

Richland County Joint Ambulance Committee  
Minutes of meeting  
Thursday, September 3, 2015

Present were: Fred Clary, County Board; Jeanetta Kirkpatrick, County Board; Paul Corcoran, Richland Center Mayor; Marsha Machotka, Richland Center City Council; Mary Rognholt, Akan Township; Calvin Brown, Bloom Township; Gordon Brockway, Buena Vista 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; Jean Nicks, Boaz; Jim Huffman, Yuba; Darin Gudgeon, Ambulance Director; Jeanne Rice, Admin Secretary.

Absent were: Marc Couey, Eagle Township; Ryan Keller, Orion Township.

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

Meeting had been properly posted.

Rice called roll call of members. 17 present.  
Corcoran arrived at 7:20pm.

Holets made motion, seconded by Huffman to approve agenda – motion carried.

Brown made motion, seconded by Banker to approve minutes of August 19, 2015 meeting – motion carried.

Public Comment/Input:  
No input at this time

EMT Delegation:  
No input at this time

No transports:  
Kirkpatrick wanted to clarify statements made at last meeting there was a misunderstanding for non transports. She kept saying “no transports” are not billed to individuals or insurance but the municipality is charged. It is a 911 call – all 911 calls are billed out to the municipality. Contract says 911 calls are charged to townships.  
Machotka stated 911 calls come in to dispatch, accident scene person is assessed – not transported or refused and signs release for no transport and is not billed.  
Meeting of August 19<sup>th</sup> motion was “not to charge the individual, municipality, township or entity for non transport calls”.

Director's Report:

Review call #724-20150822-0533

Gudgeon shared specific information on call of August 22<sup>nd</sup>. He introduced Mr. and Mrs. Schweiger who were involved in the event who has agreed to discuss this event in an open meeting. Mr. Schweiger had called the Sheriff's Department administrative phone line, not 911.

They were hiking in a County Forest and he called dispatch to get assist to get wife to their vehicle – did not want Fire/EMS who did respond non-emergent. Dispatch stated they had no option but to page both Fire and EMS. Todd Kenefick, DNR forest ranger was contacted. He will assist us with protocols for such an event in the future. Would normally not have been transported or charged by EMS. Gudgeon is asking committee to waive the ambulance bill. Fire personnel told the Schweigers' they should be transported by ambulance or the fire bill would not be paid by their insurance.

Palmer made motion, seconded by Nicks to waive bill – motion passed.

Mr. Schweiger presented maps he had showing color coded map and trail names. EMT Rachel Kerian stated there was no trail marker. Call went out to Orion Township. Land lies in Eagle, Orion and Dayton townships. Entrance was Orion and the scene was actually in Dayton Township.

Dispatch/911/Parks/EMS to all sit together to resolve issues for any future event.

Gudgeon talked with the Chief Deputy and Fire Chief. Clary stated that it is Sheriff Department dispatch protocol to call EMS.

Paid on-call staff pay schedule

Gudgeon went over chart presented to members for proposed pay increase just for the paid on-call volunteer staff. Schedule had input from EMS squad members. Current budget is for \$83,100.

Proposed budget is \$104,500. \$5,528 difference is typically the bonus pay to EMTs for end of year.

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Pay rate weekday primary	1.50	1.50
weekend primary	2.50	3.00
holiday	2.50	3.00
back up	0.50	1.25
1 hour per call EMT	13.00	20.00
1 hour per call Driver	10.00	15.00
Report	6.50	0.00

Currently have 5 drivers. Paying EMT \$6.50 to do the WARDs report – new scale takes off this report pay. Increasing the per call pay will help ALL EMTs. We would be covering the \$104,500 cost by not hiring a 4<sup>th</sup> full time EMT. Funds able to be distributed to the volunteers. Funds are covered in the budget. May have to hire the 4<sup>th</sup> EMT in the future if this does not work to fill the trucks.

Clays said this committee has the authority to hire 4 full time and up to 4 part time EMTs.

Calculation states 1 hour – would be a per hour rate.

Redistribute the bonus pay – bonus and report pay eliminated for 2016, NOT 2015. Primary truck has 3 positions.

Gudgeon would like this pay increase to be effective September 1, 2015 if this committee agrees to this change. We do have the money in the current budget. Clary said would be problematic to go retroactive. Request would have to go through this committee, Finance/Personnel then full County Board.

Have 2 requests: 1) increase the pay as of 9/1/15 and have bonus pay for 2015

2) increase the pay in 2016 without the bonus pay.

#### Develop 2016 Budget:

Gudgeon went over 2016 budget line by line.

Salaries regular line covers Gudgeon, Rice, Yardley, Post and Kerian.

Added \$250 to computer software.

Future item – Clary says ambulance charge for fire assist should be adjusted to meet the Fire Department's \$200 charge from the current \$125.

There was a posting error between claims clearinghouse (ZirMed) and software maintenance lines that will be fixed.

Total budget presented with addition of \$250 computer software for 2016 of \$401,705.48

Marshall questioned the money needed for the general fund to pay overage. Can this be gotten from townships using ambulance service? Clary says no – no bill to the townships, only way to do this would be to alter the contract. Fees charged will cover operating ambulance service.

Corcoran asked if there is a way to pay stipend to the First Responders? Gudgeon stated we do help the First Responders. Each group receives \$150.00 in supplies plus trading equipment from a call. Clary says this committee could give funds to First Responder groups.

Corcoran questioned amount ambulance service writes off. Could this be shown differently? Clary says it shows on both expense and revenue reports.

Corcoran mentioned that when we were looking at forming a District, discussion included should money be given to those townships not using our service.

Machotka questioned funding First Responders. They are getting monies from their own fundraising events. All have their own vehicles and insurance. She would like to see adding money in our budget to help them with expenses.

Holets questioned volunteer pay raises. Is proposal included in presented budget?

Brown says would be better if pay raise were effective January 1, 2016.

Clary stated there is no capital account for vehicle replacement. Last time was in 2012 when new vehicle was purchased.

This committee has the authority to determine how excess revenue is to be used. Currently have 3 ambulances. The oldest truck is 19 years old, 2<sup>nd</sup> is 13 years old and newest purchased is a 2012. The newest rig purchased has ability to remount the body.

Gudgeon would like to have the opportunity to get pay raise to the volunteers as soon as possible.

Rognholt would like to know what it would take to make this retro to September.

Kirkpatrick says it goes to this committee, then to Personnel/Finance and then the full County Board.

If approved, it would mean added work for the Clerk's office. It could be done, but would make a precedent for giving raises and causing extra work for many people involved.

Clary would like to see this done but the issue is the timing of the pay increase.

Machotka says would be easier done at first of the year. Funds available now will be rolled over to next year. \$38,203 if we gave increase as of September. Have \$43,928 in fund now.

Corcoran made motion, seconded by Palmer to approve 2016 budget as presented (includes wage increase as of 1/1/16) – motion carried with 1 dissenting vote.

Return to Paid on-call staff pay schedule:

Do we want to allow the pay increase to start September 1, 2015? This would require vote by the County Board. If pay starts 9/1/15, this will include the bonus pay. Would need a resolution to the County Board and require a 3/4 vote.

Clary asked could bonus be eliminated for 2015? EMTs present said yes, they expected to give up bonus for pay increase.

Corcoran made motion, seconded by Brown to start pay increase 1/1/2016 and continue with bonus pay currently for 2015.

Roll call vote.

AYES: Corcoran, Brown, Brockway, Coy, Chupp, Marshall. NOES: Clary, Kirkpatrick, Machotka, Rognholt, Lingel, Niemeyer, Palmer, Banker, Holets, Nicks, Huffman.

AYES: 6, NOES: 11. TOTAL 17. Motion defeated.

Holets made motion, seconded by Rognholt to start raise 9/1/15 and give up 2015 bonus.

Roll call vote.

AYES: Clary, Kirkpatrick, Machotka, Rognholt, Lingel, Niemeyer, Palmer, Banker, Holets, Nicks, Huffman.

NOES: Corcoran, Brown, Brockway, Coy, Chupp, Marshall.

AYES: 11, NOES: 6. TOTAL 17. Motion carried.

This still has to pass Finance/Personnel and County Board.

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday, November 4th at 7:00pm in the County Board Room.

Huffman made motion, seconded by Brockway to adjourn – motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.