



Town of Turner, Maine

11 Turner Center Rd. Turner, Maine 04282 – 207-225-3414 - www.turnermaine.com

Board of Selectmen – Special Meeting Friday, June 20, 2014 2:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance.**
2. **Adjustments to the Agenda** -- *Adjusting the order of the agenda or adding/subtracting items requires a majority vote from those Selectmen present. For action to be taken on an adjusted item, the full Board must be present to vote.*
3. **Turner Rescue Transition Program.**
4. **Other Business:** 4-1: MOARK Egg Farm Visit; 4-2: Amended Pay Order; 4-3: Flex Benefit Pay Order

_____ Motion _____ Second

5. **Executive Session: 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) – Personnel (Turner Rescue Staff - Transition)**

_____ Motion _____ Second

6. **Adjourn.**

_____ Motion _____ Second



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June 20, 2014

To The Residents of Turner:

The Turner Board of Selectmen has begun a process to determine the future structure and operation of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) that will serve the town's residents. In doing so, the Selectmen will strive to continue the outstanding work and dedication of the town's retiring Rescue Chief, Laurel Gagne, and her efforts to help those in need of emergency medical care.

The Board of Selectmen recognizes that EMS is in a period of significant change. Under the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA), service providers will soon operate under arrangements with Accountable Care Organizations which will monitor the quality of care provided by EMS units and control payments for their services. EMS will also be expected to work in partnership with other healthcare providers and assist with home-based patient care in a role that is being referred to as "community paramedicine". The full nature and extent of these changes will be evaluated to the greatest extent possible as part of the Selectmen's decision making process.

Over the next two months, the Board of Selectmen will prepare a plan designed to meet the town's immediate and longer term EMS needs. In doing so, multiple service scenarios will be considered, including the following:

1. Appointing a new Rescue Chief who will be charged with managing the day-to-day functions of Turner Rescue while preparing it for the future;
2. Partnering with another service in a regional EMS arrangement; and
3. Contracting with an established service to meet the town's EMS needs.

The following will be of primary consideration:

- Cost – Turner Rescue has operated for years with a volunteer Chief. A new Chief will likely require compensation which is not included in the fy 2015 budget. It is also likely that other training and personnel costs will rise as the service is restructured for the future. These added expenses will be weighed against the costs of all alternative scenarios.

- Staff – Turner Rescue has been served by a dedicated staff for many years. Moving forward, all reasonable efforts will be made to assure either their continued employment or that they have the opportunity to transition to work for a contracted service, if that option is selected.
- Quality and Response – Turner residents must be assured of receiving professionally-delivered EMS care within a reasonable period of time, in accordance with recognized EMS guidelines and rules.

If it is necessary to call a Special Town Meeting to accomplish a transition, it will be done prior to committing taxes for the fiscal 2015 year. Further, every effort will be made to keep our staff and the public informed throughout this process, though certain discussions involving either personnel or contract negotiations may require some closed-door sessions.

We appreciate your understanding and patience as we work through this process.

Sincerely,

Board of Selectmen,
Town of Turner