

*Town of Atkinson
Board of Selectmen
Dispatch Workshop
Monday November 2, 2015*

MINUTES

Open Meeting:

Chairman W. Baldwin opened a Workshop to discuss dispatch services for 2016, at 7:01 PM on Monday, November 2, 015.

Members Present:

W. Baldwin, Chairman
P. Consentino
W. Friel
J. Grosky (arr. 7:20 PM)
H. Morse

Others Present:

A. Brackett, Police Chief
M. Murphy, Fire Chief
B. Snicer, Assistant Town Administrator

Discussion: This workshop is intended to get input from, and discuss with, the Fire Chief and the Police Chief regarding dispatch services for their departments and the Town of Atkinson. The two organizations being considered for hosting this service are the incumbent, the Plaistow Police Department and the Rockingham County Dispatch Center.

- Mike stated that Rockingham has an emergency management grant of \$1M to upgrade their dispatch station infrastructure and have budgeted for an additional dispatcher for 2016. However, the advantage of staying with Plaistow is that they will “tone out” a call giving the AFD a two (2) minute advantage allowing emergency services to respond more quickly, an advantage that could save lives and property
- Mike presented an analysis of the cost to go with the Derry dispatch center as recommended by a Town resident. The cost was for the FD only (Derry has no interest in dispatching the PD) and was comparable to what the Town currently pays Plaistow for dispatching both the PD and FD.
- Al’s concern with Plaistow is that, if we have a critical incident, the Plaistow dispatch center would not be able to handle the volume of calls that would accompany the emergency. An example would be an active shooter incident at Atkinson Academy. The volume of calls from concerned parents would overwhelm the Plaistow dispatch center making it difficult to coordinate the emergency response from police, fire, etc. If Rockingham were to manage the call they would dedicate a frequency and multiple dispatchers to emergency response to the situation. Plaistow would not be able to do this.
- Bill Friel stated that life safety is the most important consideration in this process. Mike stated that he didn’t think there would be an advantage in splitting dispatch centers, e.g., PD to Rockingham and FD to Plaistow.
- Al said he felt that it didn’t make a difference if the PD and FD were serviced by different dispatch centers.

- Jason Grosky asked where the original contract costs came from – how were they derived. No one had an answer to this question.
- Bill Friel asked the difference between the contract and the addendum. The addendum provides new pricing if we extend the current contract with Plaistow.
- Mike asked what percent of the budget the \$40k contract would be. The answer is approximately 1%.
- Mike stated the Atkinson PD/FD have their own frequency.
- Al stated that he has changes to the contract that he would like to recommend. The Board was receptive to this.
- Harold Morse asked what the cost to the Town would be if the PD was dispatched by Rockingham and the FD remained with Plaistow
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Bill Friel volunteered to negotiate the contract with Plaistow and get answers to some of the questions asked in this meeting. The Board supported Mr. Friel taking on this responsibility.

The workshop was adjourned at 7:45 PM

Respectfully submitted
Barbara Snicer

Bill Baldwin

Bill Friel

Jason Grosky

Harold Morse

Phil Consentino