

**Minutes of West Fairlee Selectboard Emergency Meeting
January 26, 2010**

Present from the Selectboard: Bonnie Cray, Beverly Ash and Doug Sonsalla
Visitors: Sarah Blanchard

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm at the Community Building multi-purpose room.

The First Response Team has submitted a budget request of \$3,049 that was reviewed by the board. Cray asked what kind of insurance the first response team would be obtaining estimated at \$750 for next year. Blanchard indicated that insurance is required because the response team does not meet the requirements to be an independent response team and must work under Upper Valley Ambulance. Because of the nature of the organization, Blanchard has been advised that insurance will be necessary. Cray asked why the response team had utilized such little funds since last year. Blanchard discussed the timing challenges encountered with training opportunities and explained that reimbursement requests have not been submitted for 2009 due to a change in the organizational leadership. The response team has approximately \$3,575 to submit for reimbursement that is not reflected in the budget items presented from last year.

Cray explained that the response team account currently has a surplus of \$9,045 in unused funds and asked Blanchard why additional funds had been requested. Blanchard explained that the funds are allocated for emergency situations that cannot be fully anticipated in a budget as well as equipment and training for members. The response team currently has two members and hopes to expand membership. Cray explained that the Town budget has been cut back on several of the other Town services. Blanchard explained that many of their budget estimates had been cut back from estimates provided for the same necessary supplies in the budget last year. The budget request for last year was reviewed and updates bringing the budget request up to date for 2010 were reviewed by Blanchard. The supply reserves of the team were also discussed. Blanchard discussed searching out alternate medication sources to reduce pricing.

Cray indicated that the reimbursement requests should try to be submitted prior to the end of the year. Ash also discussed issues with membership and suggested that the team notify the public of training opportunities if they are offered to other organizations in Town. Blanchard and the board discussed funding, membership recruiting, and information opportunities.

Blanchard expressed an eagerness to ally with the volunteer fire department to help the organization become more eligible for grants and benefit both organizations. Blanchard indicated that the organization membership is open to all and that they team invites interested parties to get involved. Cray asked Blanchard to clarify what a twelve lead is, a piece of equipment that Blanchard has expressed interest in obtaining for the Town. Blanchard explained that a twelve lead is an electrocardiogram (ECG) that can aid the team in early detection of heart attacks. Grant opportunities were discussed.

Cray calculated that given the account surplus of \$9,045, less the funds earmarked, for reimbursement, and the operating costs estimated for 2010 leaves a surplus of \$2,421. Cray suggested utilizing the surplus funds. Blanchard asked that the extra funds be left for matching grants for additional equipment/supplies, like the twelve lead ECG, and for potential emergency situations that could arise. Sonsalla suggested establishing a capital fund for the team for the next budget. Cray suggested starting on the budget early next year to allow time for more discussion and planning. Sonsalla suggested that if a grant match is required in the future, the board can try to work out funds if necessary.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 pm.