

**Resolution to Support Private/Public Partnerships for Equitable  
Ambulance Service in Portage County, Wisconsin**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 05-2016**

Whereas, Portage County Emergency Medical Service (EMS) uses a response time of fifteen (15) minutes or less as a standard goal to achieve for ambulance service (the "standard goal");

Whereas, two (2) Portage County ambulances based in Stevens Point and one (1) in Amherst do not meet the standard goal 90% of the time in seventeen (17) of the twenty-seven (27) municipalities of the County,

Whereas, the aforementioned Portage County ambulances to population ratio is 1:11,481, the lowest of twelve (12) ambulance service providers in central, north central and northwest areas of Wisconsin responding to a 2016 Portage County EMS System Analysis;

Whereas, every property owner in Portage County is levied upon annually to support EMS based on their municipality's equalized value;

Whereas, those municipalities where the standard goal is not achieved represent 28% of County population and 34% of County equalized value (2014 data);

Whereas, the current gap in ambulance service response times from municipality to municipality within Portage County varies from considerably better or considerably worse than the standard goal, which can serve to cause harm to injured or sick persons;

Whereas, those municipalities or portion(s) thereof that endure response times longer than the standard goal could achieve it when permitted to engage with ambulance service providers outside of Portage County;

Whereas, property owners who do not realize the standard goal for ambulance service are paying the same levy as those who do;

Whereas response times longer than the standard goal (minimum 20-30 minutes) are unacceptable when paramedic-level ambulance service providers are available outside of Portage County;

Whereas, ambulance service providers outside of Portage County are state licensed and already identified in two Portage County contracts for Mutual Aid;

Whereas, engaging in private or public partnerships with other ambulance service providers will meet the standard goal;

Whereas, by State Statute every Town/Village is responsible for protecting the "health, safety, and welfare" of its citizens, and consistent with SS 60.565 at least one Portage County municipality contracts with a private ambulance provider to reach its residents with ambulances in order to achieve the standard goal;

Whereas, consistent with the Portage County's Mission Statement to deliver health care service to the community with compassionate, quality care in a timely and fiscally responsible manner in order to protect public health and safety for all residents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all Towns/Villages are requesting county funding consistent with system policy to achieve the standard goal that allows for a contract with a private or public ambulance provider outside of Portage County;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the standard goal for response shall be fifteen (15) minutes or less and that all Towns/Villages or a portion thereof that exceed the standard goal shall be compensated by the County in order to allow for that Town or Village to obtain acceptable response time to save lives;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that every Portage County Town/Village shall be engaged in creating an EMS plan, including private or public ambulance service providers outside of Portage County;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Board of New Hope does hereby support the immediate implementation of contracts and payments for ambulance service providers outside of Portage County as a function of EMS;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Portage County Board of Supervisors, in cooperation with all licensed ambulance service providers within a 15 minute or less response time reliability resolve to save the lives of any and all persons within Portage County in an equitable manner from this day forward.

Adopted this 20th day of December, 2016 by the Town Board of New Hope, Portage County.

APPROVED: -s- Daniel Zaborowski, Chair  
-s- Todd Knepfel, Supervisor  
-s- Timm Raddatz, Supervisor  
ATTEST: -s- Kari Yenter, Clerk