



Select Board

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Select Board Special Meeting Minutes April 11, 2024

Quorum present: Select Board Members; Kathleen Keresey (Remotely attended), Chair, Andrew Krouss, Andrew Potter, and Town Administrator Marie Ryan.

Kathleen opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Citizen Speak:

Several members of the Fire Department voiced their opinions about a shared service for Fire and EMS with Stockbridge and urged the Board to continue to work with Richmond on shared services.

EMS and Fire Department Survey Results by JB Consulting – Jeff Blanchard

Before Jeff discussed the results of the data survey, Kathleen spoke to the audience. She explained that this presentation is in response to conversations between Richmond, West Stockbridge and Stockbridge in regard to possible shared services for EMS and Fire Departments. She noted that she and Neal Pilson, Richmond Selectmen, met with Stockbridge officials to discuss a possible shared department along with hiring JB Consulting to create a survey to show calls and response times for all three communities. West Stockbridge voted to proceed with hiring JB Consulting however, Richmond did not choose to move forward with the study. West Stockbridge is now trying to determine how best to move forward either with remaining a shared service with Richmond or create a new shared service with Stockbridge. She stressed that the results of this survey are only a start to any discussion on how to move forward.

Kathleen then introduced Jeff Blanchard of JB Consulting. Jeff began by stating that there is no statewide benchmark for response times and that all Towns have different situations. The standard that most towns use is that 80% of the calls should have a response time within 20 minutes. He said that each community needs to determine what standard response time they want to set for their Town.

Jeff created three models to use with working on the data. The models were; the current shared service with Richmond (model 0), a shared service with Stockbridge and the EMS

station located at the current Stockbridge Fire Department on Main Street (model 1), Stockbridge, and the last model is a shared service with Stockbridge and a new EMS/Fire Station located on Route 102 near the Botanical Garden (model 2).

The results show that a majority of calls come from the center of the Towns of West Stockbridge and Stockbridge. The results of the survey clearly show a quicker response time in model 2, West Stockbridge in a shared service with Stockbridge with a new station located near the Botanical Garden on Route 102. The results take into account that the current Richmond/West Stockbridge EMS only has part-time coverage at their station Monday through Friday 8 AM – 4 PM. Results could be different with a much quicker response time if the Richmond/West Stockbridge EMS service changes to full-time coverage.

The Board will need to determine what works best for the residents with regard to response times for EMS and Fire services. The Board thanked Jeff for his presentation and will have more discussions on how to proceed during future meetings.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Potter, to adjourn at 7:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

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Town Administrator