

MAP, PLAN, AND REPORT  
FOR THE  
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE  
MARBLETOWN AMBULANCE DISTRICT  
  
IN AND FOR THE  
TOWN OF MARBLETOWN, NEW YORK

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## EXHIBITS

Exhibit A - Map of Area to be Serviced by the Town of Marbletown Ambulance District

**I. Executive Summary**

The within Map, Plan, and Report (hereinafter “Plan”) is prepared for and is being submitted to the Town of Marbletown (“Town”) pursuant to Town Law Article 12-A for the establishment of the Marbletown Ambulance District (hereinafter “ambulance district”) within the Town.

Ambulance service to the Town is currently provided by Marbletown First Aid Unit, Inc. (MFAU). The operation of the ambulance service is an expense borne by the taxpaying businesses and residents of Town of Marbletown and an annual charge is paid by the Town of Marbletown to MFAU. Historically, MFAU has served as the primary response ambulance service in the Town.

The establishment of an ambulance district in the Town of Marbletown will: (1) permit the town to assess a specific tax for the provision of ambulance services in those areas of the town within the MFAU response area; and (2) authorize the ambulance district in the Town to oversee the quality of services provided by the service provider pursuant to its contract with the Town. This tax levied in the ambulance district will be used solely for the provision of ambulance services. By implementing an ambulance district in the town, the direct costs for operating an ambulance service that serves the Town will be placed on the taxable parcels located within individual ambulance districts rather than provided for out of the general funds of the Town. Ambulance services will be provided by a service

provider under the auspices of the ambulance district pursuant to a contract with the Town.

It is anticipated that the ambulance district created in the Town may, in the future, function jointly with other future ambulance districts pursuant to a municipal cooperation agreement pursuant to General Municipal Law Section 119-o. Should this occur, an Ambulance District positions the Town well for the future by assuring a regionalized organizational structure that contracts, monitors, and sets performance expectations for MFAU. It is contemplated that the establishment of an ambulance district will result in more efficient delivery of emergency medical services through the collaborative oversight of the ambulance service by the Town.

## **II. Assessment of Existing System**

Emergency medical and ambulance service is currently provided to the residents of the proposed districts by MFAU. Expenditures, performance standards, and all of the operational aspects of the existing service are directed by MFAU pursuant to its Certificate of Operating Authority.

The cost of operating an ambulance that is available 24/7/365 in the Town within the boundaries of the proposed ambulance district exceeds the revenues currently generated through fees by MFAU. Likewise, the Town lacks sufficient call volume to permit a self-sustaining, fee-based ambulance service within their jurisdictions.

There is no expectation that the cost for providing ambulance and emergency medical services will diminish in the foreseeable future. To the contrary, the expectation is that costs for such services will continue to increase and that the share of the costs borne by the citizens of the Town paid to MFAU to provide ambulance and emergency medical services will increase. Persons using the services provided by MFAU are and will continue to be billed for the service by MFAU.

### **III. Objectives of the Plan**

The objective of this Plan is to facilitate the creation of an ambulance district in the Town of Marbletown in throughout the Town with the exception of Hinel Lane, which receives ambulance coverage from a neighboring agency.

The functional benefits of creating an ambulance district are as follows:

- (1) The establishment of an independent, uncompensated governing body (Board of Ambulance Commissioners) to oversee the implementation of a freestanding emergency medical and ambulance service and act in an advisory capacity to the Town Board;
- (2) Having a District Board of Ambulance Commissioners to represent the interests of the residents of the Town in the review of an annual budget for the provision of an emergency medical and ambulance service;
- (3) Introducing a measure of clarity in reporting the true cost per taxable property by establishing a separate line-item entry on district residents' tax bills itemizing the exact amount of residents' taxes being utilized for the provision of emergency medical and ambulance services;
- (4) Establishing a stream of tax-based revenue for the provision of ambulance and emergency medical services in the district;
- (5) Fostering the operation and oversight of MFAU in its performance of a contract for service to the Town;
- (6) Promoting stability in the budgeting and annual levies providing taxpayer-based support for the EMS delivery system in the District;

- (7) Having a Board of Ambulance Commissioners responsive to the Town Board to work with the Board and Officers of the ambulance service company to insure appropriate and cost-efficient emergency medical services while at the same time assuring continuous quality improvement;
- (8) The creation of a stable, tax base supported, revenue generating fee-for-service ambulance service that receives revenue from users of the service to offset the costs of operation; and
- (9) The ability to engage in long-range planning and budgeting incorporating projected revenues to be obtained through the a cost recovery system in order to assure the long term viability and continued improvement of services for the residents of the ambulance district.

**IV. Plan for Implementation**

The Plan contemplates that the Town of Marbletown will adopt this Plan, and that neighboring municipalities may seek to form their own improvement districts and engage the Town through intermunicipal cooperation in the future. The Plan anticipates conducting a public hearing in the Town to present the Plan for public discussion. The Plan contemplates that after debate and discussion on the matter at the public hearing, the Town will adopt a resolution endorsing the establishment of a district in the Town.



**V. Structure of the Ambulance Service**

It is expected that MFAU will operate ambulance and emergency medical services under a Certificate of Operating Authority issued by the New York State Department of Health and the Hudson Valley Regional Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc., which covers the area embraced by the proposed district.

It is contemplated that the Town will rely upon the tax revenue collected within the ambulance district as the consideration to contract with MFAU for the provision of emergency medical and ambulance services in the ambulance district. At the time this Plan is implemented, the area of the Town outside of the boundaries of the ambulance district will be served by other ambulance and EMS providers. Through the stewardship of the board of ambulance commissioners, it is expected that the Town will benefit from fiscal oversight and quality review of the ambulance services being provided. It is the expectation that the relationship between the ambulance district and MFAU will be similar to the relationship between a town and a preferred contract vendor for a specialized service and consistent with the present contractual arrangement between the entities. Furthermore, it is anticipated that MFAU will be guided by the recommendations of the ambulance districts and that collaboration between these parties will result in stable and efficient budget, administrative and operational procedures and policies being incorporated into the contract for ambulance service.

**VI. Cost to a Typical Property in the Town of Marbletown**

It is expected that the Town will implement its tax levy in a manner similar to the way that special district taxes are levied. The taxable value of the property in the area of the Town of Marbletown Ambulance District is approximately \$1,127,245,482.00.

A typical one-family home in the Town of Marbletown has an averaged assessed valuation of \$336,300.00.

The proposed Tax Rate per Thousand for the new ambulance district in the Town of Marbletown is \$0.2794.

Based on an estimated 2022 budget of \$315,000, the annual tax on the typical one-family residence in the Town of Marbletown Ambulance District would be \$95.00.

**VII. Budget Preparation and Governance of the Ambulance District**

Pursuant to Town Law Section 209-b, the Town Board oversees districts established such as the ambulance district contemplated herein. It is anticipated that the Town Board will establish by local law a District Board of Ambulance Commissioners and delegate the ministerial functions related to the operation of the ambulance district to the commissioners pursuant to Town Law Section 198. The District Board of Ambulance Commissioners will be charged with acting in an advisory capacity to the Town Board with regard to functions related to the operation of the ambulance district. The Town Board may appoint members to the District Board of Ambulance Commissioners or may provide that Commissioners be elected. It is contemplated that the original Board of Commissioners for the Ambulance District will be appointed by the Town.

One of the ministerial responsibilities that would be delegated to the District Board of Ambulance Commissioners would be the review of an annual budget for ambulance operations, subject of course to approval by the Town Board. It is anticipated that such an annual budget would be prepared in August of each year for submission to the Town Board of Marbletown. It is contemplated that the District Board of Ambulance Commissioners and the Ambulance Oversight Council will assist the ambulance service in preparing a proposed budget and provide recommendations to the Town Board concerning the budget requests and contract provisions.

**VIII. Timetable for Implementation of the New Ambulance District**

It is contemplated that the ambulance districts will be established for the purposes of creating a budget for the 2022 calendar year. The District Board of Ambulance Commissioners will assume oversight over the ambulance service upon establishment of the ambulance districts. A period of transition during the latter part of 2021 is expected. Given the unified mission of both the ambulance service and the District Board of Ambulance Commissioners, a smooth transition is expected.

**IX. Summary of the Tangible Benefits to be Realized by the Establishment of the Ambulance Districts**

(1) The ad valorem tax levy for the ambulance district will be calculated based upon the actual costs and utilization of the service and reduced by revenues recovered from users of the service and their insurers.

(2) There will be a separate and distinct ambulance tax levy which will be set forth as a discrete, line-item entry on residents' annual tax bills so that the cost per property for the provision of emergency medical services can be easily identified by the taxpayer.

(3) There will be revenue generated in the form of fee for services billing for those using the ambulance service that will serve to offset the costs of providing the ambulance service and thereby, an offset against future tax levies.

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