



# **TRI-TOWN AMBULANCE**

## **West Tisbury • Chilmark • Aquinnah**

**Chief Ben Retmier**, Tri-Town Ambulance Chief  
P.O. Box 457 West Tisbury, MA. 02575  
PHONE/FAX: 508-693-4992  
Email: [ttemschief@Vineyard.net](mailto:ttemschief@Vineyard.net)

### **Tri-Town Ambulance Committee**

### **DRAFT March 4th, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

### **Approved by the Committee xxxxxxxx**

Committee Chair Warren Doty called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

#### **In attendance**

Committee Chair Warren Doty, Committee Member Jim Newman, Chief Ben Retmier, Administrative Assistant Allison Graczykowski, Chief Estrella, Mrs. Sharon Estrella, Paramedic Eamonn Solway, Chief Randi Belain

#### **Absent**

Committee member Cindy Mitchell

- **Approval of February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Committee Member Jim Newman motioned to approve meeting minutes from February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as written. Committee Chair Warren Doty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Old Business**

Warren Doty first public forum for the new ambulance building is on Thursday March 12<sup>th</sup> at the Chilmark Library at 5:30. There will be a total of three forums. Architect drawings and proposals will be available. Chief Retmier shared that Chuck is working on a presentation to show everyone where this all began up to

where things are now. Jim Newman shared that the square footage has been reduced quite a bit and that there is now shared space between fire and EMS. The conversation led to further discussion regarding run times, need for central location, stipend pay for EMT's and impact on service.

- **New Business**

- **TTA Chief report**

- **Three Month Review**

Chief Retmier shared that from December 4, 2019 thru March 4<sup>th</sup> 2020 Tri-Town Ambulance had a total of 56 incidents. Last year for this same period, there were 73 incidents.

The year to date total thus far for 2020 is 31 incidents. At the same time last year Tri-Town Ambulance had 52 incidents.

- **Experian**

A brief discussion was held regarding the collection process that occurs on behalf of Tri-Town Ambulance. Currently, collection efforts do not include reporting to any of the credit bureaus. Allison will provide amount of funds not collected on an annual basis from clients that have high deductible plans at the next Committee Meeting.

- **Billing Vendor**

Chief Retmier shared that the Chilmark Financial committee asked Tri-Town to seek information from other potential vendors.

Allison shared quotes provided by three ambulance billing vendors. Coastal Billing came in at 4.8%, Advance MD provided a quote of 5-7% and the current billing vendor Comstar came in at 4%. Chief Retmier told the committee that he and Allison recommend Comstar.

Committee Chair Warren Doty motioned to approve Comstar as the billing vendor for Tri-Town Ambulance and Committee member Jim Newman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Coronavirus**

Committee member Jim Newman opened discussion on coronavirus. Chief Retmier provided feedback from meeting he attended at the hospital. Recommendations are currently if you're feeling sick one should call their primary physician and discuss it with them. The CDC and DPH have advised it's the same rules as one would follow for the flu. Things such as wash your hands, sneeze into your elbow.

Chief Retmier and the Committee agree that Chief will reach out to the boards of health in the Tri-Town area, gather feedback and schedule a forum if the other concur.

Committee Chair Jim Newman would like more community presence such as having the signs out stating EMT on duty.

- **Policy for Gift Funds**

This agenda item will be carried over to the April Committee Meeting.

- **Comstar**

Collections continue to go well.

- **Next Meeting Date**

Wednesday April 1, 2020 12:00 pm.

- **Adjournment**

Committee Chair Warren Doty motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:43 pm and Committee Member Jim Newman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Allison Graczykowski Administrative Assistant