

Town of Sidney, Maine – Selectmen Minutes

2986 Middle Road, Sidney, ME 04330

Phone: 207-547-3340/207-547-3159 Fax: 207-547-5054

February 3rd, 2025

Chairman Whitcomb motions to call the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Alicia Collins seconds.

Vote: 4/0

Selectboard Members Present: John Whitcomb, Alisa Meggison, Lewis Corriveau, Alicia Collins.

Selectboard Members Absent:

Public Present: Jay Bradshaw, Richard Jandreau.

Appointments:

None

Old Business:

1. Selectmen continue reviewing cardboard options.
 - a. Road Foreman updates the Selectmen. Rick Delaney from CMP claims to get 3 phase power to the Transfer Station, wire, cross arms for the poles, and maybe poles will run upwards towards \$150,000.00. He stated they make a converter that will make 3-phase from single phase feed wire for approx. \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00. You are limited to what you can pull out of it for power, it won't run multiple machines. Electricians will be needed to hook everything up.
 - b. Chairman Whitcomb to call CMP to discuss further.
 - c. Member Alicia Collins brings up Tesla charging stations.
2. Heat Pump discussion is tabled for further discussion and research.
 - a. Admin to contact Efficiency ME for a consultation.

New Business:

1. Chairman Whitcomb motions to approve the meeting minutes as presented for January 27th, 2025.

Alisa Meggison seconds.

Vote: 4/0

2. Reviewed Clerk's interoffice envelope
 - a. Reviewed and signed all A/P warrant(s)
 - b. Reviewed and signed the payroll warrant(s)
 - c. Reviewed journal entries.

Chairman Whitcomb motions to accept the warrant as presented; authorizes the Treasurer to transfer the amount of money necessary to cover the warrant. Alisa Meggison seconds.

Vote: 4/0

3. Road Crew Planner is reviewed.

- a. Plow, sand, clean up incoming storms
 - b. Check trucks over, re-adjust sander chains
 - c. Mix up more hot loads (sand/salt)
 - d. Take care of anything else that comes in.
4. Grange Hall & Technology Solutions of ME
 - a. Grange Hall to be assigned an address, mailbox to be installed.
 - b. Internet to be run to location.
 - c. Discussions on rents.
5. Charter Communications update
 - a. 3/4/25 SyFy networks will be moved from Spectrum Select to Entertainment View
 - b. 2/24/25 New York 1 will rebrand to Spectrum Noticias NYC – Channel 2218
6. Delta 2024 Annual Report
 - a. 6-page report turned in by Chris Mitchell, Executive Director
 - b. Members take note that even with the increase per capita (\$35) there still appears to be a \$27k shortfall. Questions on what plans does Delta have to counter the Governor's 6% fee. What plans are in place for grants or new revenue?
7. OSHA Form 300A Review for 2024
 - a. No accidents to report
 - b. Signatures provided by the Chairman
8. Clerk's Office & Transfer Station Time-off Requests
 - a. 3 time-off slips approved, 2 for Clerk's Office/1 for Transfer Station
9. DOT Project 27498.00
 - a. Locations affected: Augusta, Benton, Fairfield, Oakland, Sidney, and Waterville
 - b. Project will be on the Interstate 95 Southbound. Pavement preservation, ultra-thin bonded wearing course on I-95 beginning at the Northern abutment of the Clauson Bridge (over the Kennebec River) in Benton and extending southerly to the Civic Center Drive over pass bridge in Augusta.
 - c. Selectmen requires DOT to get a bond before signing off on any paperwork.
10. DOT Project 27504.00
 - a. Pavement preservation, ultra-thin bonded wearing course on I-95 beginning at the Northern abutment of the Civic Center Drive overpass bridge in Augusta extending northerly to the Webb Road in Waterville.
 - b. Selectmen requires DOT to get a bond before signing off on any paperwork.
11. Radar Signs
 - a. Board discusses concerns with traffic on RT. 27.
 - b. Member Corriveau suggests the purchase of at least 1 radar sign.
 - c. Admin to research with multiple vendors for costs and styles.
 - d. Board discusses multiple locations that could benefit from sign enforcement.
 - e. Member Collins is not in favor of the purchase of any radar signs.

12. Waste Diversion Grant Program is reviewed.

- a. Deadline of 1/31/25 missed.
- b. Selectmen reviewing grant program for upgrade opportunities at Transfer Station

13. Transfer Station – General Matters

- a. Discussion pertaining to inappropriate behaviors observed at the Transfer Station. Mistreatment of staff.
- b. Transfer Station cameras with audio to be installed, project should be completed by the end of next week.

14. Warrant Articles

The Board has a discussion with Resident Jay Bradshaw about what items should or shouldn't be listed as warrant articles. The Board again defers to their advice from their attorney which was shared with Mr. Bradshaw in the previous week.

Member Alicia Collins presents **Exhibit A** as an example of how emergency services are important and as a backup to why the commitment should remain as is. Collins expresses how she doesn't want the liability in the event something happens like in Macwahoc.

Mr. Bradshaw discusses how his opinion is that the amounts for PSAP and Delta should be listed in the Fire/Rescue articles. The Selectmen then express concern about the town body having the opportunity to vote the language down, thus leaving Sidney without any PSAP or Delta services.

Chairman Whitcomb voices that the warrant articles will remain as presented.

Member Alicia Collins motions to request the Audit documents under the Public Safety section are changed from reading PSAP to PSAP/Delta. Lewis Corriveau seconds.

Vote: 4/0

The Board discusses how articles need to be written to combine Fire and Rescue Capital Reserve accounts, Fire Truck account and donation accounts to be as one with the department combining after Town Meeting.

15. Sidney Logo

- a. The Selectmen to have Admin run a logo contest to develop a new town logo.
- b. Timeframe to be 4/1/25 through 10/1/25.
- c. Prizes up to \$500.00
- d. Admin to roll out campaign

Chairman Whitcomb motions to adjourn at 8:14 PM. Lewis Corriveau seconds.

Vote: 4/0

Respectfully submitted,

Desiree Hersom, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Selectmen

EXHIBIT A

EMS Agencies Refuse Macwahoc Call, Woman Dies

By Ben Meiklejohn Lincoln
News

MACWAHOC PLANTATION, Maine- Mike Hunter called 911 on Jan. 8 requesting emergency service in Macwahoc Plantation. He expected that call to be met with sirens. Instead, that call was met with crickets as at least 9 EMS agencies refused to send an ambulance.

At 9:21 a.m. on Jan. 8, Hunter called 911 after his wife, Rachel Worster Hunter, passed out on the couch, suffering from a low potassium condition. As each minute ticked by, agency after agency declined the dispatcher's appeal for service, and Mike Hunter witnessed his wife's condition worsening until her death at 10:15 a.m.

As area residents express outrage at what is perceived as a lapse in public security, the family of Rachel Worster Hunter are left wondering why their loved one had to pay with her life for what they view as political statements being made by EMS agencies about money.

Holly Worster, Rachel Worster Hunter's sister-in-law, said, "I'm really let down to think that, wow - what happened to neighbors helping neighbors? Take care of people first, figure out the payment after."

All agencies involved in the call for service to Macwahoc Plantation were contacted to piece together what happened in what is viewed by many local residents as one of the biggest emergency medical service failures in the state. Penobscot Regional Communications Center and Aroostook County Sheriff's Office were working, together trying to acquire service from agencies across two counties.

According to answers provided by the agencies themselves, and documents obtained through Freedom of Access Act requests, the most common rationale given for not answering the emergency call is that Macwahoc Plantation did not have a contract with any agency for service, and the plantation was "out of the coverage **area.**"

Among the agencies in the region that declined to travel to Macwahoc Plantation to preserve Rachel Worster Hunter's life: Bangor Fire Department, Central Maine Highlands Fire & EMS District #1, East Millinocket Ambulance Service, Houlton Ambulance, Island Falls Ambulance Department, Lee Fire Rescue, Lincoln Fire Department, Millinocket Fire and Rescue and Patten Ambulance Service.

One EMS agency however, G&H Ambulance Service, Inc., which provides service in Hudson, rose to the challenge, responding to a tone at 9:50 a.m., despite that they were over an hour away from Macwahoc and had no contract with them for coverage.

The ambulance from Hudson arrived earlier than expected, said Hunter- at approximately 10:30 a.m. - but by then, it was too late.

Mike Hunter said that he knew nothing of the politics in Macwahoc Plantation, or that the plantation had no contracts for emergency service; he assumed that a call to 911 would be answered, just like anywhere else.

"Those people are supposedly professionals and like, yeah, they say they will do everything to save a life," Hunter said. "You know, they didn't do anything that day."

"I've lost a sense of security, yeah, lost all faith ... How all of them people could sit back and just listen to this all happen (on the scanners)."

Lee Fire Rescue Chief Jay Crocker, whose agency refused service to Macwahoc, said that East Millinocket, Lee and Lincoln have all provided service to the plantation in recent years, often at a financial loss.

"People want to say, 'It's not about the money,' but it is (about the money)," Crocker said.

Lee Fire Rescue covers Lee and has contracts with Carroll Plantation, Kingman, Lakeville, Prentiss, Springfield and Webster, Crocker noted. If Lee Fire Rescue were to send its staff half an hour away to an area not under contract, and then not be available if something happened within their coverage area at the same time, Crocker said taxpayers in those towns would be outraged.

Crocker said EMS agencies across the state experience a lack of resources - a problem that needs to be fixed "from the top down." For example, he said ambulance service to Medicaid patients is reimbursed at a set rate that doesn't cover the cost of sending the ambulance.

"Every time we transport a patient with Medicaid, we lose money," he said.

In terms of the 911 call made on Jan. 8, Crocker noted that many agencies may not have responded immediately because the original information provided by Penobscot Regional Communication Center, the dispatch center, characterized Rachel Worster Hunter's condition as "no priority symptoms," which indicated it was "not life threatening."

At 9:24 a.m., the initial log indicated that the patient was a 52-year-old conscious female, sick, breathing, with no priority symptoms.

Mike Hunter said, "When I initially made that call, I said she had labored breathing and she wasn't coherent. I said she won't answer me. How could that not be an emergency?"

Despite the initial characterization, three minutes later at 9:27, the call type was reopened as "type e," indicating a higher priority.

Crocker said even if Lee Fire Rescue had sent an ambulance, it likely would not have made it there before Rachel Worster Hunter died, noting that the dispatch logs indicated she was already dead at 10:01 a.m. and that she had a "do not resuscitate" order.

Mike Hunter said such justifications are inexcusable as nobody knew at the time whether Rachel Worster Hunter would die, or that she had a DNR order. Hunter also said his wife did not die until 10:15 a.m.

When dispatch called Mike Hunter at 9:51 to tell him G&H Ambulance was on its way, but might take an hour to get there, Hunter said he despaired to them, "I don't think she's going to make it."

Hunter said he doesn't know why his comment of desperation was interpreted by dispatch to mean that Rachel Worster Hunter had already died, and that agencies were already being advised of her death at 10:01 a.m.

According to Google Maps, a trip from Lee Fire Rescue to the Hunters' address would have taken 29 minutes in a non-emergency vehicle.

Lincoln Town Manager Richard Bronson echoed Crocker's perspective that agencies are justified in not sending emergency technicians to towns that don't pay for the service.

"These towns that don't want to pay, why should the taxpayers of Lincoln need to pay to send ambulances to other towns?" he asked.

Bronson recounted as an example, a time when Winn stopped contracting for services with Lincoln, saying,

"We let a few houses in Winn bum down before they came around."

"People don't want to understand or recognize that these things cost money," he added. "It all costs money and these little towns don't want to pay."

Bronson said the duty officers at Lincoln Fire Department are trained "not to go" to areas not contracted with Lincoln.

"Their inclination is to go," he said. "It takes a lot of courage for them not to go."

"We'll set a deal with these places and go, but they need to come aboard and join us," Bronson added. "There comes a time when the town fathers, councilors, and selectmen say, 'It's costing us money, we can't charge our taxpayers for services to other places', and then, when do you finally have the courage to stick to it? There will always be taxpayers."

Bronson added, "We don't know if we had gone (to Macwahoc), if she would have lived."

According to Google Maps, a trip from Lincoln Fire Department to the Hunters' address takes 29 minutes in a non-emergency vehicle.

State Representative Tracy Quint (R- Hodgdon), whose district includes Macwahoc Plantation, said she left Augusta in the middle of the work week last week to return to her district and meet with Mike Hunter and others in Rachel Worster Hunter's family.

Quint said, "EMS is in crisis in Maine."

Mike Hunter said Quint has been supportive of the family and she is committed to using her role in the Legislature to improve things.

"I'm trying to get a complete synopsis of what happened. I've spoken with the family, explained the situation and rules and laws to them," said Quint. "I have so many emails with so many questions."

On Jan. 10, Governor Janet Mills (D) released her budget proposal, which includes a 6 percent tax on private ambulance services and a similar tax on pharmaceutical drugs, included in the same category as taxes on tobacco and alcohol.

"She's trying to generate new revenue streams," said Quint.

With EMS services already strapped for funds and resources, Quint said Mills' tax proposal is "tone deaf."

State Representative Mathew McIntyre (R - Lowell), a freshman legislator who has been a consistent supporter of Central Maine Highlands Fire & EMS District #1 since its inception a year ago, said the state needs to make budgetary priorities that delineate the "wants" from the "needs."

"Money makes the world go round. Government cannot legislate morality," McIntyre said. "I will never sit in a position of judgment of a command structure with limited resources - they have tough decisions to make."

"Imagine a small department that has limited resources," McIntyre said. "A call comes in from a town they don't have (contract with) and now they're 30 minutes out of town. Now somebody calls from the town that they do have contracted services with - what do they do?"

"It's emotionally driven but at the same time, there are business aspects," he added.

Bronson and Crocker both suggested there is some blame to be attributed for the tragedy and it belongs with Macwahoc Plantation for refusing to contract with an agency for services.

Macwahoc Plantation Assessor Sarah Thornton was contacted and asked about the plantation's coverage. Thornton answered that she didn't have time to discuss the matter. When asked when would be a good time to talk about it, Thornton hung up the phone.

Through a Freedom of Access Act request, documents were obtained from East Millinocket Fire Department regarding the department's effort to reach a coverage agreement with Macwahoc.

According to East Millinocket's fire chief, Kevin McAdam, phone communication was initiated in April, 2024. In a letter dated May 9, 2024, McAdam, then a newly appointed chief, wrote to Macwahoc Plantation Assessor Roger Pratt, "As you know, the East Millinocket Ambulance has serviced your town for EMS calls for some time now.....To cover the ambulance service for liability purposes, we are required to have a contract in place with all areas we cover for medical calls."

McAdam noted in the letter that East Millinocket had responded to an average of 4.7 calls per year since 2017, and requested to reach agreement before July 1, 2024.

McAdam informed that Pratt visited the East Millinocket Fire Department in July, 2024, after receiving the May letter. McAdam then sent Pratt a follow-up letter dated July 17, 2024, along with a contract proposal.

In the July 17 letter, McAdam wrote, "The average cost of a contract for ambulance service is approximately \$100 per capita. Your community has a population of approximately 62 people for a cost of \$6,200 per year contract fee. With a call volume of only 3 to 10 EMS runs per year on average, I feel this is an unfair amount for us to start off with on short notice. I feel that a contract fee of \$1,600 for a one-year contract is a fair amount for us to request. According to Maine EMS, Macwahoc is not in East Millinocket's coverage area but in Lincoln Ambulance's coverage area instead. Feel free to reach out to Lincoln Ambulance or Lee Fire Ambulance for comparison costs."

On Nov. 13, McAdam sent a letter addressed to Macwahoc Plantation's "Board of Selectmen," stating that he had spoken face to face with Pratt in July and "he advised me the Plantation of Macwahoc will not be signing a contract for ambulance service because you will not be held liable for someone's ambulance bill. ...

"To date there has been zero response from you regarding this matter. After careful consideration ... because you refuse to sign a contract of service, I regret to inform you that effective immediately the East Millinocket Ambulance will not be responding to medical calls in the Plantation of Macwahoc. I have spoken with Maine EMS on the matter, and they informed me that Macwahoc is not in East Millinocket's coverage area, and we have no obligation to respond to calls there. You are technically in Lincoln's coverage area and should contact them to get EMS coverage when needed..... the reality is that our ambulance responding to calls outside of East Millinocket cannot come at the expense of the taxpayers of East Millinocket."

When Nicole Lee, Rachel Worster Hunter's sister, was informed that Macwahoc Plantation had declined an offer from East Millinocket, she became markedly upset and with tears interrupting her ability to speak, cried, "So it sounds to me like a person's life isn't worth \$1,600?"

After collecting herself, Lee said, "That's a slap in the face. Yeah, I think somebody needs to be held responsible."

Holly Worster said Mike and Rachel Hunter would have had no reason to believe that there was no ambulance coverage in Macwahoc, because her sister-in-law had needed an ambulance in November, and one had arrived at her home.

Worster said she is the tax collector and treasurer for Carroll Plantation and when three assessors there got notice that Lincoln and Lee would not provide service without a contract, they quickly brought the matter to the town voters to decide.

The residents of Carroll Plantation chose between a \$15,000 contract with Lincoln or a \$12,000 contract with Lee, and ultimately went with Lee, not only because it was less costly but also because Lee would have a 15-minute shorter response time.

"So we had to pull things together and bring it to a town - you know - bring it to a special town meeting and get a vote on it."

Like Worster, Nicole Lee said when she worked for the town of Springfield, they too had to decide between a contract with Lee or Lincoln.

"Just from talking with those fire departments, what I got is, if there's no contract signed, then they don't have to go," Lee said. "That's pretty much out of their mouth- if they want to go, they will; if they don't, they won't."

Lee said Macwahoc is primarily composed of older people who would more likely need emergency responses.

"It sounds to me like none of them are aware that they don't have coverage," she said. "If you're in a town and you're unaware of whether you have coverage or not, ask your selectmen or town assessors and find out."

Mike Hunter said if he knew how much of an issue money was to the agencies that refused to respond, he would have told the dispatcher to announce on the scanners that he needed help and could pay for it.

Nicole Lee said of her sister, "Rachel had health insurance. They would have gotten paid whatever they submitted for a transport bill or whatever. Yeah, but that didn't matter, evidently - they all just flat out refused."

G&H Ambulance, the agency that did respond to Hunter's call, was contacted to ask, when so many agencies say, "we can't," how G&H is able to say, "we can."

G&H Ambulance Deputy Chief Milissa Smart, said, "It's about right and wrong for us. We obviously are contracted with the town of Hudson."

"Our philosophy is we go to it. If we're toned to another town and we have a truck available and staffing to cover that truck, then we're gonna go. It's not about ego, it's not about who likes who, it's not about if we're gonna get paid for that call or not."

Smart said G&H Ambulance is a "small sustaining private not for profit 501c3" that got its start in the 1970s.

Like other agencies, Smart said G&H is understaffed, with one medic, one advanced, five EMTs and five drivers, and currently, the agency is down to only one truck.

"Even if (a call) took our truck out of service (from the local coverage area), we still would go," Smart said. "Residents already move around."

Smart said that hoarding tax dollars in municipal borders is meaningless because not all patients helped in a coverage area are residents of that coverage area, and if they answer a call out of town, "How do we know that's not one of our own residents we're helping?"

"If people want to say, 'Our tax dollars are expected to be in town,' are you asking them for a copy of their tax bill to make sure their name is on it every time you respond to a call? It's about doing what's right and wrong," Smart advised.

Smart said her agency has answered calls well beyond their locality - including Dexter, Dover-Foxcroft, Lagrange and Lakeview, and now, Macwahoc.

Smart agreed with others who said EMS is struggling in the state, and offered solutions to make things better.

"When it comes to budgeting, the state needs to look at manufacturers to make sure they're not grossly overpricing things," she said.

When it comes to responding to calls, Smart said there needs to be more statewide integration of services.

"Everyone needs to work together, it's just, we shouldn't pick and choose," she said. "We need to work together. We need to understand that we're potentially going to go out of our towns, right?"

Smart said the state could set up a system with a fund that pays EMS agencies for responses they don't get paid for.

"There's got to be different things that we can do to figure out the right reasons not to say no," she said.

An effort was made to contact all the agencies that declined service to Macwahoc.

Central Maine Highlands Fire & EMS District #1 Chief Josh McNally wrote by email, "We do not have a contract with Macwahoc for any services, nor do we have a mutual aid contract with any fire or EMS service that covers the area. We also do not have that area listed on our EMS license, so we were unable to respond to the request." According to Google Maps, a non-emergency vehicle would take 43 minutes to travel from the fire district's station to the Hunters' address.

Crocker said it is not illegal for an EMS agency to travel outside of its coverage area or to a town it is not contracted with. Smart said all EMS licenses allow medics to work anywhere in the state.

"If they have a Maine EMS license, then that EMS license covers the entire state," she said.

McAdam, of East Millinocket, reported they were "unable to respond due to not having staff available at that time." According to Google Maps, East Millinocket Fire is 28 minutes away from Hunters' address, in a non-emergency vehicle.

Houlton Fire Chief Milton Cone told Lincoln News that Houlton Ambulance did not respond because Macwahoc Plantation was "not in our coverage area." According to Google Maps, a non-emergency vehicle traveling from Houlton Fire Department to the Hunters' address takes 50 minutes.

Old Town Fire Rescue Chief Kyle Milan told Lincoln News that two other agencies were requested at the same time as Old Town and another agency responded first. "We were canceled before we responded," he said.

Answers have not yet been received from the departments in Bangor, Island Falls, Millinocket and Patten, as to why they did not respond. However, logs from the Penobscot Regional Communications Center note that Island Falls, Millinocket and Patten reported that Macwahoc was "out of the coverage area."

According to Google Maps, the EMS agencies in Island Falls, Millinocket and Patten are 36-, 39- and 38- minute drives respectively, from the Hunters' address, in a non-emergency vehicle.

Worster observed the irony that her sister had worked much of her life in the health care field.

"Rachel was a nurse and at one time, an EMT, I believe on the Lincoln Ambulance back in the 80s or early 90s," said Worster. "She answered the tone and responded to the call, and when the time came for her to

need help, nobody was there. That's the heartbreaking part, you know? She was there for others, but when it was for her - nobody. Nobody answered the call. Except G&H Ambulance, God bless them You know what? They

are the true heroes."

Worster said both she and Mike Hunter have donated to a GoFundMe page that was set up by G&H Ambulance on Jan. 12 to raise \$6,000 for vital equipment for the agency. People who would like to donate to the EMS agency in the name of Rachel Worster Hunter, may submit their donation at <https://gofund.me/ee302141> .

In the meantime, Mike Hunter remains alone in his home to ponder how it could have ever been possible that one tragic hour - in which all the nearest EMS agencies refused to answer his call - would forever spend his life.

Timeline of Macwahoc 911 call (all times are a.m.)

9:21 -Mike Hunter calls 911

9:23 -Aroostook County Sheriff's Office contacted with medical call 9:25 - Call to 911 completed

9:27 - Call type e reopened, assigned call number 98 9:28 - East Millinocket Ambulance paged

9:28 - Contacted Aroostook to advise that East Millinocket was not available, Aroostook asked to tone Lee 9:28 - Lee Rescue Service paged

9:29 - Lee assigned as responsible unit for call

9:29 - Logged, "Contacted Aroostook to advise Lee not available, asked for the list of who they'd like us to call so we didn't waste time calling back and forth. Aroostook advised to tone Lincoln, Island Falls, Patten, Millinocket."

9:30- Lee reports "out of coverage area"

9:30 - Lincoln Ambulance paged

9:30 - Lincoln reports "not in coverage area" 9:31 - Island Falls Ambulance paged

9:32 - Patten Ambulance paged

9:32 - Island Falls reports "out of coverage area call"

9:33 - Patten reports "out of coverage area"

9:33 - Millinocket Ambulance paged

9:34 - Logged, "After toning the departments requested, I called Aroostook back to advise them no one was available for the call."

9:34- Dispatch calls Hunter to inform him no agency will respond, but dispatch will keep searching 9:35 - Call between dispatch and Hunter ends

9:35 - Logged, "Called Aroostook back advised CP had called back in to say patient now had significant difficulty breathing."

9:38 - Millinocket reports "out of coverage area"

9:40- Call type reopened, assigned call number 104

9:41 - Following agencies requested and did not respond: East Millinocket, Island Falls, Lee, Lincoln, Millinocket and Patten

9:46-Houlton Police called Houlton Fire Chief Cone, who stated, "No, they (Macwahoc) do not contract with Houlton."

9:47 - Howland Ambulance paged

9:50 - Tones for Old Town, Hudson (G&H) and Milford transmitted

9:50 - Shift Officer at Milford indicated to PRCC that they would get back momentarily about ability to respond. Shift officer contacts Milford Fire chief for guidance.

9:51 - Dispatch calls Hunter to let him know Hudson agreed to go. Hunter tells dispatch, "I don't think she is going to make it."

9:51 - Milford Fire Chief Zack Carlow indicates support to shift officer to respond to call 9:52 - G&H Ambulance paged

9:54 - G&H called and said they were willing to go and would be enroute momentarily

9:55 - Milford shift officer radios PRCC to confirm Milford will accept call, PRCC informs another ambulance has accepted call

9:56 - G&H assigned as responsible unit

9:59 - Aroostook County Sheriffs Office attempts to reach Bangor Fire and MedComm in Bangor, explores agencies in Piscataquis County

9:59- Call from dispatch to Hunter that was initiated at 9:51, ends

9:59 - Dispatch logs, "Contact was made with CP to notify him that the town had no EMS contract and we were trying to locate any medical agency able to go to this call. At this time the CP advised that the female patient had passed away and a DNR was in place."

10:01-"ACSO advised that the pt was now believed to be deceased and that we would be calling DPS Houlton for a response from a Trooper, Troop F dispatcher was briefed on all information regarding and where their ambulance was coming from."

10:03 - G&H enroute to call

10:06 - Advised Old Town Fire to disregard call 10:15 - Rachel Hunter takes her last breath

10:30 (approximate) - G&H Ambulance and Howland Trooper arrive

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2986 Middle Road, Sidney, ME 04330
Phone: 207-547-3340/207-547-3159 Fax: 207-547-5054

February 10th, 2025

Lewis Corriveau motions to call the meeting to order at 6:20 pm. Alicia Collins seconds.

Vote: 4/0

Selectboard Members Present: John Whitcomb, Alisa Meggison, Lewis Corriveau, Alicia Collins.

Selectboard Members Absent:

Public Present:

None

Appointments:

None

Old Business:

1. Selectmen continue reviewing cardboard options.
 - a. Selectmen continue reviewing recycling options.
 - b. Awaiting on information from Casella.
2. Heat Pump discussion is tabled for further discussion and research.
 - a. Awaiting information from Efficiency ME.
3. DOT Project 27498.00
 - a. Tabled – Chairman is contacting George Macdougall.
4. DOT Project 27504.00
 - a. Tabled – Chairman is contacting George Macdougall.
5. Radar Signs
 - a. Tabled – Ongoing discussion.
6. Warrant Articles

Chairman instructs the Administrative Assistant to insert two new articles into the warrant for the combination of reserve and donation accounts for Fire and Rescue.

New Business:

1. Chairman Whitcomb motions to approve the meeting minutes as amended for February 3rd, 2025. Alicia Collins seconds.

Vote: 4/0

2. Reviewed Clerk's interoffice envelope
 - a. Reviewed and signed all A/P warrant(s)
 - b. Reviewed and signed the payroll warrant(s)
 - c. Reviewed journal entries.

Chairman Whitcomb motions to accept the warrant as presented; authorizes the Treasurer to transfer the amount of money necessary to cover the warrant. Alisa Meggison seconds.

Vote: 4/0

3. Road Crew Planner is reviewed.
 - a. Clean drifts on road as needed
 - b. Check trucks over
 - c. Clean up yard and Transfer Station
 - d. Plow parking lot on Hosta
 - e. Clean up snow at Town Office
 - f. Take care of anything else that comes in.
 - g. Board adds if any information has been obtained on the recycling in Gardiner.
4. Employee Recognition Awards
 - a. Plaque styles discussed, and a template is chosen.
5. Time-off Requests:
 - a. 4 time-off requests signed for the Clerk's Office.
6. Charter Communications
 - a. As of 3/6/25 Universal Kids will cease programming its channel.
7. Building Inspections
 - a. Town Office's January building inspection is reviewed.
 - b. Board requests issues to be addressed with Public Works.
8. Delta Per Capita Fee for 2025
 - a. Effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, Delta Ambulance will charge a rate of \$35.00 per capita.
 - b. Payments to be due quarterly, but a 5% discount is available for contracts paid in the full amount.
9. Messalonskee's Day of Caring
 - a. Dayle Morin reaches out for volunteer opportunities for students on April 17th, 2025.
 - b. Public Works to be contacted for projects.
 - c. Sidney Athletic Association to be contacted for projects.
10. Security Cameras at Sidney Transfer Station
 - a. Discussion on who can request information for footage when needed.

The Board makes request for SOP's (Standard Operating Procedures) on the website, cameras and digital sign to be accessible by all staff members.

11. School Board

a. 1% increase on the school budget is discussed.

12. Voting Hours

a. Board would like the voting hours for the town election to be posted.

b. Voting will now be 8 am until 8 pm for the municipal election on 3/28/25.

Chairman Whitcomb motions to adjourn at 7:45 PM. Alicia Collins seconds.

Vote: 4/0

Respectfully submitted,

Desiree Hersom, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Selectmen

Town of Sidney, Maine – Selectmen Minutes

2986 Middle Road, Sidney, ME 04330

Phone: 207-547-3340/207-547-3159 Fax: 207-547-5054

February 18th, 2025

Alicia Collins motions to call the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Chairman Whitcomb seconds.

Vote: 3/1 absent (AM)

Selectboard Members Present: John Whitcomb, Lewis Corriveau, Alicia Collins.

Selectboard Members Absent: Alisa Meggison

Public Present:

Dr. Pieh, Jay Bradshaw, Fire Chief Jandreau, Rescue Chief Giroux.

Appointments:

6:45 Meeting with Dr. Pieh and Jay Bradshaw on Sidney's KV EMSTAT report

- a. Discussion on how 25% of calls need a Paramedic
- b. Discussion on Sidney's options in starting a transporting service and the effect on surrounding communities
- c. Discussion on Sidney being licensed at a Paramedic level and providing supplement support
- d. Inter-local based services discussed
- e. Rescue Chief Giroux discusses the purchase of a cardiac monitor, and the supplies needed. Cardiac monitor is now in-hand.
- f. Discussion on mental health support for Fire & EMS personnel
- g. See KV EMSTAT summary

Old Business:

1. Selectmen continue reviewing cardboard options.
 - a. Selectmen continue reviewing recycling options.
2. Heat Pump discussion is tabled for further discussion and research.
 - a. Heat Pump discussion is tabled.
3. DOT Project 27498.00
 - a. Project is signed by 3 members.
4. DOT Project 27504.00
 - a. Project is signed by 3 members.
5. Radar Signs
 - a. Radar sign discussion is tabled.

New Business:

1. Chairman Whitcomb motions to approve the meeting minutes as presented for February 10th, 2025. Lewis Corriveau seconds.

Vote: 3/1 absent (AM)

2. Reviewed Clerk's interoffice envelope

- d. Reviewed and signed all A/P warrant(s)
- e. Reviewed and signed the payroll warrant(s)
- f. Reviewed journal entries.

Chairman Whitcomb motions to accept the warrant as presented; authorizes the Treasurer to transfer the amount of money necessary to cover the warrant. Alicia Collins seconds.

Vote: 3/1 absent (AM)

3. Road Crew Planner is reviewed.

- a. Finish cleaning up from storm
- b. Chase drifts
- c. Fix Mack sander
- d. Chase parts for Mack
- e. Get battery for Grange Hall Fire/Smoke detector
- f. Clean up drifts/snow at Town Office and Grange Hall
- g. Take care of any other business that comes in

4. Building Inspections for Fire & Rescue

- a. Shepherd Road inspection reviewed.
- b. Pond Road inspection reviewed.
- c. West River Road inspection reviewed.
- d. Chairman Whitcomb instructs items to be fixed by Public Works.

5. Time-off Requests

- a. Time-off requests for the Clerk's Office reviewed and signed.

6. Snow Maintenance/Shoveling

- a. Incident at Town Office is reviewed and discussed.
- b. Town employees to keep a shovel outside in case of severe weather that affects entering the building.

7. Warrant Articles

Chairman Whitcomb motions to appropriate funds as presented on the Appropriation Sheet for lines 1-17. Lewis Corriveau seconds.

Vote: 3/1 absent (AM)

Chairman Whitcomb motions to adjourn at 8:33 PM. Alicia Collins seconds.

Vote: 3/1 absent (AM)

Respectfully submitted,

Desiree Hersom, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Selectmen

KV EMSTAT SUMMARY

KV EMSTAT Report for the Town of Sidney

February 18, 2025

Jay Bradshaw
Tim Pieh, MD

1

About KV EMS TAT



Experienced EMS and municipal administrators – most have over 25 years of experience in northern Kennebec County



Committed to helping EMS services and municipalities make informed decisions



Data Guided and Patient Centric

2

Sidney questions

- Can Sidney reduce the cost of using Delta, but reduce the cost? Perhaps by becoming a part time transporting service?
- Is it feasible for the towns of Belgrade, Oakland, Rome, and Sidney to consider an inter-local agreement for a sub regional ambulance service?
- How much revenue is currently generated by these towns?
- Would a sub regional ambulance service reduce the need for local non-transporting first responder services?
- What is the impact to Delta with a new four-town ambulance service?
- What else should we consider with regard to EMS?



3

Information Sources



4

Process

- Review and Clarify Questions
- Identify Data Sources → Obtain and Compile Data
- Draft Reports
- Review → Revise → Report → Repeat

5

Caveats



THE REPORT IS NOT
AN AUDIT



MULTIPLE DATA
SOURCES



INTENDED TO GIVE
HIGH LEVEL
UNDERSTANDING



AND IDENTIFY
OPPORTUNITIES

6

“Seek first to understand; then to be understood.”

Stephen R. Covey
The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People

7

Types of EMS Agencies

Non-transporting (First Responder)

- Minimum of one provider
- Basic equipment can be carried in a POV
- Simultaneous ambulance dispatch
- Shorter total call times (:35 – :45)

Transporting (Ambulance)

- Minimum of two providers
- Requires an ambulance with stretcher for equipment and to transport patients
- Most calls require transport to a hospital - longer total call times :50 – 1:00 (Delta) + for Sidney
- Significant equipment maintenance
- Insurance Contracts/Billing

8

Levels of Emergency Medical Services

Basic Life Support (EMR/EMT)

- CPR
- AED
- Airway management
- Basic Trauma Care
- Naloxone (Narcan)
- Glucose for low blood sugar

Advanced Life Support (AEMT/Paramedic)

- Advanced Airway Management
- Cardiac diagnosis and monitoring
- IV fluids and medications
- Pain management

9

Why is EMS so expensive?

- 24/7/365, all hazards preparedness
- Personnel
- Specialty Equipment
- Must respond and treat upon request; cannot deny for financial reasons.
- With very few exceptions, payment tied to transport.
- Complex and restrictive insurance requirements
- Grossly inadequate insurance reimbursement
- Cannot balance bill patients

10

Accelerated Costs: 2014 vs. 2024 (Approximate)

- Ambulance: \$150,000 - \$250,000 vs. \$250,000 - \$400,000
- Stretcher and Mounting: \$4,500 - \$15,000 vs. \$30,000 - \$50,000
- Cardiac Monitor: \$15,000 - \$25,000 vs. \$30,000 - \$50,000
- mCPR (e.g. LUCAS) Device: N/A vs. \$20,000+
- Paramedic: \$14 - \$25 per hour vs. \$23 - \$40 per hour
- Medicare/Medicaid: ~ 80% of Patient Revenue

11

Why is EMS so expensive? (Sidney)

- One full time ambulance with two paramedics, utilities, supplies, maintenance, medical direction, etc: \$1,000,000
 - Net cost per transport (~ 360 transports): \$2,900.
 - Average Insurance Reimbursement (2024): \$480.
 - Total Reimbursement (2024): \$176,000.
 - First Year Deficit: \$764,000; Subsequent Years: \$575,000*
 - Per Capita: First Year: \$170; subsequent years: \$130*
- * includes \$50,000 capital replacement (10 year)

12

Why is EMS so expensive? (Multi-Town)

- Two full time ambulances with four paramedics, utilities, supplies, maintenance, medical direction, administration, etc: \$2,450,000
 - Net cost per transport (~ 1,325 transports): \$1,850.
 - Average Insurance Reimbursement (2024): \$490.
 - Total Reimbursement (2024): \$615,000.
 - First Year Deficit: \$1,835,000. Subsequent Years: \$835,000*
 - Per Capita: First Year \$120; Subsequent Years: \$55*
- *includes \$100,000 for capital replacement (10 year)

13

Other Considerations

- Quality Assurance
- Paramedic Coverage
- Provider Onboarding and well being
- Public Education
- Grant Funding

14

Sidney Rescue

- BLS License Level
- 9 licensed providers (4 EMT, 5 Paramedic)
 - 7 providers responded in 2024
 - 4 providers > 10% of calls
 - 2 providers = 50% of calls
- Responded to 55% (249/449) of emergency calls in 2024

15

Sidney Rescue Priorities

- Public Information and Education
- Recruitment and Retention
- Consider Advanced Life Support Licensure
- Increase number of responding Advanced Life Support Personnel
 - AEMT training?
- Vehicle Assessment
 - Upgrade?
 - Replacement plan?

16

Questions?
Comments?
Feedback?



Town of Sidney, Maine – Selectmen Minutes

2986 Middle Road, Sidney, ME 04330
Phone: 207-547-3340/207-547-3159 Fax: 207-547-5054

February 24th, 2025

Chairman Whitcomb motions to call the meeting to order at 6:20 pm. Chairman Whitcomb seconds.

Vote: 4/0

Selectboard Members Present: John Whitcomb, Lewis Corriveau, Alicia Collins, Alisa Meggison

Selectboard Members Absent:

Public Present:

Fire Chief Jandreau, Tom Hoel, Hunter Traussi, Greg Traussi

Appointments:

6:30 Meeting with Tom Hoel via Veteran's Exemption on Property Value

- h. Request for the breakdown of all exemptions on tax bills. Board approval.
- i. Mr. Hoel requests the towns' people pick up the difference when the exemption isn't at 100%. He believes all Veteran's should receive the full \$6000.00 off their value regardless of what the town is evaluated at with the State.
- j. 2024 amount would be approx. \$65. Sidney has 126 Veteran's on record at this time.
- k. Member Corriveau recommends Mr. Hoel speaks to the Veteran's and Legal Affairs Committee at the State.
- l. Request will not be added to the warrant articles for Town Meeting. The Board expresses not wanting to place the burden on the other residents of Sidney or set a precedence that could grow exponentially larger should the exemptions reimbursement process change/fluctuate.

7:00 Meeting with Hunter and Greg Traussi via Fundraiser/Event on Ferry Road.

- a. Hunter would like to run a pig roast that would include music and a burn-out competition. Questions on permits needed and the Board's opinions. Hunter would like to donate money to the Fire/Rescue Department and Sidney Food Pantry.
- b. Established that no permits are needed; no ordinances would be violated. Suggested visit to the Code Enforcement Officer for a final review.
- c. Discussion on parking
- d. The Boards suggests the residents contact Silver Spur as it is a more accommodating location.

Old Business:

1. Selectmen continue reviewing cardboard options.
 - a. Selectmen continue reviewing recycling options.
2. Heat Pump discussion is tabled for further discussion and research.
 - a. Discussion on forms for Efficiency ME and concerns

3. Radar Signs

- a. Radar sign discussion is tabled.

4. Budget Meeting

Chairman John Whitcomb motions to open a Selectmen Meeting on February 22nd, 2025 at 8:59 AM.
Alicia Collins seconds.

Vote: 4/0

Chairman Whitcomb turns the meeting over to the Budget Committee.

Chairman Whitcomb motions to adjourn the Selectmen Meeting on February 22nd, 2025 at 11:59 AM.
Alicia Collins seconds.

Vote: 4/0

Chairman Whitcomb motions to accept the Selectmen's Budget Meeting minutes, as listed above, for February 22nd, 2025. Alicia Collins seconds.

Vote: 4/0

New Business:

1. Chairman Whitcomb motions to approve the meeting minutes as presented for February 18th, 2025.
Alicia Collins seconds.

Vote: 3/1 abstain (AM)

2. Reviewed Clerk's interoffice envelope

- g. Reviewed and signed all A/P warrant(s)
- h. Reviewed and signed the payroll warrant(s)
- i. Reviewed journal entries.

Chairman Whitcomb motions to accept the warrant as presented; authorizes the Treasurer to transfer the amount of money necessary to cover the warrant. Alicia Collins seconds.

Vote: 4/0

3. Road Crew Planner is reviewed.

- a. Clean up trucks and backhoe
- b. Check roads
- c. Clean up the garage
- d. Work on CMP appointment
- e. Work on building inspection issues with multiple buildings
- f. Take care of anything else that comes in.

4. Charter Communications

- a. Annual Franchise Fee payment is reviewed.

5. CMP Tree Care

- a. CMP notifies the town that tree work will be completed in 2025.

b. Admin to share letter on social media

6. Abutter Letter from the City of Waterville

a. Public Notice to all interested parties that the City of Waterville has requested that the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry review the municipal comprehensive plan for consistency with Maine's Growth Management Act. As part of its review, the Department invites members of the public to submit written comments.

b. Plan can be viewed at: maine.gov/dacf/municipalplanning/comp_plans/

c. Comments can be submitted to: tom.miragliuolo@maine.gov up until March 27th.

7. Correspondence from Delta

a. Delta is receiving an ERC tax credit of approx. 1.8 million after fees.

b. Payments will not affect the per capita rates

c. Funds are being used for ambulance replacements and to get them back on an acceptable replacement schedule.

d. Chairman to write-up a correspondence to Delta

8. Correspondences from Town Clerk via Veteran Registrations

a. Reimbursement request is not approved.

9. Transfer Station Security Management and Trash Costs

a. Chairman drawing up a correspondence pertaining to an incident that occurred at Transfer on 2/21/25.

b. Transfer Station Brochures to be updated to 33-gallon bags from 30-gallon for trash bin.

10. Tax Leins

a. Discussion about the lien processes and options the Board has with town acquired property

11. SAA & Sidney Field Committee

a. Discussion on the need to establish two separate committees

b. Discussion on the responsibilities that would fall under each committee

c. Admin to contact SAA

Chairman Whitcomb motions to adjourn at 8:43 PM. Lewis Corriveau seconds.

Vote: 4/0

Respectfully submitted,

Desiree Hersom, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Selectmen