



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
WORKSHOP**

**September 8, 2011**

The Board of Selectmen met at the Public Safety Building with the Finance Committee. Present from the Board of Selectmen were: David Matthews, Tom Alonzo, Paula Bertram, Steven M. deBettencourt and Kerry Speidel, Town Manager; Carl "Ernie" Sund was absent. John Male, Mark Erickson, Brian Laffond and Martha McDonald were present from the Finance Committee. Meeting opened at 6:15 PM.

**CURRENT BUSINESS**

**1. REVIEW PROPOSAL FOR REGIONALIZE DISPATCH-NASHOBA VALLEY REGIONAL DISPATCH**

Fire Chief Scott Glenn along with Police Chief Daniel Bourgeois presented to those present the specifics of the regional dispatch project (attached). Lunenburg along with Lancaster, Shirley, Harvard and Devens have been exploring the possibility of consolidating their police, fire and ambulance dispatch services. Moving to a regional dispatch center would also meet the EMS 2000 Legislation that requires all communities to have two dispatchers on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week by the year 2012. Scott noted that would double the dispatch budget in fiscal 2013. Having two dispatchers on duty all the time would allow one dispatcher to assess the situation and dispatch the appropriate responders while the second dispatcher can give pre-arrival instructions; how to do CPR or control bleeding. By regionalizing, the estimated cost savings per community for the first year would be \$139,224.00.

Paula had concerns whether having only two dispatchers working per shift was reasonable considering they would be, quite possibly, handling calls from five communities. She was also concerned about the safety of the lobby not being manned here at home. Responding, Scott said that there is a possibility to staff the station with part time individuals so if someone came in for help there would be a person there to help them.

Police Chief Bourgeois voiced his concerns regarding the following; building security, dispatchers familiar with the town (losing that personal touch), reservations about the Town receiving the grant money, (it doesn't always show up) and because we're unique in that we border Fitchburg and Leominster and share in their crimes. He suggested holding off entering into an agreement and see how the project works out with the other towns.

Steve asked if dispatch could do a breakdown over a two week period showing the calls they receive as well as the walk-ins. He would like this for their next meeting.

According to Kerry, Harvard has signed on, Shirley is still contemplating and Lancaster seems ready to move forward.

Dave Matthews would like to look at the numbers before making a decision and asked Kerry for a cost-analysis for the next meeting which is scheduled for October 6<sup>th</sup> at the Public Safety Facility.

Being no further business the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote; to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Linda H. Douglas, Administrative Assistant  
Board of Selectmen*