

**Minutes for a Ticonderoga Budget Workshop and any Other Lawful Business
commencing at 1:00 p.m. on September 27, 2022**

Present: Mark Wright, Supervisor
Dave Woods, Councilman
Joyce Cooper, Councilwoman
Tom Cunningham, Councilman
Tonya M. Thompson, Town Clerk

Absent: Councilman Thatcher

Others: Rebecca Norton and Amy Beeman from Finance, Judges O'Bryan and LaPerle, Patty Cook, Josh Gijanto, Renee Kennedy from Ti EMS along with Matt Watts and Bryce Taylor County Representatives for EMS

Supervisor Wright opened the meeting inviting the Judges to speak.

Judge O'Bryan was present to answer any questions the board may have on their budget. The Judges agreed to freezing their salaries, but not the court clerk's, which was understood. No questions were presented.

Supervisor Wright then invited the County EMS personal to discuss options or issues that the County has been running into when it comes to Ambulance Services.

Bryce Taylor noted that everyone is in the same boat, it is very challenging for every community finding funding as well as employees. A big hit is that Medicaid pays only \$300 per call and that is every call, whether it is 2 minutes or miles away. Elizabethtown and Lewis have combined their services for funding opportunities.

Matt Watts thanked the Town for bringing this up because many Towns are not addressing the issue at all.

Mr. Taylor explained that Moriah ambulance gets \$15,000.00 from their Town, but they are on the verge of failure also. They do yearly fund drives, spaghetti dinners, car washes....

Councilman Cunningham asked how many Ambulances are in Ti, between Lamoille and Ti. Mr. Watts stated that there are 5 units total, 3 from Lamoille and 2 from Ti, the units aren't the problem, it is finding staff to go in them.

Renee Kennedy did mention that they came to the Town with a \$300,000.00 ask for funding, but they could cut some things out and get it down to \$140,000.00. That would be a bare bones budget for them to survive.

Much more discussion was held and will be continued at a later time.

Workshop closed at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Tonya M. Thompson, Town Clerk