

Richland County Joint Ambulance Committee
February 28, 2019
Minutes

Present: Brian McGraw, Mary Rognholt, James Lingel, Verlin Coy, Glen Niemeyer Gordon Palmer, Bob Holets, Jean Nicks, Terrance Jindrick, Darin Gudgeon.

Not Present: Kerry Severson, Mike Kaufman, Justin Lockwood, Marc Couey, Steve Chupp, Ryan Keller, Scott Banker.

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 9 members present.
4. A motion was made by Nicks to approve the agenda as posted. Niemeyer seconded it. Motion Carried; the agenda was approved.
5. The minutes for the previous meeting were silently reviewed. A motion was made by Holets and seconded by Rognholt to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried; the minutes were approved.
6. There were no comments from the public.
7. There were no comments from the EMT delegation.
8. A. The consolidated reports from November, December, and January were reviewed. It was recognized that these were not the final report for the year and that the end of year balance would not be official until after audit. The payments to Silva LLC were the ambulance portion of the building's heat maintenance.
B. The Cvikota report was reviewed. It was noted that December's charges were lower and January's charges were higher than other months. Gudgeon reminded the Committee that these amounts do not reflect when the call happened, just when it was received and billed out by Cvikota. It was estimated that about 55% of the amounts billed-out will be received due to the high Medicare/Medicaid population. Gudgeon stated that it is difficult to have the accounting match up between Cvikota and the Clerk's reports to get a hard number for a profit/loss statement but that he hoped to have something closer to a profit/loss statement at the scheduled May meeting. Gudgeon also informed the Committee that the new official contact for Cvikota, should anyone wish to reach out to them, is Clint Johnson. The invoice and statement for Cvikota were also provided. There was a general consensus that members were satisfied with the service through Cvikota. Members also appeared to agree that the payer mix as presented did not need to be provided at every meeting but rather yearly to review.
C. The quarterly call summary was reviewed; Gudgeon noted that of the total 269 calls, only 3.72% ran emergent to the hospital. The yearly call summary report was reviewed, and of a total 1,035 calls for 2018, only 3.96% went emergent to the hospital.

D. As requested at the previous meeting, the On-Scene Care Charges and Payments were presented to the Committee. There were 171 billed at the time of this report, with a total of \$8,606.25 received.

E. As requested at the previous meeting, the current contract between the Service and EMT Candidates for payment of the EMT class and testing was provided. Gudgeon stated that he is intending to present a scholarship plan at the next meeting. Currently, there is little return on investment. Rognholt supported the scholarship idea, stating that perhaps the students would work harder if they know they have to work for it rather than simply receiving the money as it currently appears. Gudgeon stated that there may be fewer applications received but he estimates that candidates will be more motivated. The general consensus of the Committee was to proceed with the scholarship approach. Gudgeon requested input from Committee members, particularly those with experience in working with scholarships.

9. The Subcommittee minutes were provided, and Palmer reported reviewing and beginning conversations internally to work toward the goals and priorities as presented previously to the Committee. Palmer stated that they had not heard any new locations for an EMS facility and again requested any possible be brought to the attention of the Subcommittee. He also stated that there have been conversations about laying the groundwork for a closer relationship with the Richland Hospital and Hospital Foundation boards. McGraw stated that the USDA-RD application previously submitted for the purchase of a building is for a loan only, as grants can only be used to purchase equipment or vehicles. The representative of the USDA program would like to meet with the responsible parties to discuss the terms; McGraw asked if the Committee would be interested in scheduling a meeting. Nicks stated that she felt it should be arranged. McGraw agreed, stating that it was another step in the process to figure out what the terms are and what options exist.
10. The Strategic Goals and Priorities list, which had been discussed at a previous meeting and was to be taken to municipality boards, was reviewed. McGraw stated that the Eagle Town Board felt it was appropriate, and Palmer stated that the Richland Town Board had no complaints. Similar responses were reported for the Ithaca and Dayton Town Boards. According to the respective representatives, it had not yet been presented to the Willow or Akan Town Boards or the Boaz Village Board, but no one present felt there would be objections. McGraw asked if anyone felt a vote to adopt these goals needed to wait until the other Boards had an opportunity to approve it. The Committee agreed it was acceptable to vote now. Holets made a motion to adopt the strategic goals and priorities as presented, seconded by Palmer. Motion carried.
11. The potential contract for 2020 through 2022 as prepared by the Subcommittee was presented. It was primarily the same as the current contract, with the following items updated: the number of calls based on the updated call averages, changing it from a 2-Year to 3-Year contract, updating the language to clarify the inclusion of any and all segregated accounts overseen by the Joint Ambulance Committee, as well as the number of members to reflect the current committee membership. The contracted amount is still based on \$170/call and would hold constant for the three years of the contract. Gudgeon pointed out that four municipalities would see an increase in payment, with five seeing a decrease and four staying the same. It was also

noted that the call average was higher due to a year with fewer calls being replaced by the most recent year with an increased call number. There was some discussion regarding a County-wide charge or assessed fee. Gudgeon stated that he did not want to request any more funding that was needed to run the Service to ensure the funding is effective for the operation while being responsible to the tax payer and that he had a goal of the funds from municipalities eventually being for capital expenditures as the billed payments begin to cover the general operating costs. The Subcommittee also discussed the potential for creating a different formula to determine municipality payments that would be more stable and not fluctuate with the call volume and averages. Coy asked if the Committee was to purchase a building, would the current budget be able to afford those payments along with the operating costs under these contracts. Gudgeon stated that the goal before purchasing is to know if it can be afforded based on the current budget without asking for more funding from municipalities. Holets brought attention to the Strategic Goal to “Evaluate the feasibility of purchasing the current REC building for use as an EMS facility and location for the County’s Emergency Management Department and other compatible uses. The acquisition should not require additional funding by the participating municipalities or the County. The evaluation should be completed by November 2019 and if feasible, the acquisition should be completed by the end of 2021.” It was also noted that obtaining more hospital transfers will bring in more revenue but that a second truck would need to be consistently staffed in order to do that. In order to achieve that, the Service would need a better facility that people would want to work out of. Rognholt stated that she expected the transfers the Service has been doing will help to build the relationship with the Hospital Board and lead to more transfers in the future.

12. McGraw proposed postponing discussion regarding the 2018 income and expenses until the accounts have been audited. The Committee agreed to postpone this item to the next meeting.
13. McGraw sought permission from the Committee to meet with the County’s Finance and Personnel Committee regarding the creation of an interest-bearing account as voted on in the September meeting. He stated that the Town of Eagle has a similar account with the State Investment Board, so he is familiar with the system, which allows for multiple accounts and accommodates earmarking funds within one account. Holets asked if it is FDIC insured. McGraw stated that it is an investment into federal government assets, so the only way to lose the principle would be a federal government collapse. There is some minor market risk. Gudgeon stated that there was still homework to do, but that at this time, they were only seeking permission to have a conversation at the County level. The general consensus from members supported this meeting taking place.
14. The next regular meeting was scheduled for May 15th. If anyone has items for the agenda, it is requested that they are emailed to the Chair. Holets made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Nicks. The motion carried; meeting adjourned at 2035.