

**TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
NORTHBRIDGE TOWN HALL
7 MAIN STREET - WHITINSVILLE, MA 01588
October 3, 2022 at 6:30 PM**

EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:30 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

II. PUBLIC HEARING

III. APPOINTMENTS: By the Town Manager: A. 1. Jamie Luchini, DPW Director (formerly "Interim DPW Director")

IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT

V. DECISIONS:

B. Vote to write off uncollectible accounts from the Ambulance Fund / Present: Neil Vaidya, Town Accountant & David White, Fire Chief

C. Vote to renew Employment Agreement with Town Manager Adam Gaudette

VI. DISCUSSIONS

VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

VIII. SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS

IX. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

D. October 17, 2022: Vote positions on the Fall Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles and the Special Town Meeting Warrant Article

X. CORRESPONDENCE

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION: E. 6:30 PM Under M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21 #2 – To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

Town Clerk: 2 Hard copies	<input type="checkbox"/>
Web: Post time-stamped copy	<input type="checkbox"/>



DAVID M. WHITE
FIRE CHIEF

TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE
FIRE DEPARTMENT

193 MAIN STREET
WHITINSVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS 01588

Phone: (508) 234-8448

B.

9/28/2022

RE: Summary for uncollectible debt

Dear Honorable Board of Selectmen and Town Manager Gaudette,

We are asking for your support in writing off \$926,817.39 in bad debts for accounting purposes. This debt has accumulated as far back as 2001 and constantly changes as some debt gets paid and some new debt comes on. As some of you may remember, we needed to do this about 10 years ago at the suggestion of the Town's Auditor. The balances were simply getting higher with no movement down in a positive direction. Their suggestion was to have the Selectmen vote to write down/off any bill(receivable) that had an aging period greater than 8 years. This was last done around 2008 or 2009. What we are asking is to write off the old uncollectible debt greater than 5 years to make us more current with what we believe we can reasonably collect.

To explain how we have gotten here, this debt comes from different sources such as deceased patients, no insurance, failure to pay their co-pay, patient address has changed, or the one given is no good. The four biggest reasons per our reporting with the billing company are the following:

- COLL- Patient was billed a series of five bills for insurance information. Review final collection
- DEDUNR- Patient billed a series of five bills for deductible owed with no response.
- PINK- No patient response
- PRIVNR- Bill out series of five bills for insurance information with no response.

These codes represent the four largest sources of activity for which the Town has not been paid. Some of this has to do with the fact we have a much larger call volume now than in the past, as the ambulance responds to over 1,800 calls in a fiscal year. Additionally, the change in how insurance handles processing of claims has been a focal point of many municipalities discontent as we will show below.

Billing for the ambulance is done according to the schedule set in 2016. As the towns demographics change these bills get harder to collect due to Medicare rates and MassHealth rates that are set by the federal government and the state government. Below is a summary of the charges Northbridge Fire receives per ambulance run. These rates have little effect the uncollectable debt and is strictly for your information only

Average Billing for Northbridge Base + mileage

“SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES”



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	<u>Private Ins</u>	<u>Medicare</u>	<u>MassHealth</u>
ALS	1319.00	579.00	330.00
ALS2	1875.00	802.00	464.00
BLS	968.00	501.00	283.00

Medicare and Mass Health are fixed amounts, and the patient cannot be billed the remainder of the bill. Medicare pays 80% of the cost above and the patient is billed for the other 20%. Eighty-two percent of Northbridge billing is for either Medicare or Mass Health

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

David M. White
Fire Chief

“SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES”