

Richland County Joint Ambulance Committee

March 14, 2022

Minutes

Present: Brian McGraw, Kerry Severson, Sharon Schmitz, James Lingel, Glen Niemeyer, Gordon Palmer, Doug Duhr, Jean Nicks, Terrance Jindrick, Darin Gudgeon. Mary Rognholt via Zoom.

Not Present: Marc Couey, Todd Coppernoll, Verlin Coy, Jerome Durst, Tim Willis.

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 10 members present.
4. A motion was made by Schmitz to approve the agenda as posted. Severson seconded it. Motion Carried; the agenda was approved.
5. It was noted that the previous meeting minutes had incorrectly listed Duhr as absent though he was in attendance. A motion was made by Niemeyer and seconded by Duhr to approve the minutes of the previous meeting with the corrected attendance. 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 motion was made by Lingel to accept Gordon Palmer as the Committee representative for the Town of Richland, seconded by Schmitz. Motion carried.
9. For the New Facility Remodel project, two bids were received. The first bid, from AmeriCon, came in at \$595,500. The second, from Harmony, came in at \$694,944. The Bond had set aside \$600,000 for the purpose of a new facility, however that included costs for the purchase of the building and other expenses, bringing the current amount to approximately \$420,000. No bids were received that were within budget. It was also noted that not included in the scope of these bids were costs associated with communications equipment and furnishings. It had previously been presented to the County Board, municipal boards, and community at large that the project could be completed without the need for additional funds. It was agreed that the Committee could not support accepting either presented bid at this time. A meeting had taken place with Jewell and the County Administrator to consider the options. It was suggested that there be no action taken regarding the two presented bids, which are good for 30 days from closing. This allows time to reconsider options. It was further determined that the bid documents be rewritten, breaking the project down into smaller parts or phases based upon immediate needs and timeline. It would be determined which aspects of the project are necessary prior to taking occupancy, and priority would be given to these parts as soon as possible. Any parts of the project not required to meet State Building Code or immediate necessity would be completed after transitioning operations into the new facility. The goal remains to vacate the current space and move into the building by the end of September 2022. It appeared the project could be completed in possibly three phases to be done based on necessity as funding allows. It was reiterated that the Committee had pursued the purchase and remodel of the new facility after receiving estimates from people in the field to determine the endeavor could be done within the available budget, however, costs have increased incredibly at an unexpected rate that has simply created a challenging situation. No one is to blame for the situation at hand; no one foresaw rate increases at this level. Thankfully, the building continues to be fairly turn-key,

already having at the ready the office spaces, two bedrooms, and three bathrooms. Phase One will need the garage addition, sprinkler system install, and the two electrical issues identified in the building inspection. The shower, washer and dryer installation will be removed from the bidding scope; Gudgeon will contact local contractors. Jewell had received estimate amounts for these installations at just under \$10,000. Gudgeon stated he expected a local business would be able to complete these simple projects at lower cost. The final phases would include the remodel of the four-bedroom and dayroom space. It was noted that there is an existing office as part of the area to be demolished that would be able to be used as a third bedroom temporarily. It was acknowledged that the bid amounts were a let-down, however it was noted that, upon completion of the proposed Phase One, the Service will have more amenities than in the currently occupied space. Palmer stated that it made the most sense to break it into phases at this point. The roof repair will also be included in Phase One, which REC had generously donated funds for. The Committee needs to continue to do what's right for the tax payers. Gudgeon stated REC had the walls touched up or repainted and the carpets cleaned, spending approximately \$8,300 prior to turning the keys over. They also have donated a conference table, ten chairs, a television, a smart projector, several storage shelves, and filing cabinets. The Committee once more extends their thanks for REC's generosity.

Gudgeon stated the Committee had budgeted \$35,000 for the new facility, however he expects the budget may need to account for \$40,000. He stated there are a few grants the departments receive that may be able to offset some of the costs. The Funding Assistance Program through the State awards qualifying services, of which \$4,200 received by this Service may be applied to the building needs. For Emergency Management, the County receives a grant based upon number of facilities with reportable hazardous materials that may be able to be used for computer equipment. The funds received typically are used to pay the County's share of the four-county Hazardous Materials Response Team. Gudgeon is in communications with the other three counties on this matter.

The Committee voiced support over the phased approach. Jindrick inquired about the expected response from the County Board; McGraw stated he felt it should be seen that circumstances occurred by events outside anyone's control despite the Committee's best efforts to contain costs and he hoped they'd appreciate not being asked for additional funding but that the Committee is seeking alternative ways to maintain the established timeline of vacating the current location and completing the project when the finances allow. He further stated that the overall situation should reflect well on the Committee for having done the best that could be done given the circumstances. Palmer stated the Committee has a goal of what it wants to achieve, but things have changed and impacted it; having patience and doing it in phases, the project will still be completed. To move forward at this time, work will be done to establish the phases of the project and publish them for bids. The request for bids for all phased work will be published simultaneously. The current bidders will be allowed to bid on the phases if they wish to.

Nicks made a motion to was made to take no action on the two bids discussed in this meeting, seconded by Niemeyer. Motion carried. Nicks made a motion to authorize Gudgeon to work with Jewell & Associates to redraft the bid specifications into three or more phases and subsequently advertise the revised specifications as soon as possible, seconded by Nicks. Motion carried.

10. Nicks made a motion to adjourn the meeting; motion seconded by Severson. The motion carried; the meeting was adjourned at 19:45.