

A Resolution in support of State Legislation to provide “CHIPS-style” Funding Subsidies for Municipalities that operate or contract with Public and Not-for-Profit EMS Services

RESOLUTION #2023-_____

Whereas, the availability of promptly-provided, professionally-staffed Emergency Medical Services (EMS) stands as a vital need and an important priority for Enfield Town residents and for the Town Board that represents them; and

Whereas, trained, ambulance-equipped EMS providers include not only those commercial services that have traditionally served Enfield, but also municipally-operated providers that serve some of Tompkins County’s other municipalities, providers that find themselves under increased financial pressure due to increasing costs and limited municipal resources; and

Whereas, the increased demands imposed on Enfield’s dominant commercial EMS provider in recent years have heightened the likelihood that this Town may need to draw upon an adjoining community’s municipally-operated, ambulance-ready EMS service in the future; and

Whereas, Article XVII §3 of the New York State Constitution states that, “*The protection and promotion of the health of the inhabitants of the state are matters of public concern and provision therefor **shall be made by the state** and by such of its subdivisions and in such manner, and **by such means as the legislature shall from time to time determine.**”(emphasis added); and*

Whereas, members of the New York State Legislature have introduced Assembly Bill A01091 and companion Senate Bill S01852, each of which would establish a funding subsidy for not-for-profit Emergency Medical Service Agencies, a funding mechanism similar to the “CHIPS-style” mechanism employed by New York State to provide subsidies for municipal highway maintenance; and

Whereas, these bills, if adopted, could provide financial assistance to the Town of Enfield should it become necessary in the future for this Town to operate such an Emergency Medical Service or to contract for such a service offered by a qualifying municipal provider; and

Whereas, Assembly Bill A01091 and Senate Bill S01852 have been endorsed by the Tompkins County Legislature, the Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG) and by governing boards of various Tompkins County municipalities, to which the Enfield Town Board now chooses to join their collective voice; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Enfield Town Board fully supports Assembly Bill A01091 and companion Senate Bill S01852, which would create a “CHIPS-style” state funding subsidy for municipalities that operate or contract with public and not-for-profit EMS Agencies; and be it further

Resolved, that copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to Assemblymember Anna Kelles, Senator Lea Webb, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, and Governor Kathy Hochul.

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