

Richland County Joint Ambulance Committee

July 24, 2024

Minutes

Present: Brian McGraw, Julie Fleming, Tom McCarthy, Todd Coppernall (left at 8:33 pm), Mary Rognholt, James Lingel, Glen Niemeyer, Don Stanke, Gorgon Palmer, Doug Duhr, Jean Nicks (joined the meeting at 7:15 pm and exited at 9:10 pm), and Terrance Jindrick. Absent: Kerry Severson, Todd Stittleburg, and Jerome Durst.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7 pm.
2. Notification of the meeting was made and the agenda was posted.
3. Committee attendance was as noted above and a quorum was present.
4. A motion was made by Stanke and seconded by Duhr to approve the agenda, noting the typo on item 11 to read 2025, and approved unanimously.
5. A motion was made by Niemeyer and seconded by Palmer to approved the minutes of the June 25, 2024 meeting, and approved unanimously.
6. The Director updated the Committee on the roof project, which is presently not financially feasible, and reported the hiring of 1 full and 1 casual call-in basic EMTs. Jessen also advised he will be bringing other staffing changes for consideration in future meetings. Jessen advised the Service is implementing "I am responding" and in station PA announcements for call responses. Palmer reported on meetings he had with the County Administrator Pesch, and Jessen, McGraw, Stanke, and Pesch regarding his concerns about the hiring process for the Emergency Services Director position. The Committee will seek a meeting with Pesch to discuss how the Committee can have greater involvement in future hiring processes.
7. Jessen requested monthly Committee meetings be held, because there is a lot going on in the Service and he wants operations to be open and transparent, and Committee members kept fully informed. A motion was made by Palmer which was seconded by Rognholt, to have monthly meetings on the 4th Monday of each month beginning August 26 at 7pm. The motion carried unanimously.
8. The Director reported the 2 Ford Explorers and the 2004 Ambulance are surplus property and the latter is not wanted by neighboring services. A motion was made by Stanek, seconded by Liegel to authorize the Director the dispose of these vehicles and other surplus items of personal property on Wisconsin Surplus Auction. The motion passed unanimously.
9. This item was discussed and postponed for action at a later meeting, pending additional information on the terms of the borrowing and whether the cost of acquisition and maintenance may be shared by 1 or more County departments, and if so, the division of those costs.
10. This item was discussed and postponed for action at a later meeting, pending additional information as to the total cost of the Committee assuming 100% of the salary and benefits for the Director's position, how much is owed and will be collected for ambulance services previously provided, and the results of the pending salary study on wages for service employees. The Committee's discussion indicated an appreciation the duties of supervising the EMS operations warranted a full-- time director.
11. The 2025 Operating Budget was reviewed and discussed. The Budget will be presented for approval at the August meeting.

12. A motion was made by Niemeyer and seconded by Fleming to go into closed session pursuant to Wis Stat. Sec. 19.85(1)(f) to update the Committee members on the recent internal investigation and outcome. A roll-call vote was held and unanimously approved, and the Committee went into closed session at 9:10 pm.
13. The Committee returned to open session at 9:33pm.
14. A motion was made by Palmer, seconded by Stanek to return to open session and adjourn, which was approved unanimously at 9:34pm.