

# AYER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Timothy P. Johnston  
Chief

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To whom it may concern,

*I am writing to express my strong support to UMass Memorial Health for the establishment of the Nashoba Satellite Emergency Facility (SEF). This project represents a crucial step toward reinstating dedicated emergency medical services in the Nashoba Valley region, which suffered a significant setback following the abrupt closure of the Nashoba Valley Medical Center in August 2024.*

*The absence of local emergency health services since this closure has placed significant burdens on our community, especially impacting our local emergency management systems. The necessity for patients to be transported over longer distances to receive essential care has not only elongated crucial response times but has also strained the resources – both human and financial – of our emergency service providers.*

*The initiation of the Nashoba SEF stands as a vital turning point for the community, promising to enhance the safety and well-being of local residents by drastically reducing travel time for emergency cases and bolstering our region's capacity to respond to medical crises efficiently. This initiative will undoubtedly alleviate the excessive load on neighboring facilities and serve as a pivotal healthcare resource for our local population.*

*I commend UMass Memorial Health for recognizing and addressing this urgent need with a swift and effective plan. This project is an essential investment in our community's health infrastructure and will have far-reaching positive impacts. Should you have any questions or require further discussion on this matter, please feel free to reach out to me directly. Thank you for your attention to this vital and promising project.*

Sincerely,

Timothy P. Johnston

Fire Chief/E.M.D.

cc: Town Manager

Select Board