

Wentworth Board of Selectmen
Public Hearing
December 17, 2024

Present: Arnold Scheller, Richard Ducheneau Sr, Brian DuBois, Chief Trott, Chief Ames, Admin Asst Gove

Chairman Scheller called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Scheller gave a recap of the meeting held on December 10, 2024 and advised the audience of the need for a new public hearing to due an error in the posting of the meeting on December 10 2024.

Resident Ken Hogan made a request for a presentation by the the Warren Wentworth Ambulance Service (WWAS) for those not in attendance at the December 10th meeting.


Acting Chief Mike Norkelun advised the WWAS is requesting additional funds to continue operating the service through the end of March 2025. He reported the \$150,000 additional funding needed is due to prior budget requests made to the town were not sufficient to fully fund the operating costs, a decline in revenue from insurance companies and reduced numbers of inter facility transports. He explained the payroll expense for 24/7 coverage of 2 EMT's at \$24/hr is \$650,00, including taxes. He advised there are currently 16 employees holding paychecks, not being paid. He has contacted Federal, State and County officials looking for help and was told if the towns want 911 service, they need to pay for it. He and Assistant Chief Daigle answered questions from the audience regarding insurance payments vs. the cost and amount billed, collections, a business model and transparency. WWAS has 2 new Board of Directors, 1 with experience in non-profits. They expect to provide quarterly reports and their books can be reviewed. Their meetings are open to the public and the minutes are available.

Resident Steve Welch indicated the \$150,000 paid from the unassigned fund balance would have no effect on the tax rate. Also, there is no Plan B, "noone's coming" to respond to 911 calls for service if WWAS is no longer able to operate.

Chairman Scheller polled the audience, by a show of hands, the majority of those in attendance were in favor of the Board of Selectmen paying the WWAS \$150,000 to carry the service through March 31, 2024.

Chairman Scheller made a **Motion** to pay WWAS the \$150,000 requested, DuBois seconded, all in favor, and motion passed in the affirmative.

Chairman Scheller made a **Motion** to Adjourn at 6:50, 2nd by Richard Ducheneau, all in favor, and the motion passed.



Arnold Scheller, Chairman



Richard Ducheneau Sr



Brian DuBois