

**St. George Public Hearing on the
Proposed Ordinance to Establish the Emergency Medical Services Department
Town Office and via Zoom
March 27, 2023
Minutes**

The St. George Public Hearing for the ordinance to establish the Emergency Medical Services Department was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Richard Bates (Chair), Steve Cartwright, Van Thompson, Wayne Sawyer, Randy Elwell, Richard Erb, Irene Ames, Mary K. Hewlett, Alison Briggs, Chris Polky, Mike Felton, Suzy Kane, and Alane Kennedy.

Via Zoom: Present were Kristin Falla and Sandra Roak.

Bates

Good evening. The first thing tonight then is the public hearing. As announced in the newspaper, notices around town and on the town website, this is a public hearing regarding the establishment of the Emergency Medical Services Department. We're doing this because the town charter requires a referendum vote to establish or perhaps eliminate a town department. Our plan, assuming all goes well, is to hold a secret referendum vote on May 8th this year. The new department we're proposing will provide first responder and emergency medical services to the public, which is now being provided by the nonprofit corporation known as The St. George Volunteer Ambulance Association. As required the draft of this ordinance has been available at the town website, and also at the town office. Does anyone have any comments they'd like to make about the EMS ordinance that we're proposing?

Erb

I have copies if anyone wants one.

Bates

I hope it's clear that we're doing this as part of the many checkboxes that are necessary to make the ambulance a department of the town. Just so you know what's going to be happening in the future on May 8th. That's the day when you vote for the Select Board and the School Board members. There is actually going to be two ordinances that you'll be able to vote on. One will be

the Land Use Ordinance that the Planning Board has put forward at their Public Hearing last Tuesday, and the second one will be the EMS Ordinance that will also be on that Monday ballot. As far as the ambulance is concerned, assuming the ordinance for the ambulance is approved on Monday, then on Tuesday when we're going through the budget and approving all the departments like solid waste and roads and fire departments, we will also at that time be approving, I hope, the ambulance department. There's two more things to happen, like I said, the Monday vote for the ordinance and then the Tuesday vote in the course of the town meeting on the 9th, when we will talk about the budget for the ambulance.

Erb

I will need signatures tonight.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Taylor
Recording Secretary
Town of St. George, Maine