



Town of
North Stonington, Connecticut

Emergency Services Operations Committee Special Meeting

Friday, February 19, 2021 at 11:30am

Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting called to order at 11:36am including Sarah Nelson, Carl Johnson and Tricia Cunningham. Joined by Charlie Steinhart at 11:45am.
2. Approval of Previous Minutes – tabled to the next meeting
3. Review of draft recommendations – Review of Emergency Services Committee Draft 2 including updated remit from the Board of Selectmen and approach summary completed by Sarah Nelson. New draft (v3) started to add more demographic information was added to the fire department overview.

Remit from the Board of Selectmen

- Research best practices for emergency services for towns geographically and demographically similar to North Stonington.
- Research possible ways to consolidate service costs for the town.
- Research service contracts for ambulance and fire services from other surrounding towns

DRAFT - Approach Summary

1. Baseline overview of North Stonington Emergency Services
 - A review of both the Fire and Ambulance history, structure, budget was provided by Jim Tuttle (Ambulance) and Charlie Steinhart (Fire)
2. Strategy for Benchmarking including demographics, data sources and sample sizes
 - Agreed benchmarking guidelines included
 - Sample size target: 5 CT Towns + 2 – 3 Outside of CT for reference
 - Focus on towns with similar demographics
 - Focus on towns in NE that have similar cost of living
 - Account for any out of state difference (ie. state funding)



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3. Data Collection which consisted of 3 approaches; data from online resources including Advance CT, town and department websites, and a custom built survey submitted to over XX fire departments and ambulance contacts.
4. Consolidate and analyze data

The following data was collected and analyzed to provide an overview of North Stonington Volunteer Fire Department and North Stonington Ambulance

Updated Recommendations from Draft 2

Immediate Recommended Actions

- Shortage of daytime volunteers
 - Some level of paid staffing is required to ensure adequate and timely response during daytime hours
 - Selectmen should evaluate option of an annual salary stipend to incentivize Town Employee participation in the Volunteer Fire Department
 - Consider incentive to North Stonington business to enable town resident employees to become NSVFC volunteers and support daytime calls
- Increase volunteerism
 - Referral bonus for new recruits that pass probationary period
 - Town wide volunteer drive (volunteer fair) for all commissions, boards, emergency services
 - NSVFC to collaborate with EDC to identify potential business to approach volunteering discussions
- Retain volunteers
 - Add municipal tax credit for volunteers
 - Add physical fitness program benefit
 - Increase length of service awards program for active members

4. Status of Current Action Items – Sarah to finalize updates to the report and send update with indexing & data analysis section to full team prior to the Board of Selectmen meeting on 2/23/2021
5. No public comments
6. Motion to adjourn by Carl Johnson, 2nd by Charlie Steinhart, meeting adjourned at 12:29pm