

**A Resolution addressing Funding Options and Cooperative Agreements for the Tompkins County Pilot Rapid Medical Response System (Revised December 2023)**

RESOLUTION #2023-\_\_\_\_\_

**Whereas**, Tompkins County has begun the process of planning and implementation of a Pilot Rapid Medical Response (PRMR) system 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 Tompkins County Legislature has in its 2024 County Budget allocated \$232,000 in targeted County funding toward the PRMR’s expenses, and set aside an equal \$232,000 in contingency funds to cover the potential local share of this program during 2024; and

**Whereas**, on November 16, 2023, the Public Safety Committee of the Legislature recommended a Resolution, likely to be presented to the Legislature for adoption this month, that would direct the County Administrator to “invite County municipalities and private emergency service companies to meet and determine the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding for the PRMR program, including determination of service level commitments and the allocation of the remaining half of the estimated 2024 operating cost of the PRMR;” and

**Whereas**, three of the five draft municipal cost-sharing options presented to the Legislature by the Tompkins County Department of Emergency Response in October 2023 would assess Tompkins County’s towns one-half (50%) of the PRMR’s operational cost, and a fourth option would assess a 25% municipal cost-share, with estimated individual annual municipal contributions ranging from \$19,438 to \$58,316, while imposing no cost-sharing burden upon the City (or presumably, the Town) of Ithaca; and

**Whereas**, this Enfield Town Board has already adopted its Final 2024 Budget, with this Board imposing fund balance reductions and contingency fund limitations that preclude cost-sharing contributions for the PRMR of the magnitude estimated during this program’s first year of operation; and

**Whereas**, the Enfield Town Board, in its opinion, believes the four cost-sharing models presented by Tompkins County to date 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 PRMR’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; and

**Re: Tompkins County Pilot Rapid Medical Response System**

**Whereas**, at a meeting of the Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG) on December 7, 2023, the Chair of the Tompkins County Legislature’s Public Safety Committee indicated it might be too late in Town Governments’ current budget cycles to impose PRMR cost-sharing assessments for 2024, but that negotiation of a Memorandum of Understanding would, nonetheless, prove beneficial toward:

- (1) determining potential municipal cost-sharing formulas for years 2025 and beyond;
- (2) providing the Legislature assurance that municipalities recognize their need to partner in the PRMR service; and
- (3) committing all parties to the principle that local volunteer rescue services will not be reduced or compromised once Tompkins County establishes the PRMR service; and

**Whereas**, at that same meeting of TCCOG on December 7, 2023, Rordan Hart, Mayor of the Village of Trumansburg, proposed the initiation of a “formalized conversation” among Tompkins County’s 17 municipal entities toward structuring potential cooperative arrangements leading toward shared responsibility in the emergency medical services field; and

**Whereas**, this Town Board finds value in Mayor Hart’s suggestion and in the need for further discussion and intermunicipal cooperation in reaching mutually-beneficial funding agreements for the PRMR; therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the Enfield Town Board, for the reasons afore-stated, encourages Tompkins County Government to underwrite the costs of the Pilot Rapid Medical Response System to the greatest extent possible, including up to 100 per cent (100%) of the program’s cost, based on this Board’s conclusion that County Government stands in the best fiscal position to provide such support; and be it further

**Resolved**, that due to municipal budgeting decisions already made in Enfield and in other towns, Tompkins County utilize its \$232,000 in budgeted contingency funding toward underwriting the full operational cost of the Pilot Rapid Medical Response System for budget year 2024; and be it further

**Resolved**, that the Town of Enfield remains open to cooperative intermunicipal discussions, as advanced by Trumansburg Mayor Rordan Hart before the Tompkins County Council of Governments, toward negotiation of cost-sharing agreements to cover operational expenses of the Pilot Rapid Medical Response System for years 2025 and beyond; and be it further

**Resolved**, that this Town Board directs either the Town Supervisor and/or her or this Board’s other designee(s) to carry forth the substance of this Resolution in their discussions with Tompkins County Government toward a Memorandum of Understanding or other cooperative agreement regarding the Pilot Rapid Medical Response System and its future funding; and be it further

**Resolved**, that the Clerk hereby send a copy of this Resolution to the Hon. Shawna Black, Chair of the Tompkins County Legislature; the Hon. Rich John, Chair of the Legislature’s Public Safety Committee; the Hon. Legislators Anne Koreman and Randy Brown, representatives for the Town of Enfield; Lisa Holmes, Tompkins County Administrator; the Hon. Rordan Hart, Mayor of the Village of Trumansburg; and Michael Stitley, Director of the Tompkins County Department of Emergency Response.

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