

TOWN OF HAMILTON

TOWN MANAGER

July 8, 2019

TO: Town residents, employees and boards and committees members

FROM: Joseph Domelowicz Jr., Town Manager

RE: Recent change in service area of the town's senior van transportation service

Effective July 1, 2019 the town of Hamilton and Beauport Ambulance agreed to a restructuring of the service area for senior van transportation provided by Beauport Ambulance through a new contract with the Town of Hamilton.

The principal changes in this service agreement are that Beauport will no longer be offering rides to the communities of Salem, Peabody and Danvers and that seniors using the service will no longer be asked to pay a \$3 fee for non-medical rides. Additionally, the town will now be paying \$10,500 per year to Beauport for the provision of this service. This van service had previously been offered at no cost to the town, under the old agreement.

The town's senior residents will continue to be offered rides for medical and non-medical trips in the communities of Hamilton, Wenham, Beverly, Manchester-by-the-Sea, Essex, Ipswich, Rowley, Gloucester and Rockport.

I have been asked several times in the last few days why these changes were made. Simply put, the changes were made, because our previous contract for Senior Transportation services was expiring and Beauport Ambulance was no longer able to offer us a contract with no cost to the town.

In May, after Town Meeting had already approved a budget for the 2020 fiscal year, Beauport informed the town of its need to begin charging the town for the senior van service. Beauport offered two different options, one that reduced the service area, and one that maintained it. After receiving these proposals, the town sought proposals from other service providers as well. However, Beauport's proposals are the most affordable.

With the help of COA Director Mary Beth Lawton and Fire Chief Ray Brunet we reviewed the proposals to determine the number of trips and passengers that would be served in the two different options. Ride data from previous years of service showed that the cost of providing rides in the existing service area, inclusive of Salem, Peabody and Danvers, was not warranted based on the number of trips to those communities. Maintaining the larger service area would have increased the cost to the town by an additional \$8,000 per year. The number of rides to those communities, unfortunately, served only a small minority of residents.

Though it was a difficult decision to amend the service area, it was the best option for the town at this time. We will continue to assess the impacts of this new service program and look for alternatives to be able to provide for our seniors transportation needs going forward.



P.O. Box 429
577 Bay Road
Hamilton, MA 01936

Phone
Fax
Web site

(978) 468-5572
(978) 468-2682
<http://www.hamiltonma.gov>
