

A Resolution in support of full County Funding of the Rapid Medical Response Service

RESOLUTION #2023-_____

Whereas, Tompkins County has begun the process of planning and implementation for a Countywide Rapid Medical Response Team (CRMRT), a service designed to augment local community-based first responders and volunteer rescue squads, including Enfield's, in providing first response to Tompkins County residents during medical and traumatic emergencies while they await the arrival of a transport ambulance agency, a plan outlined in the Draft Tompkins County – Countywide Shared Services Plan for 2024; and

Whereas, the Draft Countywide Shared Services Plan estimates the CRMRT's first-year start-up and operating costs at \$699,794, and projects second-year and subsequent year operating costs at \$504,956, the Shared-Services Plan itself failing to state how those costs would be apportioned among Tompkins County and its various municipalities; and

Whereas, in a presentation to the Tompkins County Legislature on October 3, 2023, representatives of Tompkins County's Department of Emergency Response presented five (5) "Cost Sharing Models" for the CRMRT, four of which would have local municipalities bearing a portion of the annual operational expense, with three of those models having rural towns bearing a full 50 per cent of the cost, while the City of Ithaca (and perhaps also the Town of Ithaca) would be excluded from any financial contribution; and

Whereas, under the three Cost Sharing Models presented that would require a 50 per cent municipal contribution, the Town of Enfield would be assessed between \$29,158.11 and \$58,316.22 annually; and

Whereas, the Tompkins County Legislature and its Expanded Budget Committee may within the forthcoming days and weeks incorporate one of the afore-mentioned Cost Sharing Models within the documents for its proposed 2024 Tompkins County Budget; and

Whereas, the Enfield Town Board, in its opinion, believes the four Cost Sharing Models that would require the Town of Enfield's financial contribution to the CRMRT, as presented the County Legislature October 3rd, stand unfair to this Town in several regards, including that the models:

- (1) Fail to recognize the population discrepancies among Tompkins County's various towns;
- (2) Ignore the relative differences in community wealth and aggregate property assessments, as well as the ability of each individual town to pay its proposed share of the cost;
- (3) Ignore the City (and Town) of Ithaca's need to contribute as an equitable financial partner, particularly in view of the fact that City of Ithaca residents' demand for emergency medical services stands as a principal contributor to the delayed medical response times by transport agencies, delays which necessitate the CRMRT's creation in the first instance; and
- (4) Overlook Tompkins County Government's overriding responsibility and its position as the sole unit of local government possessing the resources to invest in a service of this magnitude and the ability to apportion that cost among its residents in the most equitable matter;

A Resolution in support of full County Funding of the Rapid Medical Response Service

Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Enfield Town Board hereby states that should Tompkins County implement a Countywide Rapid Medical Response Team as outlined in the Draft Tompkins County – Countywide Shared Services Plan for 2024, that said implementation be conditioned on the requirement that Tompkins County Government provide full funding for said service, and that provisions for full County funding be incorporated by the Tompkins County Legislature for budget years 2024 and beyond; and be it further

Resolved, that the Clerk hereby send a copy of this Resolution to the Hon. Shawna Black, Chair of the Legislature, the Hon. Deborah Dawson, Chair of the Legislature’s Budget, Capital, and Personnel Committee, and the Hon. Legislators Anne Koreman and Randy Brown, representatives for the Town of Enfield, and to Michael Stitley, Director of the Tompkins County Department of Emergency Response.

###