

Richland County Joint Ambulance Committee

August 18, 2021

Minutes

Present: Kerry Severson, Todd Coppernoll, Sharon Schmitz, Mary Rognholt, James Lingel, Verlin Coy, Glen Niemeyer, Jerome Durst, David Jelinek, Doug Duhr, Jean Nicks, Darin Gudgeon.

Not Present: Brian McGraw, Marc Couey, Tim Willis, Terrance Jindrick.

1. Meeting was called to order at 19:05.
2. Notification of the meeting had been made, and the agenda was posted.
3. Committee attendance was as noted above, with 11 members present in person.
4. A motion was made by Jelinek to approve the agenda as posted. Lingel seconded it. Motion Carried; the agenda was approved.
5. A motion was made by Schmitz 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. At this time, the Committee recognizes the following people as voting members of the Joint Ambulance Committee: Marc Couey and Kerry Severson, County Board; Todd Coppernoll and Sharon Schmitz, Richland Center; Mary Rognholt, Akan; Jim Lingel, Dayton; Brian McGraw, Eagle; Verlin Coy, Henrietta; Glen Niemeyer, Ithaca; Jerome Durst, Marshall; Dave Jelinek, Richland; Doug Duhr, Rockbridge; Tim Willis, Willow; Jean Nicks, Boaz; and Terrance Jindrick, Yuba. At this time, the seat for Orion Township is vacant. Niemeyer made a motion to nominate Durst for the subcommittee, seconded by Jelinek. Motion carried. The subcommittee consists of the following members: Schmitz, Rognholt, Niemeyer, Durst, and McGraw. Nicks made a motion for the current Committee membership to be taken before the County Board for approval, seconded by Niemeyer. Motion carried.
9. A. The Revenue/Expense Reports were reviewed for the quarter. For the month of May, there was \$26,379.00 in revenue with \$36,008.96 in expenditures leaving an ending balance of \$254,769.20. June had \$44,136.60 in revenue and \$35,089.57 in expenses, with an end balance of \$263,816.23. For July, revenues totaled \$46,021.05 and expenditures totaled \$47,865.71 leaving an end balance of 261,971.57. Gudgeon noted there were three pay periods in the month of July, which accounts for the higher than usual salary line.
B. The Cvikota Billing Report was reviewed, which showed 98 billable calls for May, 95 for June, and 90 for July. January 1 through July 31, there were 605 billable calls. Total charges in that time equaled \$460,008.50. Total payments received were \$164,124.48, with allowances (write-offs) at \$202,152.31. The payer mix recognized Medicare received 68.2% of the total amount billed out and had paid 69.8% of the total amount of payments received. Gudgeon explained that the higher the Medicare amounts, the higher the write-offs will be as the amounts not paid by Medicare are not allowed to be collected from the patient.
C. The Ambulance Call Data Report showed 321 total calls for this quarter, which included 43 inter-facility transfers. Of these calls, 3.43% of patients were transported emergent to the hospital, which Gudgeon commended the staff on achieving. Reducing the use of lights and

sirens reduces the risk to the community, the Service, the patient, and the staff. This is best done by relying on training and equipment to stabilize patients. In looking at call types, Gudgeon pointed out that there were only five standby events but seven standby crews; this is due to a standby leading to a patient contact which would be listed as treated patients rather than standby events.

10. A. Gudgeon stated the County Board had approved the purchase of the REC building to be renovated for the purposes of use as an Emergency Services Facility. There have been several meetings since. At this time, Corp Counsel is drafting the necessary closing documents; closing is estimated to be by end of September. Shannon Clark with REC has been in contact with Bob Simpson, and a plan has been established for Simpson to provide his donation in a check that will be held by the title company along with the check from the County for the purchase to be given to REC at closing. A letter acknowledging Simpson and thanking him for his donation will be drafted. Clark estimated REC would be able to be out of the building by January, however those working there only occupy a small space so other work would be able to begin while they are still in the building. An agreement will be in place for this, and both parties will ensure they are covered by appropriate insurance.

B. Gudgeon showed two floor plans on the screen, both similar with only changes to the configuration of the bedrooms and dayroom space. The overall floorplan was reviewed. The garage was noted to have a 14-foot addition allowing for adequate space behind the ambulances. It was noted that the largest trucks operated by REC had not been stored in this space. Duhr pointed out the cement docking at the back of the garage which Gudgeon estimated would not be in the way and should not require removal at this time. The office section is move-in ready, only requiring sprinkling to be added. REC is going to leave desks, shelving, filing cabinets, and the security system for the Service to use. Workout equipment, sandbags, bulk medical supplies, and portable radios and parts will be located in the basement. Gudgeon stated REC is surveying off approximately 200sqft of the land in the northeast corner to LaValle Telephone as they had previously identified. This work is currently in the process of being completed. As for the bedrooms, there will not be closets as members will keep their linens and belongings in bins or lockers in the basement to allow for any member to use the bedrooms. Durst recognized that the two designs had about the same square-footage for the dayroom so the only real difference was the shape. The only flooring remodel will be the dayroom and bedrooms. Gudgeon noted that some service members have requested polished cement floors for the bedrooms for ease of cleaning. Severson supported this idea, suggesting rugs could be used if desired. Some members showed support for the largely open dayroom, however the Committee determined that it simply comes down to personal preference. The Committee voiced their approval of either design and felt the decision should be made based upon feedback from service members. Gudgeon stated once the floorplan is identified, Jewell will begin to create the packet to request bids. Due to weather, the garage is anticipated to be the first project.

11. The three current cardiac monitors used by the Service are 13-14 years old respectively. End of life for these monitors is January 1, 2022. Work has been done to identify options to replace these monitors; a presentation for the LifePak15 took place in late 2020. Gudgeon overviewed two potential monitors, the LifePak15 and Philips Tempus. Gudgeon stated that these two are

limited to only what is necessary wherever possible, and none of the items cut out would be required if these units were still in use when the Service becomes paramedic. These quotes are comparable on what is being provided, and both offer \$4,000 for the trade-in. Gudgeon reminded the Committee that two monitors were budgeted for in 2021 and the third was budgeted for in 2022. The Association will be donating \$5,100 toward this purchase. This purchase will require approval by the County Board. The LifePak15 will cost \$28,468.56 per unit, which is several thousand dollars less than the Tempus, and the Tempus would have an additional \$2,250 annual cost for the technology which allows for real-time communication to the hospital, if the hospital is using it. The defibrillator is a separate device from the monitor with the Tempus; both are included in this quote. Gudgeon stated that members were hesitant with the Tempus for the potential to need the defibrillator and not have it with, and there was concern that the extra technology would not be used regularly. The LifePak15 has the added benefit of communicating with the LUCAS Device for CPR as well. There are still options for financing which will split out payment over three years. Schmitz made a motion to purchase one LifePak15 and finance two, seconded by Nicks. Motion carried.

12. Jelinek made a motion to go into closed session allowing for Burch to stay to record minutes, seconded by Niemeyer. Motion carried by voice vote.
13. In open session, a motion was made by Schmitz to hire Richard Glass to a part-time position, seconded by Nicks. Motion carried.
14. Jelinek made a motion to adjourn the meeting; motion seconded by Niemeyer. The motion carried; the meeting was adjourned at 20:21. The next meeting is scheduled for November 17th, however there will likely be a special meeting scheduled to approve bids.