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## Dispatchers critical of regional plan

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By LORI STABILE

[lstabile@repub.com](mailto:lstabile@repub.com)

WARREN - A proposal by the Board of Selectmen to have the state police dispatch center in New Braintree handle all emergency calls for the town may save money, but the police chief said he has concerns about it, and the dispatchers dislike the idea.

"There are so many questions," Police Chief Bruce D. Spiewakowski said recently.

Spiewakowski and Fire Chief James W. Dolan are expected to attend Tuesday's 7 p.m. Board of Selectmen meeting at the Shepard Municipal Building to talk about the controversial proposal which could save more than \$100,000 a year.

New Braintree still needs to accept Warren, Spiewakowski said. That dispatch center handles calls for 10 towns: Wales, Brimfield, Holland, Hardwick, New Braintree, Petersham, Brookfield, East Brookfield, North Brookfield and West Brookfield.

Moving dispatch services is more complicated than simply closing the front door and locking it, Splewakowski said. Even if the dispatchers are cut, someone is needed in the front office for walk-in traffic during the week, he said.

While he said a regional dispatch center can work and would save money, he said a casino has been talked about for the area, which would "change the landscape dramatically."

Selectman David A. Delanski said the proposal to use New Braintree came about because the board was looking for ways to save money and there are few places left to cut.

Delanski said selectmen are still waiting to hear if the town can use New Braintree.

News that the dispatch center may be no longer concerns Lisa C. Pensinger, a dispatcher in Warren for 12 years. She said more than 100 people have signed a petition to keep dispatch services in Warren....

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