

Richland County Joint Ambulance Committee

April 18, 2022

Minutes

Present: Brian McGraw, Kerry Severson, Sharon Schmitz, Mary Rognholt, Verlin Coy, Jerome Durst, Glen Niemeyer, Gordon Palmer, Doug Duhr, Terrance Jindrick, Darin Gudgeon.

Not Present: Marc Couey, Todd Coppernoll, James Lingel, Tim Willis, Jean Nicks.

1. Meeting was called to order at 19:00.
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. Niemeyer seconded it. Motion Carried; the agenda was approved.
5. A motion was made by Schmitz and seconded by Rognholt 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. Bids for the New Facility Phased Remodel were reviewed. Two were received prior to the deadline. Joe Daniels Construction returned a bid at \$348,556 with an estimated project completion within 16 weeks. AmeriCon returned a bid for \$475,725 with an estimated project completion within 25 weeks. The current amount remaining in the Bond account for the project is approximately \$429,000. AmeriCon's bid exceeds that amount. The garage doors have been ordered and will cost a separate \$34,000, so for the complete garage and electric remodel and sprinklers installed to bring the building to code, the project stands at \$382,000. The first alternate option was to consider whether it was cheaper to do wood frame rather than block, however both bids showed wood to be more expensive. The second alternate was to sprinkler the entire building rather than the areas required for code compliance. The third alternate was to consider having colored block rather than plain. The base bid builds out the garage addition, meets the code issues identified in earlier meetings including sprinkler and electrical, and installs HVAC, heat, and fire detection systems. The shower, washer, and dryer will be installed separately. Bids are being sought through local plumbers with three contractors having looked at the site. The shower is to be installed in the original bathroom which has fairly easy access to the necessary components. It was also identified that there is space and ease of set-up to install the washer and dryer in the boiler room on the other side of the shower wall.
The new addition will include roofing for the garage area of the building. The roofer doing this work will likely be contracted to complete the repairs of the existing roof in the other identified areas when they are completing the garage portion, but this will be discussed further at a future date. If this phased project is found to not need the remaining funds as contingency, there are a few options that could be considered at that time. Remaining funds could be put toward having sprinklers installed throughout the building rather than limiting it to the code-required locations, the roof project could be expanded to replace the entire roof and save from having to do this in the future, or if no other projects are needed at that time, the funds could be returned. The current layout of the building has three rooms suitable for use as regular bedrooms, with a fourth available

if needed. The original layout for the building as discussed may change as activity increases in the facility, as more efficient layouts may be identified. The local Pine Valley Repeater ARES/RACES group will be installing and paying for the wall for their space. The security system is still able to be used for our needs; cameras could be installed if desired in the future. Gudgeon reported that he had received a quote from Strang's for \$6,400 for a refurbished digital phone system identical to what is currently used by the City of Richland Center as well as the Richland School District. If the phone system is purchased out of the Ambulance account rather than the borrowed funds, it would simply need to be approved by the County administrator so long as the cost was less than \$10,000. A motion was made by Schmitz to recommend that the County Board accept the bid and approve a contract with Joe Daniels Construction for the remodel of the Jefferson St building. Gudgeon stated the resolution is already drafted, simply needing the specifics of the bid entered for the County Board meeting April 19th. In a meeting with Jewel earlier in the day, they stated they had worked with this construction company, which is based in Madison, and had good experiences with them. Motion seconded by Palmer. Motion carried.

9. The request for bids for the study regarding EMS delivery in the county had been sent out to the four identified consultants known to conduct such work in the State. Two phone calls were received, however only one bid was returned. The Joint Ambulance Committee has been asked by the County Administrator to recommend a consultant for the study, which will be paid using American Rescue Plan Act funds. The Committee would not be committing to a bid so much as reviewing the options and recommending forward as it wishes. Looking at the one bid received, it appears all required items identified in the RFP have been addressed. The consulting firm appears knowledgeable and qualified to conduct the work. Listed in the references are two counties who had similar projects completed. Gudgeon stated he could reach out to get feedback if the Committee wished; the Committee supported this. Durst stated he felt it may be necessary to conduct this study at this time to identify the direction of EMS and address the concerns of the County. This study will look county-wide EMS to gather information of the system as a whole. Gudgeon stated the County Administrator is seeking real data to best understand the most appropriate direction for the County, as the County is not mandated to oversee an ambulance service. The goal is that this study will also be a deliverable to neighboring services to help balance efficiency and sustainability. This study will also attempt to get public opinion. All components of this study will assist the County Board in understanding the need. Severson recognized this study as vital to the municipalities within the County. It will get an honest and unbiased appraisal of the options. Gudgeon stated a common message he has been hearing from Emergency Management Directors across the State regarding EMS is that current operations are not sustainable. Last year alone, seven ambulance services closed their doors. He stated some private services are being bought out by larger private services. As this is a fairly comprehensive report, it is expected the Study will look at the value of County-Run verses private services, taking a full-cost approach, which identifies the value of volunteers to adjust for the actual cost if these members were in standard paid positions. The bid states the consulting firm will schedule meetings with the services covering 911 calls as listed in their packet. It was noted that some communities are moving away from hiring private ambulance services, as there is no local control over the cost of services for the user or the municipality. If this bid is recommended and forwarded, it would be reviewed and approved by the County Administrator prior to review and approval by the Finance & Personnel Committee. The County had previously approved the RFP,

though no official commitment to do the study has been made. Schmitz recognized the value of having a report with uniform information on frequently asked questions.

A motion was made by Schmitz to recommend the bid from Strategic Management and Consulting be moved forward to the County Administrator for consideration, seconded by Rognholt. Motion carried.

10. Durst made a motion to go into Closed Session for the purposes of an application review and hiring recommendation under Wisconsin Statutes section 19.85 (1)(c), with Burch to stay for recording of minutes. Motion seconded by Duhr. Motion carried.
11. The committee returned to open session. A motion was made by Severson to offer the remaining part-time position to Brianna Johann, seconded by Rognholt. Motion carried.
12. Durst made a motion to adjourn the meeting; motion seconded by Niemeyer. The motion carried; the meeting was adjourned at 20:09.