

Richland County Joint Ambulance Committee
Minutes of meeting
Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Present were: Jeanetta Kirkpatrick, County Board; Fred Clary, County Board; Bill Kloehn, Richland Center City Council ; Paul Corcoran, Richland Center Mayor; Mary Rognholt, Akan Township; Calvin Brown, Bloom Township; James Lingel, Dayton Township; Verlin Coy, Henrietta Township; Glen Niemeyer, Ithaca Township; Steve Chupp, Marshall Township; Gordon Palmer, Richland Township; Scott Banker, Rockbridge Township; Pat Marshall, Sylvan Township; Bob Holets, Willow Township; Terrance Jindrick, Yuba; Darin Gudgeon, Ambulance Director; Jeanne Rice, Admin Secretary.

Absent were: Gordon Brockway, Buena Vista Township; Marc Couey, Eagle Township; Ryan Keller, Orion Township; Jean Nicks, Boaz

Chair Kirkpatrick, called meeting to order 7:00pm.

Meeting had been properly posted.

Rice called roll call of members. 15 present

Kirkpatrick welcomed new members, Bill Kloehn replacing Marsha Machotka from Richland Center City Council and Terrance Jindrick replacing Jim Huffman from the village of Yuba.

Brown made motion, seconded by Banker to approve agenda – motion carried.

Holets made motion, seconded by Palmer to approve minutes of March 16, 2016 meeting –
- motion carried.

Public Comment/Input:

No comments or input from the public

EMT Delegation:

Judy Shireman asked about a rumor she heard of ambulance service going down to 2 ambulances. Said she thought it would be a bad move. The service is down one at this time so only have 2 rigs. She wants the same support as given the Fire Department. Kirkpatrick answered that this suggestion of going down to 2 rigs was brought up at last meeting for discussion only. Kirkpatrick thanked Judy for her opinion and it will be noted for next discussion.

Director's Report:

Gudgeon went over sheets marked 9c: Consolidated financial statements presented was prepared by County Clerk's office showing revenues and expenditures for March and April.

\$34,747.87	total revenues
<u>\$27,777.05</u>	total expenditures
\$19,440.88	balance available March 31, 2016

\$28,102.94	total revenues
<u>\$34,542.55</u>	total expenditures
\$13,001.27	balance available April 30, 2016

Sheets marked 9a outlines monthly statistics for March and April – number of calls for each month and year to date calls per municipality. 203 total calls as of March and 278 total calls as of April.

Billing/ambulance call data sheets marked 9b shows internal data and data collected from state reporting system Image Trend.

We had 61 billable calls, 7 non-billable calls, billed out \$42,346.64 and received \$18,774.65 on accounts in March. In April we had 84 billable calls, 0 non-billable calls, billed out \$54,414.86 and received \$19,791.58 on accounts. Total amount billed out \$181,243.11, total amount \$54,681.40 received, \$68,641.23 total bills collectible and \$57,028.70 uncollectible or write-off accounts year to date as of April.

The information contained on the sheets from Image Trend outline the number of calls, if they were emergent or not, how many of the calls were considered BLS (basic life support) or ALS (advanced life support) and which unit responded to the call.

Gudgeon updated committee on his involvement working with Southwest Technical College in Fennimore. His goal was to become a regional training site. Several staff members are CPR instructors. He is working with squads in this area for CPR refreshers. We just finished the Basic EMT class in Richland Center. Gudgeon has become an adjunct instructor for First Responder, EMT Basic, and Advanced EMT with SW Tech. Gudgeon is also a faculty member for the American Heart Association for SW Tech Training Center. SW Tech has done a feasibility study regarding having a Paramedic program. It was determined that they would be able to provide such a program locally in the near future.

Fund for new ambulance:

Last meeting was discussed and requested to be placed on future agendas. Gudgeon would also like to seek keeping 3 rigs and not going down to 2. Have been very busy lately and have utilized all 3 rigs. Partnerships with other services and events would show the need for keeping 3 rigs.

Went over information on costs for purchasing a new ambulance. Looked over new and used vehicles. \$26,950 and \$24,995 would buy an ambulance with a Lifeline chassis. Warranty would stay with the unit. Ambulance would be diesel.

One had power load wiring included. The Power load we have was purchased with grant funds at a cost of \$26,000. Marshall asked who would be buying the new rig. There is \$10,410 in the segregated ambulance account at this time. Clary said this committee would be making the decision for purchase and paying for it.

Diesel units are much more reliable than gas units. Ambulance bids are by state contract. Our ambulances are inspected by the State every two years. Suggestion from the public present was for possible fund raiser toward new ambulance.

Palmer suggested each township pay the per diems for their committee members and that money saved by the county could go into the account for a new ambulance.

Holets suggested looking at a used rig with the \$10,410 we currently have in the fund plus the trade in value from our rig to be replaced.

Kirkpatrick says would have to be an agenda item to make a decision regarding purchasing a new rig.

Corcoran thought we should look at spending more and purchasing a new rig rather than used.

Clary suggested looking at a demo unit.

Municipalities 2017 contract discussion and possible action:

Strategic Plan for EMS service 2018 and beyond:

Kirkpatrick asked committee what their thoughts were for moving forward.

We have stabilized the ambulance service, but does this committee want to grow beyond just being stabilized? Do you want to stay an EMT Advanced service or look at growing the service to the Paramedic level?

Palmer says the number one goal is to remain a stable service. Going to a Paramedic service level will add to cost. We should charge per capita in future and would like to stay with the County rather than change to a District.

Kirkpatrick says if you go to a District, members will have to have a mechanism to charge each other for funding.

Need to know if this group wants to stay with the County or not. Also decide if municipality pays per call as they do now or pay per capita. Per capita would bring in a more steady flow of cash for the budget. Per call payments have gone down, meaning less money to operate with.

Interfacility transfers would bring in more funds. We have 1 member who is currently licensed at the Paramedic level. If we were at the Paramedic level with regional cross credentialing, we could support the other area services when needed.

Banker says we need numbers on going forward.

Brown made motion, seconded by Palmer to stay with the County for 2017 at current rate per contract – all agreed, motion carried.

Palmer suggested a smaller group be formed to discuss and bring thoughts and ideas of future plans for EMS service back to this committee. Rather than this large committee, a smaller subcommittee will be formed.

Next agenda will discuss contract issues:

Subcommittee for strategic plan for EMS service

Ambulance funding

New ambulance purchase

Fund raising vs. allocations from townships

Per Diem question to townships

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday, July 20, 2016 at 7:00pm in the County Board Room.

Brown made motion, seconded by Marshall to adjourn – motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.