

**Town of Woodstock
Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting
Thursday, September 13, 2018
5:00pm – Room A**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Michael Alberts, Frank Olah and Chandler Paquette

OTHERS PRESENT: Richard Baron, Joshua Bottone, Roy Chandler, Michael Dougherty, David Elliott, Chuck Kelleher, Diane Miller, Todd Millix, Jeff Otto, Seth Spalding, Dexter Young, Eric Young, WINY reporter and others

1. Call to Order: First Selectman Michael Alberts called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

2. Citizens Comments: Mr. Alberts stated that this topic has been discussed at many of the Board of Selectmen's meetings and the Board has visited both dispatch centers recently. He stated that the contract between the Town of Woodstock and QV Dispatch was originally signed in November of 2005, effective April of 2006, and automatically renews every five years. The current contract expires in April 13, 2021. If Woodstock decides to end its agreement with QV Dispatch the Town would need to give QV a year notice before the end of the contract date, which would be April 13, 2020. There does not seem to be any provision for ending the contract earlier.

Mr. Alberts asks for comments from the audience.

Mr. Dexter Young stated that he has been on the QV Dispatch Board of Directors since 1974. He feels that it would be a mistake to leave QV. The ambulance works with Day Kimball Emergency room and the fire departments work with other mutual aid companies that are dispatched from QV. He feels that Woodstock should remain with a dispatch center that handles all of the mutual aid for this area.

Mr. Jeff Otto, the President of QV Dispatch feels that QV has the same technology available that Tolland does. He stated that they are obtaining new radio equipment and that a survey will be done to identify where radio dead spots are located. The updates should be done no later than the spring of 2019.

Mr. Todd Millix from the Tolland County Mutual Aid Fire Service Inc had nothing to add what he had already expressed at earlier meetings.

Roy Chandler, Fire Chief of Bungay Fire Brigade, expressed his concerns with the service his district has received from QV and stated that he wishes to leave the QV Dispatch.

Seth Spalding, Fire Chief of the Muddy Brook Fire Department, stated that he did have concerns over the handling of some situations at QV Dispatch, however his membership voted to stay with QV Dispatch.

Eric Young, Fire Chief of the Woodstock Volunteer Fire Department said that in the short time that he has been chief, he has not had any issues with service from QV Dispatch. His membership, as well as the Ambulance and EMS staff, voted to remain with QV Dispatch.

Emergency Management Coordinator David Elliott and Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator Joshua Bottone both stated their concerns with how certain situations at the QV Dispatch been handled. They would like to switch to the Tolland County Mutual Fire Aid Service.

4. Discussion and Vote on Whether to Remain in Place with QV Dispatch of Plan a Move to Tolland Emergency Dispatch. The Board of Selectmen expressed their concern in regards to how QV has handled certain situations that could possibly put the public and the fire personnel at risk, especially in the Bungay Fire Brigade area. They also felt that the Tolland County Mutual Aid Fire Service had a better handle on how to resolve complaints and concerns that are brought to their attention. However, it is difficult to make a decision on this issue when the fire departments are not in agreement on whether to stay or leave. It was the consensus of the Board to formally notify QV Dispatch of their dissatisfaction with the service the Town of Woodstock has received, and hopefully that these problems will be resolved by the time the current contract is set to expire.

Mr. Alberts made a motion to table this issue, with a formal notification to the QV Dispatch of the Town's dissatisfaction with the service received from QV Dispatch thus far. **Motion passed unanimously.**

4. Adjournment: Mr. Chandler Paquette made a motion to adjourn at 5:51pm. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Christine G. French
Recording Clerk