

Richland County Joint Ambulance Committee

August 21, 2019

Minutes

Present: Brian McGraw, Kerry Severson, Mary Rognholt, Marc Couey, Verlin Coy, Glen Niemeyer, Steve Chupp, Gordon Palmer, Doug Duhr, Bob Holets, Jean Nicks, Terrance Jindrick, Darin Gudgeon.

Not Present: Mike Kaufman, Scott Wallace, James Lingel, Brian Clarson.

1. Meeting was called to order at 1904.
2. Notification of the meeting had been made, and the agenda was posted.
3. Committee attendance was as noted above, with 12 members present.
4. A motion was made by Couey to approve the agenda as posted. Palmer seconded it. Motion Carried; the agenda was approved.
5. A motion was made by Severson and seconded by Holets to approve the minutes of the previous meeting 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 May, June, and July were reviewed with minimal discussion. It was noted that July included insurance and workman's compensation payments that are typically seen at the end of the year.
B. The Cvikota report was reviewed with invoices being provided in member packets.
C. The quarterly call summary from May 1 through July 31 was reviewed with 299 calls; Gudgeon noted that approximately 5% of calls ran emergent to the hospital. He explained that ambulance crews are paid the normal call hour amount of \$20/hr for being on standby and that the event organization requesting an ambulance for standby is charged a set rate based on hours at the event.
9. Richland County Ambulance Association Treasurer Cheryl Dull informed the Committee that the Association voted at their most recent meeting to partner with the Service on the purchase of the ambulance previously owned by Dodgeville. She stated that the Association had raised funds for the purchase of an ambulance, with a total of \$3,890 specifically earmarked for the purchase and \$5,553 earmarked for Rig or Equipment. She also stated that the Association is submitting three separate grant applications totaling \$7,500 for the purchase of a lift system for the new ambulance. Gudgeon stated that the Association's \$3,890 would offset the Committee's investment into the purchase, therefore the Committee could determine to use the money for the lift system or put it into the New Ambulance Outlay account for the next ambulance purchase. A new lift system will cost approximately \$25,000 including installation and is a power load system which helps prevent injury to responders and patients, as the arms of the system securely lift and load the patient into the ambulance. This type of lift system was installed in the primary ambulance and has been seen to reduce strain on EMS. That unit was purchased through a FEMA grant, which covered 95% of the purchase. Gudgeon suggested the Committee

consider utilizing the money received through the sale of the 1997 ambulance for the lift. With the grants applied for, the Association is willing to try to cover half the cost of the unit. This would mean that the two most used ambulances will have this equipment. The Committee agreed that the lift is of benefit. Palmer made a motion to partner with the Association to fund the lift, Couey seconded; the motion carried. The amount to be paid will be discussed at the next appropriate meeting.

10. Gudgeon stated the 1997 ambulance, previously referred to as Unit 35, is now ready to be sold and anticipates up to \$7,000 will be realized from the sale due to the engine and mileage. The new ambulance has been picked up and all equipment was taken out of the 1997 ambulance. Gudgeon stated that the newly purchased ambulance had the DOT inspection (paid for by Dodgeville as a part of the sale). The ambulance now needs lettering and the State inspection of equipment and conditions approving it for use. Gudgeon recommended that the Committee authorize the 1997 ambulance be put up for sale, stating the resolution used in 2012 for the sale of a previous ambulance be used as a template with money from the sale to go to Capital Expenditures for the lift. The sale process would utilize the Wisconsin Surplus website after the County Board passes the resolution, where the buyer pays all fees associated with the site. The pertinent information and photos would be uploaded with maintenance records available upon request. A minimum amount can be set, however Committee members recognized the chance that a minimum would not be met and the process would have to be done over in that case. Gudgeon stated that, in 2012, the 2001 ambulance sold was sold for \$17,000 despite mechanical issues. After the sale of the 1997 ambulance, the oldest ambulance in the Service would be from 2003. Palmer made a motion to authorize the sale of the 1997 ambulance on Wisconsin Surplus auction site with no minimum price set and the funds from the sale be put into the Capital Expenditure outlay account, Couey seconded. Motion carried. The resolution will go to the County Board for approval.
11. The Priorities and Goals as adopted in the February 2019 meeting were reviewed. The first goal was to ensure contracts were signed and returned prior to the end of the current agreement to prevent a rush at the end of the year and to confirm that the Service would remain under the current organization style for another three years. The second goal of purchasing an ambulance to preplace the 1997 ambulance has been met, with the replacement acquired and preparing to go into service. The third goal regarding the new building will be further discussed later in this meeting. The fourth goal to recruit and retain members has had progress, with the issue of getting the Full Time/Part Time members to market value being worked out. The grade is based on the skill set while the steps are based on the need to bring the wages up to market value for those skills in a timely and controlled manner. This issue is being addressed with the County Board Chair and the wage study consultant, with a meeting again in September. The fifth goal to set aside funds for anticipated expenses has been met for the year with the expectation that the item will again be looked at and further funding set aside in 2020 after audit completes their review. The sixth goal of staffing is being addressed, with an item on this agenda being to discuss the hiring of new employees. The seventh goal to establish a stronger partnership with the Richland Hospital has progressed, as demonstrated by the meeting with the Hospital discussed in the previous Committee meeting. The eighth and final adopted goal of becoming a

paramedic service was recognized to be further down the line but that having had progress in each of these categories will allow for this goal to perhaps be explored sooner. McGraw suggested the Subcommittee plan to meet and refine these goals and add to them as seems appropriate. The Committee recognized the amount of work done in a short time and commended the Joint Ambulance Committee and the Service members for the progress made.

12. Gudgeon informed the Committee that in the past two months, there have been three incidents where sewage poured through the ceiling of the ambulance garage onto rigs. When inmates in the jail clog a toilet, it backs up and impacts two of the ambulance bays. Gudgeon wanted to inform the Committee of the occurrences and to encourage them to help address the situation by talking with County Board members, specifically the Property Committee members to ensure that the garage is properly disinfected and decontaminated.
13. The goal of acquiring a new building was discussed. The adopted goal had specifically referenced the REC building but it is understood to include any other option as feasible. McGraw stated that CDBG funding will be pursued. There will be a process to apply for the funds, and it is currently unknown if the funds can be used to acquire an existing building. If the REC building is still of serious interest, the next step for that would be to have an appraisal done. It was previously indicated a sale price of \$600,000. There will be additional cost in ensuring that it is up to the code. The committee should also plan to have a space needs evaluation done to know what space will be needed for what purposes and the changes required to accommodate that. It was questioned if the current ambulance facility has been inspected to ensure it is up to code. Gudgeon stated that the current ambulance facility has never been subjected to such an inspection and that what might be code violations in a new building would likely be grandfathered in as is commonly done. Typically the only regular inspections are for the ambulances themselves and not for the space they are parked in. Couey stated that existing buildings can be difficult because you don't always know how much it will cost to correct something until you have begun the process but that the cost of building a new building will get expensive as well, so it is hard to know which is the best path without doing more research. McGraw stated that there have been many conversations about the Service co-locating with the Richland Center Fire Department. He stated that he has reached out to the Fire Department Chief, Brian Jones, a few weeks prior regarding their expectation and plans for a new building. Chief Jones stated that he would discuss it with his Board Co-Chairs and reach back out. McGraw stated that he had not heard anything back but that he plans to follow-up. He stated that he does not object to the idea of co-location but does object to if, for example, the Fire Department is considering a new facility ten years down the road, which is too long for the Service to wait. All appeared in agreement that in order to proceed in the right direction, everyone needs to be on the same page regarding the timeframe. As far as the CDBG funding, it was recognized that each County can have two or potentially three projects to fund. Such projects must be shown to impact low to moderate income families, be located in that community, and create jobs. An answer to the question of whether the funding can go to purchase of an existing building is being actively pursued. The County will have to make a decision by the end of the year which projects they will fund and notification of project funding will be made at the end of the first quarter in 2020, with the funds being required to be used by

the end of 2021. There is a list of eligible projects and the Ambulance Service building is on it. Once all the answers are gathered and a proposal created, Committee members will need to lobby the County Board members to see the importance of the project. Couey recommended, regardless of the CDBG funding, that the progress on the Goals and Priorities be shown to the County Board members to allow them to see the progress that has been made. Rognholt agreed, pointing out that many may still be under the impression that the Committee is still in the same place as it was at the start of the Joint Ambulance Committee in 2015. She also pointed out that if the funding can only go toward new construction of a building, a suitable location needs to be identified.

14. Nicks made a motion to go into closed session, seconded by Couey; motion carried. An additional motion was made by Nicks that Burch be allowed to stay for the closed session to take minutes, seconded by Rognholt; motion carried. Upon returning from closed session, Nicks made a motion to offer Cody Layer the position of Full-Time AEMT and Tim Dehnart the position of Part-Time AEMT (not benefit eligible). Rognholt seconded the motion. Motion carried.
15. McGraw noted that there may need to be another meeting ahead of the regularly scheduled meeting in November due to the CDBG funding, and recommended the Subcommittee meet prior to that meeting. These meetings will be scheduled outside of this meeting as information becomes available. Nicks made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Severson. The motion carried; meeting adjourned at 20:51.