

Richland County Joint Ambulance Committee  
Minutes of meeting  
Wednesday, March 16, 2016

Present were: Fred Clary, County Board; Jeanetta Kirkpatrick, County Board; Marsha Machotka, Richland Center City Council ; Paul Corcoran, Richland Center Mayor; 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; Ryan Keller, Orion 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 was: Marc Couey, Eagle Township

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

Meeting had been properly posted.

Rice called roll call of members. 19 present (Corcoran arrived 7:30pm)

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

Huffman made motion, seconded by Niemeyer to approve minutes of January 20, 2016 meeting – Correction to minutes by Niemeyer – Ithaca First Responders insurance costs are reimbursed by Buena Vista, Willow and Richland

Gudgeon went over corrections to billing year-to-date information given out at last meeting - motion carried with corrections noted.

Public Comment/Input:

Marshall questioned when the City of Richland Center is going to take over the ambulance service? Kirkpatrick and Clary explaining how this committee makes the decision if the County keeps the ambulance or it will become a district service. Kirkpatrick says the County will help if this committee decides to change.

EMT Delegation:

No delegation or comments.

Director's Report:

Gudgeon went over changes for reporting to committee to make information clearer and more accurate. Getting information from the State data base we report to. Sheets presented outlined the 82 total calls in January and 71 total calls in February per municipality.

Separate sheet went over ambulance billing data showing \$44,393.36 billed out in January, \$40,088.25 billed out in February for a total year to day of \$84,481.61. We have received \$16,115.17 so far on 2016 accounts.

Image Trend is the software that the State uses for information. EMS enters data from each ambulance call into this system.

The data sheets presented to committee outlines calls by category: Response codes, transport codes (lights and sirens or not): response disposition (unable to locate patient, treated BLS or ALS, treated and released, patient refused care, no treatment required and agency assist); total response request (standby, mutual aid, scheduled interfacility transfer and 911 response; responding unit (which one of 3 rigs we have).

Consolidated financial statements presented was prepared by County Clerk's office showing revenues and expenditures for January and February.

\$20,425.40	total revenues
<u>\$27,893.22</u>	total expenditures
(\$6,311.28)	balance available January 29, 2016

\$50,421.33	total revenues
<u>\$31,639.99</u>	total expenditures
\$12,470.06	balance available February 29, 2016

Holets said for next contract we should look at billing municipalities for no patient contact. They should not have to pay if there was no patient contact and no charge made.

If a patient is touched or assessed, they get billed \$75.00 if no transport.

If no patient contact or refused care, they are not billed.

For future meetings will have monthly and year to date as we did now..

The County Clerk's office will generate this report each month that will list all revenues and expenditures for the month.

Jeff will add line for overtime to salary line for full time EMTs.

This format is acceptable by committee members

Write off old accounts:

Clary explained resolution presented to the County Board to write off old accounts.

\$ 24,365.67 from 2013 accounts

\$ 23,929.32 from 2014 and

\$ 217,934.77 from 2015 for a total of

\$266,229.76

Auditors want these written off at the end of each year. Writing off accounts makes books cleaner.

These are accounts that will never be collectible due to Medicare, Medicaid and some other insurance.

Approve pay rate change for 1 employee who has completed probationary period:

Rachel Kerian started August 2, 2015 – February 1, 2016 completed her probationary period successfully. Passed with no issues. Pay rate would increase from \$10.92 to \$11.41 and be paid retro to February 1, 2016.

Huffman made motion, seconded by Nicks to approve promotion with retro pay – motion carried.

#### Proposal for Money for First Responders:

Gudgeon outlined what is being done right now to support the 3 First Responder groups (Boaz, Ithaca and Yuba) so committee has information to base decision on for future assist.

- They receive \$300 worth of medical supplies annually, which does not include equipment swapped on scene
- We exchange all disposable supplies used during all calls with the Ambulance Service
- Continuing Education training is provided at no charge
- Cover costs associated with vaccinations and TB testing.

Corcoran proposes donating cash with an annual payment of \$150 - \$250 per member of First Responder group. What we give them is valuable, but they need more to show our appreciation and we all work together.

Need to know how many in each group.

Corcoran says cash is better than supplies.

Huffman says Yuba First Responders get all the supplies they need.

Niemeyer says Ithaca First Responders get supplies exchanged. They have 9 people right now on call at all times; they are not on a rotation.

Money would go to the group, not the individuals. Yuba goes through the Fire Department and they take care of them.

Clary said if we give \$150 per member, Boaz would receive \$600, Ithaca \$1,350 and Yuba \$1,200 – or can give \$750 to each unit. Money would come out of this segregated account.

Corcoran made motion to allocate \$750 to each First Responder unit, payable in January of each year starting January, 2017 (total cost \$2,250), Holets seconded – motion carried with 2 no votes.

Will add to 2017 budget for this expense.

#### Fund for new ambulance:

Have \$10,410.50 in segregated fund currently for new ambulance. Since 2013, no money has been added or deducted from that fund. Kirkpatrick said the concern at the last meeting was adding to this fund. Money would come out of profits from the ambulance account.

An ambulance may need to be replaced within 2 years. Clary stated \$240,000 needed for new unit. A special power lift for an ambulance costs \$45,000 - \$50,000 per unit. County stopped putting money in budget when no excess ambulance revenue was available. We are currently maintaining 3 fully equipped vehicles. Discussion on going from 3 to 2 units.

Lifeline has a life time guarantee on the box – once the chassis is down would just replace that instead of a full ambulance. The guarantee is transferable.

Kirkpatrick says may have to look at stand by services – they do pay for our costs.

Kirkpatrick says we should have discussion having 3<sup>rd</sup> ambulance or going down to 2 and purchasing a new or used rig at next meeting.

Municipalities 2017 contract amount based on 2015 calls (information only):

Sheet presented showing 911 calls billable to the Municipalities

<u>Municipality</u>	<u># of calls</u>	<u>Contract fee</u>
Akan	12	1,800
Bloom	0	--
Buena Vista	21	3,150
Dayton	27	4,050
Eagle	8	1,200
Henrietta	11	1,650
Ithaca	18	2,700
Marshall	18	2,700
Orion	9	1,350
Richland (town of)	49	7,350
Richland Center	494	74,100
Rockbridge	17	2,550
Willow	2	300
Sylvan	4	600
Boaz	4	600
Yuba	2	300
Total billable calls	696	104,400

Next agenda will discuss contract issues:

Townships not to pay if patient not found?

Should be talking about this before 2017 if contracts will continue or go to District or if the City takes ambulance service over.

Machotka says if a District is formed, the City would be the biggest investor.

2017 is the end of the 3-year contract.

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at 7:00pm in the County Board Room.

Brown made motion, seconded by Machotka to adjourn – motion carried.  
Meeting adjourned.