

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to ask that you reject the land into trust application for land in Middleboro, Massachusetts by the Mashpee Wampanoag.

Middleboro hired a professional Indian gaming attorney Dennis Whittlesey to analyze impacts and craft an agreement that mitigated those costs and impacts.

When the town was presenting the final agreement, much was made of the fact that the Tribe would pay for the training and salaries of Police/Fire/EMS employees:

*The Tribe agrees to buy two police cruisers and two advance life support ("ALS") ambulances, and pay for the training salaries and benefits of eight police officers and 16 firefighters/emergency medical technicians. Based on current salary levels and costs of vehicles, the Town's estimated cost is \$2,005,000.*

### **Ambulance/EMS in the Whittlesey agreement**

In the final agreement, it sounded like starting our own ambulance service was an option for us. In the Whittlesey agreement, it's more like a requirement.

*However, it is also recognized that the **Town Fire Department is required by law to provide fire protection and first responder emergency medical services at the Project Site.***

*The Town currently contracts with a private company for its EMS service which means that the Town is relying on a private company to meet this important first response requirement.*

*The problem is particularly acute and will be exacerbated by the opening of the Project since the nearest hospital is at least a 20 minute drive from the Project Site. Thus, any call for medical service requiring hospital care would necessitate at least a 60-minute ambulance response - a minimum of 20 minutes to drive from the Town to the hospital, an estimated 20 minutes for intake processing at the hospital and an estimated 20 minute return trip to the Town.*

*The only possible solution to this problem is that **the Town must purchase and staff two ambulances in order to have a reliable EMS capability.***

The way I read this is the we are **required to provide first responder service** and that the only way we can reasonably do so is by running our own ambulance service. Historically the town's analysis has shown that running our own ambulance service will be a cost to the town. For starters, the 24 new police, fire, EMS employees will run us over \$2M today and who knows what when the casino opens. This is a pretty well known cost and we'd best start figuring out how we're going to pay for it.

It is unknown what the costs will be of running our own ambulance service beyond the employee salary and benefits. **This is just one more of many points where the IGA fails to provide enough revenue to cover costs.**

For that reason this land into trust application must be rejected.

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