



Town of Bowdoinham

13 School St • Bowdoinham, ME 04008

Phone 666-5531 • Fax 666-5532

www.bowdoinham.com

Nicole Briand, Town Manager

**Supporting LD 526 – *An Act of Provide Funding to
Emergency Medical Services Organizations*
Testimony of Nicole Briand, Town Manager
Town of Bowdoinham, 13 School St, Bowdoinham, Maine 04008
townmanager@bowdoinham.com
March 20, 2023**

Senator Pinny Beebe-Center, Representative Suzanne Salisbury and Members of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

I'm writing in support of this bill, as it is a needed first step to help stabilize emergency medical services in Maine. Bowdoinham is at risk of not having emergency medical services as of July 1, 2023. Bowdoinham currently contracts for North East Mobile Health for ambulance service and currently working to find service for fiscal year 2024.

Bowdoinham is a small community with a population of 3,011, a volunteer Fire & EMS Department in Sagadahoc County. We have three neighbors, Richmond, Bowdoin and Topsham, as Merrymeeting Bay separates us from Woolwich and Bath.

We've been contracting for North East as our ambulance service provider for many years. Our currently contract for services is for \$50,000 per year and has been has July 1, 2021. In December of 2022, Bowdoinham received a requested contract addendum of \$65,500 per month starting on January 1, 2023. Long story short, since December, North East has agreed to maintain Bowdoinham's existing contract and has obtained Lisbon EMS for our mutual aid in place of Topsham thru June 30, 2023.

For ambulance service starting July 1, 2023, Bowdoinham discussing possible options with North East & Lisbon and we have also approached both Gardiner and Topsham for ambulance service. Both Gardiner and Topsham would need to expand their existing service in order to handle Bowdoinham's 250 calls per year. For Gardiner, this would include having to staff an ambulance in Richmond to reduce the response time to Bowdoinham. For Topsham, they have no interest in being a regional service provider, their focus is providing service to Topsham. We have also talked with Sagadahoc County and Midcoast Council of Governments to study the county providing ambulance service. Lastly, Bowdoinham is looking creating its own ambulance service, which would take a substantial capital investment for our small town. Additionally, for Bowdoinham to move in this direction, we will need time in order to develop and staff our own service.

As you can see, Bowdoinham has very limited options. Our immediate goal is to obtain ambulance service for fiscal year 2024 (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024). Then use FY2024 to develop a long-term ambulance service for Bowdoinham. We would greatly appreciate any funding and assistance from the State to help address ambulance service.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nicole Briand
Town Manager
Town of Bowdoinham
207-666-5531