

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting

Thursday, March 2, 2023

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Russ Austin, Frank Reeder and John Snowdon.

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Russ Austin
2. Approval of Minutes: February 16, 2023. Motion was made by Frank Reeder, seconded by John Snowdon to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0
3. Accounts Payable: Motion was made by John Snowdon, seconded by Frank Reeder to Approve Manifests for: General Fund \$240,013.24 Motion passed 3-0.

4. Guest:

Harry Nelson

- Steve Horton unable to make this meeting. Bids are in for tear down and dirt work. Have not reviewed and discussed them as of yet. Will reschedule Steve Horton for a future meeting to give an update.
- Alison Fissette - Will site plan go before Planning Board for review to give abutters chance to voice concerns? Reeder - Steve Horton would handle that.

TJ Kelly

- Supporter of WVFD but concerned about new ambulance service. Concern about how much less they are and service offered. Would rather see Town wait until there is financial data regarding CCEMS sustainability before changing.
- Snowdon - funding strongly supported by interfacility transfers which allows them to charge less for service. Fissette - Cheshire EMS explained well how ARPA funds were used and how they were budgeting for the future.
- Austin - budget line supported by selectmen and budget committee proposed at the budget hearing was for the \$8,000 cost of the County Service. Only way to change would be at the Town Meeting.
- Nelson - 8 of the WVFD members visited and toured the Cheshire County facility and were impressed with everything including living areas.
- Snowdon - County currently has 6 ambulances all paramedic level and 1 fly car with another arriving soon. They plan to put in sub-stations according to call areas, and anticipate 90% response rate within 9 minutes.
- CCEMS will help provide equipment such as AED units with grant money as well as community training.
- Handout (see attached) CHESHIRE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

New Business:

Signature Approval was given for the following:

Payroll 2/21/2023	Healthtrust \$6455.38
Payroll Taxes 2/23/2023	Staples \$49.38
Timber Tax Warrant	USPS \$18.60
NH Retirement \$3403.85	

- A. Snowdon - Linda Shedd, Cheshire County Community Training Coordinator will work with WVFD to do training in town including CPR and AED. Can also offer training for anyone in town who wants to become an EMT, Paramedic, or an Emergency Medical Responder.

Emergency Medical Service is one of the strongest ways to help as a town volunteer.

- B. Town Clerk and Tax Collector recommend appointing Frank Riley as each of their Deputies. Selectmen agree with appointing Riley as Deputy for both.
 - C. Town Election Tuesday, March 14th from 11am-7pm at Town Hall. Town Meeting Wednesday, March 15th at 7pm at Westmoreland School.
5. Correspondence - Letter expressing concern about ambulance contract.
 6. A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by John Snowdon to enter into a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3,II(c) at 1:50pm. Motion passed 3-0.
 7. A motion was made by Frank Reeder, second by Russ Austin, to seal the non-public session minutes and return to the public session at 2:20pm. Motion passed 3-0
 8. The meeting was adjourned at 2:22PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jodi Scanlan
Town Administrator

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY MARCH 16, 2023 6:00PM
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED
SELECTMEN SIGNATURES DENOTE APPROVAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Russ Austin, Chairman

Frank Reeder

John Snowdon



Emergency Medical Services
Of County of Cheshire

Michael F. Spain
Chief of the Department
County of Cheshire EMS

Chad M. Butler
Deputy Chief of the Department
County of Cheshire EMS

CHESHIRE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

The Mission of Cheshire County Emergency Medical Services (CCEMS)

The mission of Cheshire County Emergency Medical Services is to partner with local citizens, fire departments, and Cheshire Medical Center to provide emergency medical care in Cheshire County within nine (9) minutes 90% of the time. Care will be provided at the highest professional level utilizing the latest techniques of emergency pre-hospital care with compassion and excellence.

1. How is Cheshire EMS being funded?

The startup funding is from the American Rescue Plan (ARPA). Cheshire County was allocated a total of \$14.7M. CCEMS start-up was funded at \$3.5M, while the remaining \$10.5M was used for internal projects within the County and shared with County municipalities.

CCEMS operates as an Enterprise operation, with funding received from town contracts, insurance billing for intra-facility transfers, and 911 requests, accounting for 99.5% of the budget.

2. How do we contact CCEMS?

The phone number to contact CCEMS is 603.355.1900. An answering menu can be followed to contact the person you are attempting to reach.

3. Does CCEMS have a Facebook Page or other social media platforms?

A Facebook account and other social media platforms are currently being developed, including a presence on the County website. More to come soon.

4. Where are the staff and units located? How long have the staff been housed at the EMS campus, at 66 Lake Street, Swanzey?

CCEMS started November 14, 2022, at 06:00 AM. Our first unit was housed at Maplewood Nursing Home in Westmoreland under a temporary housing agreement with the nursing home to meet the need in the area for EMS coverage. On December 23rd, we moved into our new EMS campus.

At the EMS campus, we occupy two buildings. Building A houses six ambulances, storage areas, a Captain's office, and a classroom. Building B is our administrative office, kitchen, garage unit housing our Fly car, day room, shower/bathroom, two bathrooms, locker room, and seven sleeping rooms capable of sleeping 14 staff.



Emergency Medical Services
Of County of Cheshire

Michael F. Spain
Chief of the Department
County of Cheshire EMS

Chad M. Butler
Deputy Chief of the Department
County of Cheshire EMS

Building B has seven sleeping rooms and a kitchen; the building is fully sprinkled. Swanzey's local fire and planning departments have cleared both buildings for occupancy.

In the near future, as town contracts and response metrics are realized, we plan to operate sub-stations in strategic locations within the county, which will have emergency vehicles on standby 24 hours-a-day.

5. What is the current staffing?

Current staffing includes 13 paramedics with 229 years of experience, 9 Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians with 92 years of experience, and 17 Emergency Medical Technicians with 154 years of experience. The total current staffing is 39 members with 475 years of experience. Hiring continues at a robust rate.

The staffing matrix is the four-platoon rotation with a 24-hour tour of duty. The current staffing roster is seven and will soon be nine per 24-hour tour.

6. How many vehicles are in operation daily?

All CCEMS emergency vehicles are New Hampshire state licensed at the paramedic level. Current CCEMS operations are three ambulances and a Fly car staffed 24 hours daily. In March 2023, we will have two additional ambulances in service and licensed, and shortly, we will also have a sixth vehicle licensed.

Additionally, we will take delivery of two additional ambulances bringing the CCEMS total fleet of ambulances to eight, with six staffed daily.

7. Does CCEMS provide a wheelchair transfer operation?

Cheshire County has subcontracted with SMART Ride LLC, a local wheelchair provider, to provide 24-hour coverage for Cheshire Medical Center.

This partnership allows each organization to provide professional service focused on a specific task in an efficient and timely manner.

8. What are the current contracts and relationships in Cheshire County?

CCEMS has contracts for interfacility transport services, with Cheshire Medical Center. Additionally, the town of Westmoreland has chosen CCEMS as the primary emergency medical services provider. CCEMS is also on run cards with the town fire departments of Swanzey, Richmond, and Marlborough.



Emergency Medical Services
Of County of Cheshire

Michael F. Spain
Chief of the Department
County of Cheshire EMS

Chad M. Butler
Deputy Chief of the Department
County of Cheshire EMS

Other towns and fire departments have contacted us to provide operational information, and CCMES updates requested by town select boards or fire department leadership have been responded to promptly.

9. Does CCEMS offer Educational Programs?

CCEMS has hired two part-time education coordinators. The educational programs are divided into two sections, emergency medical providers and community education programs. Both programs are in the infant stages of development. The emergency medical providers will be offered on a monthly basis and will cover the latest pre-hospital medical continuing education. The levels being taught are EMR, EMT, AEMT, Paramedic, and Nursing professionals.

The community educational programs that will be offered to Cheshire County citizens include CPR, AED, First Aid, and Child Safety Seat installations.

As programs are developed, the offerings to the citizens of Cheshire will increase.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) as prepared for the citizens by the staff of Cheshire County.