

Preston Emergency Services Advisory Committee

January, 11th 2021

Regular Meeting Minutes

1. Roll Call:

Co-Chairman David Paige called the teleconference to order at 6:38pm.

Members Present: David Paige, Jim Bell, Tom Casey, Russ Holland, and Jarred Harris.

Members Absent: None

2. Reading of Previous Minutes:

The minutes from the October 13th meeting were read. Chief Casey requested an edit in Grants. The new extrication tools have been purchased and are in service. A motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Tom Casey. Seconded by Russ Holland. Motion carried.

3. Communications

None

4. Poquetanuck Ambulance Update

Russ Holland reported that yearly income totals are down \$2300 from the previous year. Russ reported he requested a five year audit of the town's account. Poquetanuck has received two and a half years' worth of that audit. Russ informed PESAC that a \$15,000 check had been sent from POQ Ambulance to the town's EMS capital account and has yet to be deposited.

POQ Ambulance has not paid the current amount due to the town while they wait for the results of the five-year audit. The ambulance adds \$75,000 a year for paid staffing.

Chief Casey reported the total number of calls have decreased due to COVID; this equals less income from the ambulance.

Chief Casey stated that last year four ambulance calls went to mutual aid due to no crew and nine calls due to crews being engaged in simultaneous emergencies. While this is a great improvement, we still need to cover these calls.

Jarred Harris asked if the ambulance fund still supported quarterly funds to the departments in lieu of fund raising as set forth by the original contract held with the town. Russ answered: No funding is going to the departments to date, and there is no longer an incentive program in place for volunteers.

5. Grants

Chief Casey reported last year's funds awarded by the Fire Act Grant have been utilized. Preston Emergency Services was awarded \$120,000 with a \$6000 town match requirement.

Chief Casey reported last year's application for the Safer Act Grant was denied and PFES will reapply for this year's grant.

Chief Casey stated PFES was also denied last year's (AFG) Assistance to Firefighters Grants. The application was for the purchase of an automated compression machine to assist with CPR patients. PFES will apply again this year if approved by the town to do so.

6. Preston Riverwalk Emergency Services

Chief questioned if the fire departments can utilize the clean spaces for training? Jim Bell will ask at Monday night's PRA meeting.

7. Public Safety Manning

Chief Casey has moved an ambulance to Preston City Station with paid staff when available.

Chief Casey requested PESAC's support in his future request to the town for the purchase of an emergency response SUV. The current response vehicle has more than 200,000 miles on it.

Jarred Harris made the motion to support Chief Casey in his bid to request the purchase of an SUV in the 2021-2022 budget. Motion was seconded by Jim Bell. Motion passed unanimously.

Chief Casey requested PESAC's support in his request to the town for the addition of a full time paid staff member to the 2021-2022 budget. This will ensure that all shifts will be covered.

Jarred Harris made the motion to support Chief Casey in his request to the town for the addition of a full time paid staff member to the 2021-2022 budget. Motion was seconded by Jim Bell. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Old Business

Chief Casey would like to continue discussions about combining the three departments, which has been stalled due to COVID.

9. New Business

Chief Casey reported that we've had several positive cases within the department.

Chief Casey stated he will be retiring this year in the late fall/early winter.

Jarred Harris asked if the safety committee will be involved in the hiring process. Dave Paige indicated we did in the past and that he would ask the First Selectwoman if she wishes the committee to participate.

10. Public Comment

None

11. Agenda for the April 12th meeting

1. Roll Call
2. Reading of Previous Minutes
3. Communications
4. Poquetanuck Ambulance Update
5. Grants Update
6. Preston Riverwalk Emergency Services
7. Public Safety Manning
8. Unfinished Business
9. New Business
10. Public Comment
11. Agenda for Next Meeting
12. Executive Session (if required)
13. Adjournment

12. Adjourned

The motion to adjourn was made by Tom Casey, seconded by Russ Holland, and approved by the members at 7:14pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jarred J. Harris

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PESAC Secretary