

Town of Groton  
Select Board Work Session Minutes  
Town of Rumney Select Board Meeting  
May 7, 2018

**In attendance: John Rescigno, Kyle Andrews and Sara Smith (Administrative Assistant - AA) from Groton; Rumney Select Board (Bob Berti, Ed Haskell, George Bonfligio and Joe Chivell (AA)), Fire Chief Dave Coursey, EMS Director Dan along with members of the Fire and EMS and the public.**

**Absent: Christina Goodwin**

**Groton was scheduled to start around 7:30pm but due to other items on the agenda this time was delayed by a little.**

Kyle mentioned that the Town of Groton wanted to meet with Rumney regarding the Fire and EMS responses to Groton calls. There have been issues were they were not responding to the calls. Kyle apologized that Roger Thompson didn't attend the meeting as he was supposed to because he has more knowledge about the calls. Sara explained that at our Town meeting the residents spoke up with their concerns regarding this. There is a concern for those residents that live on the Rumney side of Town that if there is an emergency that Rumney will not respond. Where we live it already takes a while for response time so to have to wait for Hebron to come to that side of Town is a concern. Hebron does a great job and is always willing to respond which we appreciate. John mentioned they are also concerned that this is where their tax money is going but they are not responding. Sara went over the cost and explained that Groton pays \$1,455.00 for EMS to Rumney every year by July 1<sup>st</sup> and then there are additional costs depending on each call that is responded to.

Dave Coursey explained that Fire has responded to all calls and also responds to some calls on the Hebron side to assist. It is the EMS that is not responding as they have had a lot of health issues. Dave explained that there is a new Director and he introduced Dan. Dan explained that currently there are only 4 members and they all have full time jobs which make it hard to respond to all calls and only allows limited times when they can respond. He explained that EMS in the entire state is low. Young kids do not want to do Fire or EMS when they find out how much time needs to be put into training. They are paid hourly for the calls but they are not paid while they are in training. Dan explained that they are actively recruiting. It is mostly just word of mouth but they have posted it, have had a booth at Old Home Day, etc.

Kyle stated that he heard that they cannot transport. Dan said that they can only transport if they have at least two licensed personnel. Also, Hebron has more of a set up so they do the transporting. They just don't have the money to keep up with the transports.

In 2017, out of 24 calls they only responded to 12, which is 50%. Bob Berti stated that they understand our concerns and understand fairness. He thought it was worse than 50% so was feeling a little bit better about this but still knows it is not great. Kyle mentioned that it is not a good number if you are the 50% that they are not responding to. Dan said that there are some times that they will start to respond and call Hebron and they tell them they have it covered and do not need them. He thinks this happened on at least four calls.

John and Kyle asked what can be done to improve this. Dave Coursey stated that have already addressed some management issues and have the new director so this may help get others to join. They would like to join Fire

and EMS together and respond to all calls together. Dave said that they know they need to get it together by March. He mentioned that even their residents are suffering from it and it is not right. If they cannot get it together by March, they are thinking of getting rid of it and doing a fast squad. They do not feel they should spend any more money on the ambulance or EMS if it isn't being used.

Bob Berti again stated that they recognize it is a problem and it is under review. He also stated that service to their residents is not happening. Dave Coursey explained that Plymouth responds to every Rumney call and will even respond to Groton for certain emergencies as they are better equip to handle some calls. They do want to work collectively with other Towns and do understand the concern and hope that there will be big improvements by March. John and Kyle agreed that there needs to be or we will also be making a decision about our services by then.

John and Kyle thanked everyone for their time. Rumney thanked us for coming out to talk this out.

**Having no other business to conduct, Sara, John and Kyle left the meeting.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Smith  
Administrative Assistant