

EMS Subcommittee

Monday, April 26, 2021 - 9:00 am

Robin DeLoria - Chairman

Chairman DeLoria called this subcommittee to order at 9:00 am with the following in attendance, Clayton Barber, Patty Bashaw, Robin DeLoria, Archie Depo (9:20), Stephanie DeZalia, Shaun Gilliland (9:35), Roy Holzer, Steve McNally, Mike Mascarenas, Jim Monty, Dan Palmer, Tom Scozzafava, Jeff Subra, Ike Tyler, and Davina Winemiller. Noel Merrihew was absent.

Also present: Dina Garvey, Max Thwaites, Rob Wick, and Matt Watts.

DELORIA: We'll call this EMS Program subcommittee meeting to order, please stand for the pledge. Thank you

Before I turn this over to Rob Wick, I just want to indicate to the Committee that Wes Miga, myself and Patty Bashaw met to discuss Newcomb's future involvement in joining the County program, but we're still gathering data and trying to work out of the wrinkles. So, at some point in time we're going to be bringing it back to the committee.

And Patty do you want to take the floor or turn it over the Rob? How do you want to work this?

BASHAW: Um, you want to go, it doesn't matter?

WICK: Probably starting off with some of the updates we have.

BASHAW: So, we did run around and meet with a bunch of agencies. Lake Placid was like 3 weeks ago, probably now. That went very well. Basically, it was the same presentation the whole time. We went to, Matt and I went to St. Armand's and met with her for a couple hours up there, as well and a lot of questions came from that visit. We went to Keeseville and met with Mr. Barber and his fire folks, I think that went really well. A lot of questions got answered, also, there and I feel like I'm missing someone. Keene, yes, Keene and actually the letter that was more, in the beginning to a partial CON, we got another email while I was gone for full support. So, that's awesome.

So, my plan is, going forward, besides the CON finishing up, the application is to go out to every agency that, even if they have staffing or something from us now, just so, to get everybody on the same page. The biggest thing that I said was, I explained the overview of the grant and then a lot of questions were answered, generally and then, I said, there should be something from the grant that should be able to help your agency. You know, you may not need staffing, because you're doing it all, but there might be something else. So, we got everything from equipment; cardiac monitors, I can't remember the rest of them, do you remember any of them? Just contracting with them, maybe just to help increase their wage level to bring it comparable to ours. The training, they want the training, like Lake Placid, of example has nobody in that area that does the training. So, it's just things like that. It went really well at all the agencies. So, I'm waiting for their asks,

officially and then we will, Rob's got a pigeonhole in the budget, between now and the end of the grant to fit those in and then we should be good to go.

DELORIA: Okay, so the Lake Placid group, because everybody's got a copy of that letter, you me with Larry, is that his name?

BASHAW: Larry and the meeting I went to was their president, their chief operations officer, the treasurer and somebody else.

DELORIA: So, you were able to clear up some of the misconceptions?

BASHAW: Oh, yeah.

DELORIA: Okay

BASHAW: Whether or not it resonated, it was a great meeting, but they were still a little miffed about the difference in salary.

DELORIA: Well, I can tell you this, the County pays more of a salary to your positions than Newcomb does, but we understand that going into it. It is what it is, it's just a matter of joining the program, so to speak and moving forward with it.

BASHAW: All good meetings.

DELORIA: Anything else for us, Patty?

BASHAW: I don't. I think Rob's got an agenda.

WICK: Yeah, just kind of going through the rest of the agenda.

The 3 per diems that were approved, those are in the process of trying to get hired, right now. The Westport staffing contract, started March 22nd, Kevin Johnson is filling that role right now. So, and further on in this agenda document there is a number of just routine note dates for performance metrics, those kind of things, for a lot of the tasks that are there.

But, a big thing that I wanted to kind of follow back up on from our last meeting was any questions or comments on the full scale budget that I sent you at the last meeting? Because I know there's a lot of information there, there's a lot of numbers and what I sent, that PDF document was a bit condensed, so it shows a basic year and then it shows the end of the full scale year, what those costs would end up being, just to kind of make it a bit more concise. So, I want to see if anybody had any other questions or comments for that, because once we start getting into the scope and budget that can sometimes turn into another discussion. So, if there were no other comments, questions on kind of what we've been working through for the last month, I'd like to focus on that.

DELORIA: Where is everybody on that? Any concerns or questions?

MASCARENAS: Yeah, I think for us, too, just so everybody understands, in the course of Rob getting that budget, the DOS is, DOS's timeframe alone, so in order to try and get something to them as accurate as possible and you're going to wait quite a while. We did just get payment, so the money is flowing on the first phase, but the longer we sit and wait to put the second phase out, some of those costs are already being accumulated, the longer it's going to take to get reimbursements and those kinds of things. It's not to say that you can't reallocate at it another time, and do a budget modification, but those take a lot of time, so we would love to have it be as close as possible going in, right now.

DELORIA: Can you adjust your phase, by, hypothetically, pulling a community that was set up for phase three into phase two and vice versa, if somebody is in phase two and not ready for implementation?

MASCARENAS: Sure, you could and I think Rob has allocations in there, you know, under equipment items or things; which are somewhat fluid, that you wouldn't need major modifications to do and I think for what we know now, he's got it set up pretty well, but it's really just, on our end now slowing down the process in terms of being able to get those reimbursements in a timely manner.

DELORIA: But, with this grant is this a cookie cutter and I'll try and explain myself, that when you bring a community onboard, they essentially receive, under the grant, the same type of implementation, benefit as any other community would or is there some structure that can be changed throughout that?

MASCARENAS: Well, there is structure in terms of, that's the thing with this is, is there's not cookie cutter.

DELORIA: Good

MASCARENAS: That every community, what we witnessed has been very different in their ask and their request and we've been trying. What we've really been trying to augment the, regardless of what it is, if it's staffing, we try and help there, if it's training, we're trying to help there. If it's equipment, we're trying to help there and every ask is different from every agency, but just know that we're here to help and augment. That's really what our role is, what we're trying to get accomplished.

DELORIA: And without issuing the lion's share to any community.

MASCARENAS: Absolutely

DELORIA: Try and balance this out; correct?

MASCARENAS: And communities are going to pay what they pay, based on what their need is long term.

DELORIA: Yup

MASCARENAS: So, that's kind of what we're doing and that's what Rob's budget reflects, are some of those future asks what we are already aware of.

DELORIA: Yes, so access to per diems, hypothetically is another component for the community to pull from.

MASCARENAS: Sure

DELORIA: Let's say that they have the coverage. That they're good to go, they don't necessarily need the County program, but certainly want to be a part of it, because of the broader scope of the picture. So, per diems could one of the asks?

MASCARENAS: That's correct.

DELORIA: Good

WICK: It's just at this point in time to understand how much of an ask that they think they need, so that we can account for it going forward.

DELORIA: Yup

WICK: Because for some additional context, that money that we just got, that was applied for back in April/May of last year and that was only for 2019 costs.

DELORIA: Wow, 18 months.

BASHAW: So, what I'll do is when I reach back out to the agencies, like Keeseville and such, I'll have them set a date for us, you know receiving something back from them, so we can bring it to the next meeting and then we'll have a better idea for some of those budget items.

DELORIA: And your contract is with the agency and the town; correct?

BASHAW: Yes

DELORIA: So, let me look two years down the road from now and you've got those contracts that's been established and you've got employees that are now, maybe not municipal or fire department or rescue squad employees, they're now county employees, but they're part of the CON, who would reimburse the County for that expense, the town or the agency?

BASHAW: That's a decision locally.

MASCARENAS: Yeah, typically...

DELORIA: Let me throw this at you and I'll tell you why I ask that question, because being Newcomb, we're a fire protection district and we have to have a very specific figure in there. We can't put in a whole bunch of, you know, you're going to do this, you're doing to do that, it's a specific dollar amount and that is specifically for fire protection and ambulance service. So, my feeling would be, in our case, because we're a fire protection district and we can't reinvent the way the structure's been created, that the rescue or, you call them the agency would actually be reimbursing the County for those people.

BASHAW: To this point that's what's happening.

MASCARENAS: Yeah, what's happening and you're right, there's one just add on there. Some towns, like Newcomb, I believe gives the agency the money; right? So, indirectly that money sometimes is coming from the town, but it's being funneled through the agency; right? So, we're dealing with the agency in terms of payment and if the town locally decides to fund that agency then the town is paying, but they're not paying the County directly.

DELORIA: It's going from one account to another, back to the County.

MASCARENAS: That's correct, so either the district is collecting it, whether it's EMS or fire, through taxation or through the town general fund and then we're dealing with the agency in terms of how we're getting our money back from them. If that makes sense to everybody.

DELORIA: And the Supervisor is also signing this contract with the agencies, so you get both teams on board?

BASHAW: Yes, yes

DELORIA: Or fire department, whatever the case may be.

MASCARENAS: Right

SUBRA: Remember, Robin going forward, after 2024 the County will be creating a new EMS taxing district that goes to all communities, effective 2025, if I'm not misunderstanding that budget right to carry forward the overhead.

MASCARENAS: That's not true. We can't create a taxing district. We're not allowed to. That was all the legislation that we tried to get the State to allow us to do that. That didn't go through. So, our taxing district is our County, it's our County taxing entity.

PALMER: It's the general fund levy.

MASCARENAS: It goes to our general fund.

SUBRA: So, that \$1.1 million, I'm just rounding off, what will roll up into our County taxes and it won't be another separate EMS district?

MASCARENAS: That's correct

PALMER: It will all go on the County tax levy.

SUBRA: That was a misunderstanding. I thought we were creating another EMS district.

PALMER: We had tried, we wished we were able to start another and actual EMS district, but we were not allowed to. There was too much lobbying down on the southern end of the State to prevent that from happening from large ambulance groups, to be honest.

SUBRA: It's hard on our taxpayers, because we already have an EMS taxing district in Schroon. That is what I was concerned about was an additional line item.

PALMER: Nope, there will not be. It will go on the levy and be divided based upon your share of the levy within each town.

BASHAW: The one thing that we did say in each meeting was that the Public Safety Building, you know your spiel, the Public Safety Building's coming off and the communications system is coming off, so there should be some money to help cover that. So, what I was waiting for was that, frequently answer questions, because I told them that that was coming.

MASCARENAS: Dan and I had worked on redoing the Q&A for what the original Q&A was and we do have a draft finished. We've just got to get together and finalize it and make sure that that's okay. But, yeah, any budget's only as good as the current year; right? It's a tool that we use on an annual basis to make decisions and no Board can hold any future Board to the decisions that you make today; right? So, five years from now a Board might not like the idea on how things get budgeted and so on and so forth. So, in some ways that is unpredictable. What we do know is there is going to be some relief in our budget 2024-2025. Now, what we don't know is where the State is going to go in those years, we don't know any of that. That's the unknown here. You know last year we took a 20% hit and then it ended up being a 5% hit, those are things that you couldn't plan for that just happened. But, assuming that everything that we know now we would absolutely have room to fit that in, likely, without too much struggle.

PALMER: What I do not want to do, I do not want to make the .25¢ mistake.

BASHAW: No, no, no

PALMER: And that happened before, the number was thrown out, this thing is only going to cost .25¢ per thousand, it's not. That number, it never would end up that number, but I'm being, what we're trying to be here is clear that we have a certain amount of room within the budget as we go

forward into the 2023-2024, were the bond on the jail and the bond on the radio project and there's a certain amount of money there that's available and we believe we can absorb somewhere a million dollars without significantly changing the levy that we're currently raising. So, we're just being careful about that, because things can change, you can get different boards that may say, you know what? We need to hire more people for this and what looked like a million-dollar project may turn into a two-million-dollar project. So, you have to be careful about that. But, I think we have some pretty accurate numbers and I think we have some pretty accurate projections.

DELORIA: My concern with the levy and how that plays out, you know we've got to raise X number of dollars, whether it be Jeff's \$1.1 or more or less, however to pans out and we with the 18 towns that we have within the County, certainly there are towns, i.e. Newcomb, who's share would be maybe more than one of the towns whose full value isn't what Newcomb's is, is that how that's done?

PALMER: Yeah, again, the County's levy is always going to be divided based upon assessed values within the towns. Some towns have more assessed values than others, so that means those towns pay less based upon less overall assessed value. You're looking at about \$82 billion in the County in assessed value. So, you know typically when you put something on the County levy the cost would be less to taxpayers, only because you're dividing it in a bigger number. You know the tax rate's a simple calculation, it's assed value, your assessment per thousand gets divided out and you determine what the rate is. So, yeah, people who have larger assed values and towns, North Elba has the largest assessed value of any of the 18 towns, any share put on the County levy is going to be paid mostly by North Elba, in terms of...

DELORIA: Where does Newcomb stack up on that?

PALMER: You're probably 5th or 6th, because of your state land values. Minerva's in that same boat, you know so Ticonderoga, those are the ones that have larger assessed values.

DELORIA: And that's been my understanding from the get go and certainly why I supported it from the Town of Newcomb, to absolutely support this program, be part of it. Because the biggest picture here is coverage for the people that need it. If somebody's coding out there, we got to get to them. We can't play, well, nobody picked up the pager, you know, game, so and I think Randy's vision was just that, that we establish this countywide program, we work together as 18 towns and we're still a pilot. The State of New York is looking at us, can Essex County make this work and if they can, this is going to be the pilot moving forward.

HOLZER: Robin, quick question, now I know we're talking about down the road financing this through the general County tax base, but we're also planning to use the insurance recovery to offset that budget for insurance revenue; right?

PALMER: Yeah, absolutely, yeah.

HOLZER: Okay, just wanted to clarify that, that that's going into the EMS.

PALMER: In one way or another, so in other words, whether it's collected at the town levels or the local agency level or whether it's collected at the County level, that brings your overall program costs down.

HOLZER: Right, so the County will bill like a citizen from Wilmington for County provided services, it won't affect the billing, for example our fire district or town is doing right now?

PALMER: Right

BASHAW: Correct

PALMER: If we deliver the service.

MASCARENAS: Again, we're the, if you're paying us for that person that shows up as a county worker, Wilmington is going to get that amount that was billed, not the County. You're already paying the hour for that person there. If our fly car's the only one that shows up or if the fly car services are needed, because we have an ALS in that fly car then we're going to bill for that ALS.

HOLZER: That makes sense.

MASCARENAS: And we're going to bill for that ALS, but it's not going to impact what you're billing.

HOLZER: Okay

MASCARENAS: And I think the best example, too is Schroon and I just know that they don't bill. So, us adding the ability to bill, if Schroon Lake wants to bill through us that's a lot of revenue that's sitting out there on the table that's lost that we don't even know right now and there's probably four or five agencies that are fire districts that don't have the ability to bill that are going to be able to utilize that. How much money is that going to bring? I don't know. I know in Schroon it has to be significant with the out of state population that you're seeing all the time, but what it is I don't know. We should know by 2024-2025, if we can get that going sooner rather than later and be able to give a real accurate number on what that cost is going to be countywide, by ranking up billing.

MONTY: What's the definition of if needed?

MASCARENAS: I'm not an EMS person.

SUBRA: So, Jim, if you have an EMS call and the fly car comes and ALS is not needed then they wouldn't be charged, but if an ALS got onboard and helped service that patient then they would have a County charge for that ALS. No different than if Schroon Lake is going south and North Warren gets on or Warrensburg, kind of thing, our current customer would get billed not by

Schroon, but by that ALS, the person who got on board. You know it's like if a doctor got on or somebody that's higher up.

DELORIA: So, the level of care needed for the particular call is going to determine whether or not that that's going to be an ALS, a paramedic fly car, correct? Because not all agencies have paramedics, do they Patty?

BASHAW: I'm sorry, say it again?

DELORIA: The level or skill and employment with the various agencies, do we have paramedics across the board between the 18 towns?

BASHAW: No, some of them have basic EMTs, some of them have AEMT and some of them have critical cares. So, for an example, Moriah needed an ALS tech, I don't know, over the weekend I guess it was, they went out and paged out, so you know there's certain protocols, there's certain experience that, if that person gets on, they're basic and they don't feel comfortable with that call and they need extra manpower than that's when that person, the advanced person gets called. If a medic is going in that area, let's say Wilmington and he gets up there and he is not needed, he might help lift, get people out of the house and whatnot, but that person is not charged for that assistance. Wilmington, you know will say to them, Loriann said to them a couple of times, you know, we're all set, we're good or Charlie. Does that answer that?

DELORIA: Okay

BASHAW: And if they aren't doing that; which I haven't heard any complaints about, then they should be letting me know, the agency.

DELORIA: I think we can say things are running relatively smoothly and I think that's what we're looking for, you know continuity.

WICK: Well, that's the primary items that I really wanted to go over today, kind of just review. I can go through the rest of the information here. So, we touched on briefly, the last claim that we received, that was like our 2019 one, basically. The secondary claim for all our 2020 stuff is pending. That's going to be about \$824,500.00, should get confirmation here soon, whether there's going to be any adjustments or anything needed for that. It sometimes turns into a bit of a back and forth.

I didn't get a chance to catch up with you on this before, there was a note on some of our trainings. The one that we had for January, that was a BLS training; correct?

BASHAW: Yes

WICK: And do we have another one coming up?

BASHAW: Mike just started that one, it doesn't complete, the basic EMT course?

WICK: Yeah

BASHAW: It doesn't complete until May, I think and then an AMET course starting, probably late August.

WICK: Okay

DELORIA: Now the per diems, they're just that? They're not full time employees? They're just this other group of individuals that are skilled and they're willing to come on board as County employees, as per diems.

BASHAW: So, like an example is Matt Livingston, he works for ORDA and his schedule's flexible enough that AEMT that sometimes we can offer him some of the holes in the schedule, so he offers to cover that. Lisa Fish works out of Newcomb and of course she works every other weekend, so she does have some schedule availability to help cover when we've got holes in the schedule. So, more and more the people are taking time off now, because they've got the time. That's why those next 3 per diems are important.

DELORIA: And I think in Newcomb we have 3 full time employees right now?

BASHAW: Yeah

DELORIA: So, when you look at time off and vacation time and things of that nature, you know rather than taking one day, I mean there's a lot of us that do that. I take one day of vacation every 6 months, but the idea is they may want a week off, so you need a week of per diems. Whether it be the same person or not, so to me this group of per diems is going to have to be rather hefty to cover the 18 towns over a period of time.

BASHAW: Well if you want more per diems, I'll hire more. You guys approved 3. I don't know how much we really have in the budget.

DELORIA: Yeah, for the grant, but I'm talking about, Newcomb's going to have to have per diems whether or not, we're going end up paying for those per diems, they're our business, but to have the group to pull from, so they can fill those voids. I'm talking 3 years down the road where, okay, somebody wants to take a weeks' vacation. I don't have any per diems, where are they going to come from, because I think that's going to be one of the biggest hurdles, once you get your full timers established and you can pretty much make the coverage and do all the runs, there's no dropped calls, then the per diems are going to kick in.

BASHAW: Well, quite frankly I'd like to get Dan's thought underway and that would help cover some of that, too. Not so much in Newcomb, but in other places.

DELORIA: Right, but ultimately the towns are going to be paying, not the towns, the agencies are going to be paying for those per diems.

BASHAW: Yes

DELORIA: As they do now.

BASHAW: Correct

DELORIA: Okay

WICK: So, on to basically the staffing contracts, those are all running very well. There are the ones from Ticonderoga and Moriah, revenues are coming in on a monthly basis now and have been since about November. As mentioned earlier, Westport has just started, back in March. The ambulance for Minerva, still waiting on updates for the results from those bids. I talked to Steve last week, I understand that there is a specification, negotiation, some budget issues that we're trying finalize a bid on that. Steve, do you have update on that?

MCNALLY: Yeah, we should be signing the contract tomorrow.

WICK: Okay

MCNALLY: We had 3 bids, 2 were almost identical. In the bid it had a delivery time and then when we selected a bidder then the delivery time went from 3 months to a year and they want to add a cost to it, so we're signing the contract tonight.

WICK: Awesome

MCNALLY: Yeah, they're meeting to spec out the shelving tomorrow evening and then we're going to sign the contract. In 3 months we should have it.

WICK: Alright, thank you

BASHAW: I would like to mention that we did also have a zoom call with AuSable Forks and that went very well, too. Don't you think Archie?

DEPO: Yup

WICK: Okay, really the only other item is this is the time to get our agreement with EMR, reinstated since we got that approved and we don't really have a whole lot of other updates beyond that. So, if there are any other questions that we can answer, any other comments?

SUBRA: I've probably seen this before, but are we paying our per diems anymore an hour since they're not drawing any extra?

BASHAW: No

SUBRA: Okay, you know sometimes a per diem rate is a little higher to attract people to fill those slots when they're not receiving the added benefits of a full time.

MASCARENAS: It falls into a grade and then the last time EMS wasn't a thing; right?

PALMER: Right

MASCARENAS: So, it fell into a grade position and that's what it will be unless negotiated otherwise with the Union.

WINEMILLER: I have a question, I was just wondering, Patty do we have any ambulance services in Essex County that are for profit?

BASHAW: Yes, Lamoille is.

WINEMILLER: Okay

BASHAW: Varins would be the only other one and they're out of Plattsburgh.

WINEMILLER: What was it?

BASHAW: V.A.R.I.N.S.

WINEMILLER: Varins?

BASHAW: They're out of Plattsburgh, generally they've been a BLS agency. I don't know if they've come up to the ALS yet, but they're in Plattsburgh. I don't know if they have a CON for our area. E'town Community Hospital is a not for profit, so that would be the only other. Oh, EMT of CVPH; right? EMT of CVPH has a CON for our County, because they used to be based out of Westport, believe it or not.

WINEMILLER: Okay, so these, so I guess I'm trying to be proactive, rather than reactive and I know like Moriah it doesn't matter because it's the grant, but in the future, you know when it's on the County, I just am curious what the response will be to these 3, if they're for profit, you know what I mean? Is the County still going to pay the benefit packet for those if they need it?

BASHAW: So, that's a really good question. So, those 3 agencies are transport agencies, they don't generally do, EMT of CVPH does do 911 calls, but that's the Plattsburgh area and Peru and Keeseville. So, they also have a transport service, so they have two entities under that umbrella. Lamoille does, primarily transfers but they also cover Crown Point for 911 calls and as a backup to the Ti area, but mostly they're transport agency, from hospital to hospital.

WINEMILLER: Okay

BASHAW: And the same thing with E'town Hospital, we might have like 2 or 3 calls a year for 911, but they're purely transfers.

WINEMILLER: Okay, so I guess I'm just asking the question, will they be included with the countywide?

PALMER: We don't pay them. I mean we don't pay private agencies.

WINEMILLER: Okay, so they will not be eligible to be part of the countywide program?

PALMER: No, no they do their own billing.

WINEMILLER: Okay, okay and the other question I had and I just want to clarify something, I want everyone in Essex County to have good EMS. I heard you're against this, that's not true; okay? I just want to make sure that it's fair and equally distributed and that brings me to my next question. I had a long conversation, not last week, the week before with Joe, the Supervisor of Ticonderoga does not currently contract with their EMS, but it's my understanding that Ticonderoga ambulance service is part of the County program, they're getting paramedics, so based on that and I know right now it's grant, so it doesn't matter, but when you go to the County, right, if, is Ticonderoga the only town that does not have EMS contracted?

MASCARENAS: Yeah, Ticonderoga is paying currently, Ticonderoga is not under the grant anymore. Ticonderoga got their first year grant and now they're paying us directly. So, their district taxes; which means Joe does and the Ticonderoga Board is not giving them money directly, but they still are taxing their district. Does that make sense to you? That's how they function in terms of revenue.

WINEMILLER: Okay, but so they're collecting the tax on the County level, I'm sorry the Town level, but they don't have a contract for their EMS service?

MASCARENAS: Not with the Town directly, in terms of payment. They have a contract with us, because we're supplementing their personnel.

WINEMILLER: Okay, so was Ticonderoga paying?

MASCARENAS: No, the residents of Ticonderoga are.

WINEMILLER: Okay

MASCARENAS: It's the same people, it's the same tax base anyway you shake it out, right?

WINEMILLER: Well, here's where I'm going with this and I know right now it's grant, so it doesn't matter and I don't care, but in the future, if we have 18 towns in Essex County and 17 of them are

contracted with local EMS on the town level and Ticonderoga is only paying on the County level is that fair and equitable to everyone in Essex County?

MASCARENAS: Sure, like I said it's similar to, most communities, towns don't pay their EMS districts directly, they have their own taxing district and it shows up on a bill; right?

PALMER: They raise their own taxes.

WINEMILLER: Right, but we contract. So, I am just saying about St. Armand, because this is how ours works.

MASCARENAS: Okay

WINEMILLER: We contract with Saranac Lake Rescue Squad which is, it's very complicated, but they're there in Franklin County and then we also do some with North Elba, because part of St. Armand is in North Elba, so we collected about \$32,000.00 - \$33,000.00 a year and distribute it to Saranac Lake and North Elba through a contract, so we are, we're collecting a tax and then paying directly.

MASCARENAS: That's one mechanism, the other is if you have a separate district; which is all inclusive of those people that you represent and that's how a lot of communities operate.

WINEMILLER: Okay

MASCARENAS: So, the town doesn't write a check to the agency, because they have the ability to tax.

PALMER: The agency itself is raising its own tax.

WINEMILLER: The agency itself has the ability to tax, there's no need to duplicate that.

MASCARENAS: Now the town certainly at any given time can make that decision and say we want to give you X amount of dollars because we need it for this or that or the other, they can do that. At the County level, we don't really care on how you're running locally; right? So, our way to making it fair and equitable is by saying, were contracting with you if you need personnel, we're going to supply that to you and here's what the charge is going to be whether you collect it through the district or the town we don't necessarily care about that.

WINEMILLER: So, are you saying that...

DELORIA: Davina, let me just, we're going to go back to our previous meeting and I think Mr. Gilliland indicated that a lot of your questions are specifically for St. Armand and you really need to get with Mike and Dan to get those answered, they're really not committee related. I mean I'm

willing to entertain a few more minutes of this, but at our last meeting we suggested that if you don't understand the program to get with these guys separately.

WINEMILLER: Okay, then can I ask one more question?

DELORIA: Yup, absolutely Davina.

WINEMILLER: I know that we have talked about getting the documents to all the Supervisors and you know and not just the committee members and I was just wondering if that was going to happen?

MASCARENAS: Absolutely

BASHAW: We can do that.

MASCARENAS: And I apologize for that, everything will go to the whole Board.

MONTY: Just a simple solution, Davina, with this, if you had a taxing district in St. Armand on your tax bill it would be EMS taxing district.

WINEMILLER: Yes

MONTY: And you wouldn't have to sign a contract with those people. We do not have a EMS taxing district in Lewis, therefore I sign a contract every year with Elizabethtown/Lewis and stuff, so it's only batch of tax money and that's what Ti does.

SCOZZAFAVA: Moriah, we don't have a special ambulance district; which you have to form, just like a fire district. They submit the budget and we don't really have any control over it, just part of your levy. In Moriah we contribute towards our squad, we have a contract like Jim does and we give them X number of dollars, we also pay for their fuel and so on and that's pretty much how we support our squad.

MONTY: And that fuel is all part of the contract.

SCOZZAFAVA: Exactly, all within the contract.

DELORIA: Right and let me just throw this out Davina, maybe this will help, too, is that, Newcomb for example we're a fire protection district and there's nothing in State Law that requires the Town of Newcomb to provide ambulance through our levy.

WINEMILLER: Right

DELORIA: I mean we do so, because it's the human and the right thing to do. So, I think every town seems to be different. We have fire protection districts, we have fire districts, we have fire districts that are split up and now they have an EMS district, so I think we're all doing it based on

the population of our communities and ensuring that that coverage is there and so did you have another question for us?

WINEMILLER: Nope

DELORIA: Okay, Robert, anything else for today.

WICK: No, sir.

DELORIA: Okay, is there any other questions from our committee here? If not we stand adjourned.

**AS THERE WAS NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THIS TASK FORCE IT WAS
ADJOURNED AT 9:45 AM.**

Respectively Submitted,

Dina Garvey, Deputy Clerk
Board of Supervisors