

# Preston Emergency Services Advisory Committee

April 12<sup>th</sup> 2021

## Regular Meeting Minutes

### **1. Roll Call:**

Co-Chairman David Paige called the teleconference to order at 6:33pm.

Members Present: David Paige, Jim Bell, PES Chief Tom Casey, PQVFD Deputy Chief Russ Holland, and PCVFD Deputy Chief Jarred Harris.

Members Absent: None

### **2. Reading of Previous Minutes:**

The minutes from the January 11, 2021 meeting were read. Two amendments were noted. Adding the year 2020 to the meeting date and correcting the amount Poquetanuck ambulance fund contributes annually from \$75,000 to \$70,000. A motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Tom Casey and seconded by Russ Holland. Motion carried.

### **3. Communications**

The committee received three communications:

1. The Board of finance requested our annual report by April 19, 2021. Dave will take care of the report and submit it.
2. We received information pertaining to the Freedom of Information Act which Dave Paige participated in.
3. Email from Nancy Musa regarding Code of Ethics. Review of COE training required of all members and Form C to verify completion to be filed with Town Clerk. Sexual Harassment training is mandatory for paid employees, optional for committee members.

### **4. Poquetanuck Ambulance Update**

Deputy Chief Russ Holland reported a payment of \$35,000 was made to Preston's General fund earlier this month. The \$35,000 completes his department's obligation of paying \$70,000 a year to offset some of the cost of paid staffing. Their obligation is fulfilled until June of 2021.

Russ stated a new \$15,000 check has been issued and sent to the town in order to replace the previously lost or misplaced one. This check along with the first installment of \$35,000 from last year had not been cashed to date. Russ is working with Nancy to correct the balances and hopes to have it completed by the end of this month.

## **5. Grants**

Chief Casey reported PFES will be applying for the Safer Act Grant again this year.

Chief Casey stated PFES will again be applying for this year's (AFG) Assistance to Firefighters Grant. One option the group is exploring for the grant request is an automated compression machine to assist with CPR patients.

## **6. Preston Riverwalk Emergency Services**

James Bell updated the committee on the status of the anticipated construction on the site.

## **7. Public Safety Manning**

Chief Casey expressed moving an ambulance to Preston City Station is working out very well. When staffing and funding allows for it, a paid staff member has been stationed at the PC fire house. This move has reduced the average response times down to approximately three minutes.

Chief Casey presented two proposals to the BOS for additional staffing to ensure all shifts are covered:

1. Adding one full time paid staff member.
2. Adding funding for per diem staffing.

The committee unanimously voted to recommend to the BoS the funding of paid and/or paid part-time (per diem) firefighter/emt staffing, and to consider using American Rescue Plan funding for that purpose.

## **8. Old Business**

Chief Casey would like to continue discussions about combining the three departments.

## **9. New Business**

Chief Casey asked if the committee had received any communication from the BOS in regard to hiring a new Chief. Dave reported we have not but anticipates the request soon.

Dave Paige suggestion PESAC send a letter to the BOS recommending they investigate the possibility of using funds from the American Rescue Plan Act to pay for staffing of the two fire stations.

**10. Public Comment**

None

**11. Agenda for the July 12<sup>th</sup> 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  
Jarred J. Harris  
PESAC Secretary