

Richland County Joint Ambulance Committee

August 19, 2020

Minutes

Present: Brian McGraw, Kerry Severson, Sharon Schmitz, Mary Rognholt, James Lingel, Verlin Coy, Glen Niemeyer, Steve Chupp, Brian Clarson, Doug Duhr, David Jelinek, Bob Holets, Terrance Jindrick, Darin Gudgeon. Via Zoom: Jean Nicks.

Not Present: Scott Wallace, Marc Couey.

1. Meeting was called to order at 1901.
2. Notification of the meeting had been made, and the agenda was posted.
3. Committee attendance was as noted above, with 14 members present.
4. A motion was made by Holets to approve the agenda as posted. Lingel seconded it. Motion Carried; the agenda was approved.
5. A motion was made by Holets and seconded by Niemeyer 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 financial report provided by the Clerk's Office was reviewed for the months of June (ending balance \$133,705.65) and July (\$128, 210.44). It was noted that the insurances were paid in this time frame and are only paid once a year. There were also three paydays in the month of July.
B. The Cvikota billing report was reviewed, with 559 calls billed out in 2020 through the end of July.
C. The Ambulance Call Data Report was reviewed. It was noted that there were 287 calls in May through July, with 4.53% of these being transported emergent to the hospital.
9. The Subcommittee reported there was one meeting since the last JAC meeting, where the Jewell contract was reviewed. The Subcommittee discussed an offer by Bob Simpson to construct and donate a shell building and possible locations for same. Richland Center Mayor Todd Coppernoll was present and discussed collocating EMS and the Richland Center Fire Department as well as possibilities for where such a facility could be located.
10. A Stakeholder meeting had been held with representatives for the City, City Parks, County Board, Sheriff's Dept, Fire Board, Economic Development, Redevelopment Authority, and Joint Ambulance Committee to discuss potential sites and uses. The stakeholders agreed that planning for collocating the EMS and fire services sometime in the future is desirable. Several locations were identified and discussed by the stakeholders. The first, which had been identified at the Subcommittee meeting, is located on Orange St. While this location had some positives to it, the City Parks and Rec would need to relocate and it's is currently owned by the Redevelopment Authority and categorized in such a way that would require its sale to be at fair market value and would need to go through a special approval process to add the intended

purpose to the list of those allowed. This site has environmental contamination issues requiring time and money for study and remediation of the site and is unlikely to be available within the next year.

The second site is located in the North Industrial Park at the corner of County Highway AA and Industrial Drive. Sewer, water, and fiber-optic hook-ups are all nearby. Gudgeon stated that the site had been cleared of any environmental contamination. Response time from the courthouse to the proposed location is 3 minutes and 42 seconds. The site is estimated to be 3.5 to 4 acres with land adjacent that might be acquired if necessary. The concern is whether both the EMS and the Fire Department facilities can be located on this site. Severson pointed out that it would work well for the ambulance facility, where the need is immediate. Duhr said he believes the soil is sand and gravel so it would be relatively easy to build on. Rognholt appreciated that there was now an option to build a new facility where previously it was too expensive due to land and total construction costs. There was discussion regarding a facility located on Orange St. Members recognized that space would not be available for the Fire Department to build alongside in the future and the land is anticipated to be much costlier and in excess of the current budget, as even a blighted acre lot downtown is estimated to be \$500,000.

The response time from the Industrial Drive site would not change appreciably due to the current staffing model, as the schedule is covered more than 50% of the time by full-time or part-time members. The Industrial Drive lot also better fits the goals of the JAC to not impact the tax roll or take a location that would better fit a new business wanting to locate into the community. Jindrick asked if the City required the Fire Department to intend to move; McGraw stated such a requirement was not indicated. Duhr inquired if the Fire Department being incorporated into the plans would impact the way the Ambulance Facility would fit on the grounds; this would need to be determined by an engineer. Duhr made a motion to identify the lot at Industrial Drive and County Highway AA as a preferred location for the future Ambulance Facility, seconded by Rognholt. Motion carried.

11. The proposed contract with Jewell & Associates, Inc. for schematic design was reviewed. McGraw stated for the current needs, there are no other anticipated bids as a request for bids for the work was not put out. It was indicated that Simpson will be working with Jewell & Associates, Inc. in the construction of the facility's shell. Schmitz made a motion to approve the contract with Jewell and Associates, Inc. for services as laid out in the contract, seconded by Clarson. Motion carried. Gudgeon informed the Committee a report would likely be available in a few weeks.
12. McGraw pointed the Committee's attention to the 2019 budget, which anticipated the transfer of \$20,000 into a non-lapsing account for future needs. That has not been done yet within this budget. Severson made a motion to transfer \$20,000 to the non-lapsing Ambulance account, seconded by Niemeyer. Motion carried.
13. Gudgeon presented to the Committee the idea of Rescue Task Force (RTF). There was no action needed; however, Gudgeon stated his intent is to keep the Committee abreast of the plan being created between the Service and the Richland Center Police Department, Richland County Sheriff's Department, and Richland Center Fire Department. An RTF plan addresses how to respond to active threat situations where victims are located within a scene and a known threat

exists. The RTF team would consist of members from Law Enforcement, EMS, and Fire. This team would only go into a building if an area is reasonably cleared of a threat but victims are located and need assistance. This area would be considered clear but not secure; therefore, all responders of the team would be required to have not only specialized training but also equipment such as ballistic vests and helmets. EMS and Fire would not carry firearms with the expectation of addressing the threat. The goal would be to provide very basic life-saving treatment and assist in evacuation. There may be grants available to assist in the costs associated with purchasing necessary equipment and providing training; however, there would likely be some cost to participating agencies in the process of establishing the RTF plan and necessary training. The plan is in development with further meetings scheduled with the hope that the first training course will be ready by December.

14. Holets made a motion to go to closed session and allow Burch to stay for record keeping, seconded by Niemeyer. Unanimous voice vote. Motion carried. Upon return to Open session, Severson made a motion to offer the position of Part-Time AEMT to applicant Desiree Burke, seconded by Holets. Motion carried.
15. It was determined that a meeting is necessary in September to approve the 2021 Budget and be updated on the building. The meeting is scheduled for September 23. Holets made a motion to adjourn the meeting; motion seconded by Schmitz. The motion carried; meeting adjourned at 20:24.