

**The Minutes of the 507<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
of the ROCK TOWNSHIP AMBULANCE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
January 29, 2020**

**OPEN MEETING:**

The 507<sup>th</sup> regular monthly meeting of the Rock Township Ambulance District Board of Directors was called to order by Chairman Paul at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 29, 2020.

**ROLL CALL:**

Directors and Administrative Personnel – Secretary Cathy Wooldridge conducted a roll call of those in attendance. In addition to herself, Chairman Mark Paul, Director Christy Gay, Director Alicia Ott, Chief Jerry Appleton, Deputy Chief Sheila Buchheit, Deputy Chief Andrew West, Office Manager Jennifer Ello, and Mr. Mark Bishop, Legal Counsel for the District, were present. Director Paul Horn and Mr. Rick Rognan, Treasurer for the District, participated in the meeting by telephone.

Vice-Chairperson Lynne Ruzicka was not expected to attend.

Chairman Paul motioned to excuse Vice-Chairperson Ruzicka from the meeting. Director Ott seconded.

There being no discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously, 5 to 0.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**VISITORS AND GUESTS:**

Acknowledgement – Chairman Paul welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Public Comments – There were none.

**MINUTES:**

Approval of the 506<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes from December 18, 2019 – Secretary Wooldridge motioned to approve the last meeting minutes as presented. Director Gay seconded.

There being no discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion passed by majority, 4 to 0, with Director Ott voting “Abstain.”

**FINANCIALS:**

December 2019 Treasurer’s Report – Mr. Rognan announced the good news of the District closing the year 2.12% under budget, with 7.65 months’ worth of expenses remaining in reserve. He then reviewed the revenues and expenditures contained in the Treasurer’s Report.

Secretary Wooldridge motioned to approve the Treasurer’s Report, to pay all bills, and to approve all payroll expenditures. Director Ott seconded.

There being no discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion passed by majority, 4 to 1, with Director Horn voting, “Abstain.”

Cancellation Report Summary – None

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Chief’s Comments – Chief Appleton reported the following:

The District finished the year with record call volume. The crews responded to more than 10,000 calls. He expressed his appreciation of the crews volunteering for overtime, so far, eliminating the need for mandatory overtime.

Testing of Paramedic applicants for part-time positions is occurring.

The sign at House #1 was damaged, beyond repair. It was unwitnessed and a police report was filed. Crew Chief DeClue and Deputy Chief West discarded the debris. Chief Appleton requested the Boards’ agreement that the sign should not be replaced. The Board agreed.

The Hickory Square building plans passed Planning and Zoning with the City of Arnold. Discussion ensued.

The two new ambulances that were received in December are now in-service.

The annual audit is scheduled for February 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

Review Completed Patient Surveys – Several patient surveys were available for the Directors to review.

Union Business-Shop Steward, Kate Reed – Ms. Reed was on a call, so Ms. Ashley Denman, Co-Shop Steward, read a letter, authored by Mr. Ron Lipp. The letter addressed the increase in prescription costs with United Healthcare. The costs were unknown prior to the Board of Directors' decision. The letter documented numerous employees' stories regarding their hardships with the increased costs. The shop would like the Board of Directors to re-consider allowing the employees the opportunity to have BeneFlex. Ms. Denman was thanked by the Board.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

"Treat, No Transport" Fees – Chief Appleton requested that this topic be placed on the agenda as to open up discussion about it. Mr. Jason White, a long time EMS advocate, brought this to the attention of the District. Missouri Medicaid is now approving payment, as of January 1, 2020, in the amount of \$152.00, for the "Treat, No Transport Service." There are five (5) criteria that must be met, and the service may only be billed one time per day per participant. Anthem BC/BS and United Healthcare also cover this service. Further research is needed to determine Medicare's position on this service. Discussion ensued. The Board directed Chief Appleton to prepare a policy for their review at the February meeting.

FGM-Review and Approve Bid Documents for Construction – Mr. Jerrod Joggerst, of FGM, addressed the group. He reviewed the building plans for both the Hickory Square and Konert Road projects. The total projects cost is about six (6) million dollars. Bids will be received until 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. A Special Board meeting will need to be scheduled in early March for the purpose of awarding the construction contract. He estimates that the projects will be complete by March of 2021 and move in ready in April of 2021. General discussion occurred.

Chairman Paul made a motion to approve the bid documents for construction. Director Gay seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion passed by majority, 4 to 1, with Director Horn voting, "Nay."

The Board thanked Mr. Joggerst for his presentation.

IAFF #2665 CBA – Chief Appleton reminded the Board that they have reviewed the CBA and the changes that were made have been reviewed by Mr. Bishop. Discussion ensued.

Secretary Wooldridge motioned to approve the IAFF #2655 CBA and authorize the Chief to execute the agreement. Director Ott seconded.

There being no further discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously, 5 to 0.

**GOOD AND WELFARE:**

Acknowledgement of employee promotion and service – Chief Appleton announced the following:

Full-Time service anniversaries in January: Mr. Dale McCarthy, Paramedic/Lieutenant, three (3) years; and Ms. Jessica Clark, Paramedic, four (4) years.

There were no Part-Time service anniversaries in January.

**CLOSING COMMENTS:**

Director Gay would like the topic of BeneFlex placed on the next Agenda.

Director Ott expressed that the 10% increase was phenomenal.

Director Horn was disappointed about the problems with the deductibles and would like the problems with prescriptions taken care of.

Chairperson Paul inquired to Ms. Ello if the accounts that are turned over to a collection agency are also reported to the credit bureaus? She replied that they are.

Secretary Wooldridge asked about the progress with the new billing company. Chief Appleton has spoken with Mr. Bishop regarding this topic, and it's been suggested that the District go out for bid again.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next regular monthly meeting was set for Wednesday, February 26, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. at House #4.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Gay motioned to adjourn. Director Ott seconded.

A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously, 5 to 0, at 7:13 p.m.

  
Cathy Wooldridge - Secretary of the Board



Board approved, signed, and sealed on: 2-26-2020