

Richland County Joint Ambulance Committee  
September 19, 2018  
Minutes

Present: Brian McGraw, Kerry Severson, Justin Lockwood, Marc Couey, James Lingel, Verlin Coy, Glen Niemeyer, Steve Chupp, Gordon Palmer, Bob Holets, Jean Nicks, Darin Gudgeon.

Not Present: Mike Kaufman, Mary Rognholt, Ryan Keller, Scott Banker, Terrance Jindrick.

1. Meeting was called to order at 1902.
2. Notification of the meeting had been made, and the agenda was posted.
3. Committee attendance was as noted above, with 11 present.
4. A motion was made by Palmer to approve the agenda as posted. Holets seconded it. Motion Carried; the agenda was approved.
5. The minutes for the August 15, 2018 meeting were silently reviewed. A motion was made by Severson and seconded by Nicks to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried; the minutes were approved.
6. For public comment, Sandra Palmer stated that she attended the Ambulance Association's Pancake Supper the prior night, which was well attended, and at which she spoke with a representative from the Joan Woodman Orton McCollum Foundation who commended Gudgeon on his presentation to their board regarding the gift application.
7. There were no comments from the EMT delegation.
8. McGraw stated that in a previous meeting, the Committee had voted to earmark \$20,000.00 for a new ambulance. In order to clean up financial reports, he recommended the Committee consider moving these earmarked funds from the operating fund into the New Ambulance Outlay account. It was discussed that the New Ambulance Outlay account is for the purchase of an ambulance new to the service, not necessarily needing to be brand new. Holets made a motion to move the earmarked funds from the operating fund into the New Ambulance Outlay account, seconded by Palmer. Motion carried.
9. Gudgeon presented the proposed budget for 2019. He stated that he typically sees the budget as fluid and will consider the overall budget rather than a specific line to ensure the budget can sustain any particular purchase. At the wishes of the Committee, the increases and decreases were overviewed. Gudgeon pointed out that the salaries were increased to reflect the wage increase, as the raise instated by the County was higher than the budgeted raise. Therefore, there are increases He stated there is no additional raise factored in, however at the close of 2018, he may bring the wages before the Committee to consider.  
Gudgeon drew the Committee's attention to the Ambulance Maintenance Municipality section. As best as is known at this time, the Ambulance began paying other ambulance services in the County to maintain their radio systems. A few years ago, the Committee voted to add the area First Responder services to this list, as they cannot bill for their services. Gudgeon pointed out that this needs to be reviewed to consider if the need is still there to pay neighboring ambulance

services, as they can bill for services rendered. If the need remains, he recommended the Committee consider adding the LaFarge and Muscoda services, which also cover territory within the County and that the amounts be made equal, as some are currently paid more than others. If the need is not there, he recommended removing the other ambulance services but continuing to financially support the First Responder services. Couey stated that it made sense to continue to support the First Responders, since they cannot bill but that it would be good to understand the reasoning for paying the other services. Gudgeon stated that he intends to find the ordinance to better understand the origins of these payments, which he estimates began around 1978 or 1980. McGraw stated that the budget can be approved with this portion intact until it is understood whether the payments are necessary.

There was discussion regarding insurance, write-offs, and level of care. Gudgeon further stated that the Service is in better financial shape than it has been since the segregated account has been set up. Nicks stated that it was going in the right direction. Couey made a motion to approve the budget to be presented to the Richland County Finance and Personnel Committee, seconded by Severson. Motion carried.

10. McGraw stated that the Subcommittee had discussed how an account is established for replacing an ambulance and there is work being done toward obtaining a new facility. Moving forward, there will be expenses incurred and it would be beneficial to have money earmarked for the purchase or improvement of a facility, as well as the replacement of more expensive equipment such as a cardiac monitor or stretcher. He clarified that no amount is suggested to set aside at this time but that the creation of a separate account similar to the New Ambulance Outlay account would be advised. At the end of 2018, an amount could be allocated to this new account to begin saving for such future needs and not place the burden on one year's budget. Couey stated that it seemed like a good idea to plan ahead and build capital. Nicks recognized that it would still fall under the Committee's oversight but that it would be removed from the operating budget and set aside. Palmer made a motion to set up a fund for capital expenditures with the intent to allocate money to it in a future meeting, seconded by Nicks. Motion carried.
11. The next regular meeting was scheduled for November 28<sup>th</sup>. If anyone has items for the agenda, it is requested that they are emailed to the Chair. Nicks made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Niemeyer. The motion carried; meeting adjourned at 1952.