

Richland County Joint Ambulance Committee
November 28, 2018
Minutes

Present: Brian McGraw, Justin Lockwood, Mary Rognholt, James Lingel, Glen Niemeyer, Steve Chupp, Ryan Keller, Gordon Palmer, Bob Holets, Terrance Jindrick, Darin Gudgeon.

Not Present: Kerry Severson, Mike Kaufman, Marc Couey, Verlin Coy, Scott Banker, Jean Nicks.

1. Meeting was called to order at 1905.
2. Notification of the meeting had been made, and the agenda was posted.
3. Committee attendance was as noted above, with 10 members present.
4. A motion was made by Holets to approve the agenda as posted. Keller seconded it. Motion Carried; the agenda was approved.
5. The minutes for the September 19, 2018 meeting were silently reviewed. A correction was requested to clarify that the ambulance being referenced when discussing the New ambulance Outlay account should be for a replacement ambulance rather than a new ambulance. A motion was made by Severson and seconded by Nicks to approve the minutes as presented, understanding "New" ambulance to include a replacement. Motion carried; the minutes were approved.
6. For public comment, Sandra Palmer brought printed copies of the Richland Observer articles spotlighting the Service and its members for the committee members to read at their leisure. Fred Clary stated that regarding the history of the Municipal Outlay as he recalled, it was paid out of the revenue of the ambulance billing. He stated that to his knowledge, it may no longer be needed or may make more sense to come from the County Budget. Originally, it was documented as payment for radio maintenance.
7. There were no comments from the EMT delegation.
8. The consolidated reports from August, September, and October were reviewed. It was clarified that the Cvikota payments may not match exactly with the billing revenue due to the way the items are measured and the time in which the data was captured. It was also discussed that the money earmarked for the New Ambulance Outlay would be taken from the operating budget account after the County Board signs the resolution regarding it. The Cvikota report was overviewed. Committee members would like to have a report regarding the amount of "On Scene Care" calls that have been billed and payment received. The Call Summary data was reviewed with no discussion.
9. The Subcommittee reported their next meeting is scheduled for January 16th to focus on the current and next potential contract. Meeting minutes were provided to the Committee to review and comment. There was also discussion regarding the creation of a fund to begin saving for expenses which result from retirements. Community member Fred Clary stated that the County had changed payout plans so the amount needed per employee would be contingent

upon the hire date. McGraw also stated that the money being saved should be placed into a fund to accrue interest such as with the State Trust Fund.

10. The Funding Assistance Program (FAP), which provides funding to pay for new student tuition or EMT refresher classes, was discussed. Gudgeon stated there is need to review the policy for sponsoring students. The current policy includes a contract which states the Service will sponsor the student and requires the student to reimburse the Service should the student not stay with the Service as a license member for two years. Since 2008, the Service has sponsored 41 students. Of that 41, 19 students did not obtain their license. 22 passed but only eight have stayed with the Service. To recoup costs, the Service is currently utilizing TRIP if a former student does not repay based on the contract. However, some stay just until the 2-year mark, not requiring them to repay any amount. Approximately \$5,400 is received from the State yearly through FAP. This amount is determined based upon a formula that includes the population served, call volume, and number of licensed members. The EMT class costs approximately \$1,300 per student. Of the amount received through FAP, \$1,700 is to be used for tuition only while the other \$3,700 can be used for sponsoring students, equipment, or capital expenditures. Gudgeon stated that the policy could be used more like a scholarship. Some services have the student pay for the course and then reimburse them after they obtain their license or are with the service for an allotted amount of time. The committee requested a copy of the current contract and some options to consider.
11. The Strategic Goals and Priorities list as compiled by the subcommittee was reviewed and discussed. It was recognized that the Committee should consider other potential facilities as well, rather than just looking at the one existing facility to ensure the right choice is being made. The old Andreson building was looked at in the past, but due to the response times for volunteers, it was not a viable option. The idea of co-locating with the Richland Center Fire Department should be looked into. Moving forward, the Committee requested that if anyone identified any other facilities worth looking into, they should communicate this information to the Committee to investigate immediately. The process of obtaining more inter-facility transfers was also discussed. The Strategic Goals and Priorities list will be on an early 2019 agenda for further discussion and action.
12. Discussing the current contract and moving forward, the Subcommittee was seeking any suggested changes to begin working on the next contract. Committee members all agreed to proceed with discussing and developing a contract for 2020-2023.
13. Building acquisition and grants were discussed. Gudgeon updated that Committee that the USDA Department of Rural Development will want to meet with the Committee and County Board members in early 2019 to ensure all parties understand the grant and loan terms. The USDA grant and loan would not be specific to a particular building. No loan or grant documentation will be officially submitted until the Committee and County Board have both approved it. Until that point, the Committee will not be locked into anything.
14. The next regular meeting was scheduled for February 20th. If anyone has items for the agenda, it is requested that they are emailed to the Chair. Keller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Palmer. The motion carried; meeting adjourned at 2058.