Edward J. Hess, Jr. To approve the rate
 Second: Raymond Smith increase with the
 Unanimous consideration that the
 taxpayers do not see any
 bills but will bring in
 additional revenue.

WARRANT

Warrant articles were read into the record from each Selectman.

Mr. Khan asked that the Board make a recommendation on articles 2, 3 and 4, which are the planning board articles.

MOTION: Aboul B. Khan To recommend articles
 Second: Edward J. Hess, Jr. 2, 3 and 4.
 Unanimous

Article 9 - Tax Stabilization Fund - Attorney Ciandella is recommending the Board of Selectmen make a recommendation.

MOTION: Aboul B. Khan To recommend article 9.
 Second: Edward J. Hess, Jr.
 Unanimous

After article 40 Mr. Khan asked the Board to re-open article 40 - Community Home Solutions funding.

MOTION: Raymond Smith To re-open article 40.
 Second: Edward J. Hess, Jr.
 Unanimous

Mr. Khan would like to give his support on this article after getting some further information on this.

MOTION: Aboul B. Khan To recommend article 40.
 Second: Raymond Smith
 Unanimous

Mr. Khan said that at the final budget hearing on Monday, January 20 there was heated discussion on article 14, which is the ladder truck for the fire department. He is urging voters

to support this article and asking the other members of the Board to urge the voters to support. Mr. Khan said this is an important item for the Town and for the safety of the fire department personnel.

Mr. Hess said he understands that the homeowner's insurance policy could be affected by this by about 5%. He is also urging the voters to support this article.

Mr. Smith said he is in support of anything that protects the employees and residents of Seabrook.

MOTION: Aboul B. Khan To approve and sign the
Second: Edward J. Hess, Jr. warrant for posting.
Unanimous

MOTION: Aboul B. Khan To adjourn the meeting
Second: Edward J. Hess, Jr. at 11:15AM.
Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 11:15AM.
Minutes taken by Kelly J. O'Connor

Approved and endorsed

Raymond Smith, Clerk

Date: _____