

Combined Special Meeting of the Jay, Westfield, Troy and Lowell Selectboards

November 19, 2025

Jay Municipal Building

Minutes

Selectboard Members:

Jay: Dave Sanders, Tara Morse

Westfield: Dennis Vincent, Jacques Couture, Richard Degre

Troy: Robert Langlands, Gaston Bathalon, Anne Quirion

Lowell: Jenn Blay, Wayne Richardson

Others Present: Pat Sanders, Jan Degre, Roger Gosselin, Scott Griswold (NAS),
Jeffrey Johansen (NAS), Bobby Jacobs (NAS), Audra Pitts (Newport Daily)

Dave called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. Additions and Deletions to the agenda – None

2. Newport Ambulance Service – Discuss 2026 Budget Breakdown for Ambulance Service

- A. Dave opened the discussion by explaining the purpose of the meeting. He noted that when the Towns originally entered into the contract, they kept the funding formula based on the Grand list with the understanding that once the Newport Ambulance Service had a full year of statistics the funding formula would be revisited.
 - i. Since we now have accurate statistics of usage and costs, the Town of Jay does not feel the Grand List is an equitable funding method, especially when Jay's usage is not much higher than Troy's.
 - ii. Every Town must provide an ambulance service to its residents and as such there should be a basic fee that all Towns should be charged equally in order to provide that service.
- III. The town of Jay's proposal is that 50% of the budget be divided equally among the Towns and the remaining 50% be based on a usage percentage.
- iv. Dave acknowledged that Jay has the mountain they have to service but our occupancy rate for housing is only 30%. He noted that every Town has its own anomalies: Lowell has the wind towers Troy has two urban centers and Westfield has a high median housing value.
- v. Jay's goal in calling this meeting is to devise a funding formula that is equitable and fair for all Towns based on the data we currently have.
- B. Jenn noted that most of the calls in Jay are to Jay Peak and feels that the resort should have to pay more or be considered a separate entity to help balance the costs.
 - i. Dave countered that the Resort is a taxpayer in Jay and therefore is entitled to the same benefits as other taxpayers in the town.
 - ii. Scott noted that if an extra fee was charged to Jay Peak and they decided to arrange for their own ambulance service, it would cost the towns considerably more to absorb that loss of revenue.
 - iv. Roger mentioned that the Missisquoi Ambulance Service went from a Per Capita funding formula to a Grand List formula to better reflect the amount of calls that were going to the mountain at the time.
- C. In response to a question from Dave about how calls are reimbursed by insurance, Jeff said that many calls to Jay Peak result in a lengthy reimbursement time because of the number of Canadians and their insurance policies. Roger noted that calls to Jay Peak tend to take longer both in transportation and administration of services than calls to local residents.
- D. In reviewing the Budget, Jeff mentioned that Nick Bouchard has offered them a great rent lock guarantee for 10 years and has been very generous and supportive of the ambulance service.

- E. In response to a question from Wayne, Scott said that all other Towns use a funding formula based on per capita data.
- F. After reviewing all of the handouts, there seemed to be some inaccurate figures regarding Grand list valuations and population numbers. Jeff will contact the Town Clerks on Monday for the up-to-date statistics and will work out revised funding scenarios. He noted that NAS needed \$310,000 total to operate and needed a signed contract before Jan 1. I was up to the Towns to determine how the funding would be divided among the Towns.
- G. Pat asked if all the Towns could agree that there is a basic cost to accessing the ambulance service and if so, could they agree on a percentage of the total that each town would pay. While all present acknowledged there is an inherent cost for the service, none would agree on a percentage figure, and many were not willing to use that as a funding basis.
- H. Jenn proposed using 50% of total based on Grand List and 50% based on call volume. After doing some quick calculations she felt that would be an equitable solution. While that proposal garnered some approval nothing was formalized.
- I. Gaston and Robert were adamant that Jay and or Jay Peak should have to pay more because of the number of people who come to the mountain in the winter which in turn increases the total call volume for the ambulance service.
 - i. Both Tara and Dave pushed back saying it should not cost a resident of Jay more than a resident of any other Town to have the ambulance come to their residence and the Mountain is no exception. Pat noted that the number of calls to the mountain is relatively small compared to the number of people who are on the mountain on any given day.
- J. Jeff will work on the different funding proposals using the updated figures and will send them to all the Selectboard members to review.
- K. The Boards will meet again on December 3, 2025, at 6p.m. at the Jay Municipal Building and hopefully resolve the funding issue.

3. Executive Session – None needed

4. Adjourn

A Tara made a motion seconded by Dave to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Pat Sanders