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TOWN OF BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Minutes Ambulance Billing Evaluation Committee Wednesday, November 14, 2018

Committee members in attendance: Brendan Denehy, Todd Christensen, Shawn Jackson, Tim McGettigan, Jim Deffely, Brian Rater (representing the finance committee) and Tad Putney. A total of seven ambulance personnel attended the meeting as well.

Brendan opened the meeting at 7:05 with introductions. He then provided background on prior committees that had studied the possibility of billing for ambulance services and warrant articles that had been considered at prior town meetings. He explained the point of the meeting is to get input from ambulance personnel on the possibility of billing and then to have a Public Hearing on the topic November 26th. He said the committee's objective is to determine if a warrant article is recommended or not for the March 2019 town meeting.

Shawn Jackson explained to attendees that he met with one billing company and received information from a second. He shared what he had learned from the billing companies. **Shawn** said that EMAX estimated the ambulance service would generate about \$152,000 per year from billing, excluding their fee. He said Comstar estimated about \$175,000, excluding their fee. **Shawn** said that net of the fee to a billing service, it is estimated the Town would receive about \$95,000 per year.

Attendants and committee members then had a discussion that considered answers to various questions that were asked. It was suggested that if we start billing, it would be a good idea for all or some of the revenue to go into a capital reserve fund for new ambulances or equipment rather than into the general fund.

Brian asked what percentage of ambulance calls are for seniors. **Shawn** said that he did not have the answer readily available, but will get it.

Shawn shared the recent results of a survey of ambulance personnel that showed the attendants are evenly divided on the question of billing. A couple of attendants said that they were on the fence regarding whether to bill or not.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Minutes submitted by Tad Putney.