

**The Minutes of the 548th Meeting
of the ROCK TOWNSHIP AMBULANCE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
June 28, 2023**

OPEN MEETING:

The 548th regular monthly meeting of the Rock Township Ambulance District Board of Directors was called to order by Chairperson Lynne Ruzicka at 6:02 p.m. on Wednesday, June 28, 2023. The meeting was conducted at Station 4.

ROLL CALL:

Directors and Administrative Personnel – Secretary Tara Mueller conducted a roll call of those in attendance. In addition to herself, Chairperson Lynne Ruzicka, Director Mark Paul, Director Andrew West, Director Mandy Dockery, Chief Jerry Appleton, Deputy Chief Sheila Buchheit, Deputy Chief Josh Hemmelman, Chief Training Officer Corey Golec, Office Manager Jennifer Ello, Mr. Mark Bishop, Legal Counsel for the District, and Mr. Rick Rognan, Treasurer for the District, were present. Vice-Chairperson Jeremy Day was not expected.

Chairperson Ruzicka made a motion to excuse Vice-Chairperson Day from the meeting. Director Paul seconded. There being no discussion, a vote was taken, and passed unanimously, 5 to 0.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The group recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITORS AND GUESTS:

Acknowledgement – Chairperson Ruzicka welcomed everyone.

Public Comments – There were none.

MINUTES:

Approval of the 547th Meeting Minutes from May 24, 2023 – Director Paul motioned to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Director West seconded. There being no discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously, 5 to 0.

FINANCIALS:

May 2023 Treasurer's Report – Mr. Rognan reported that the District is .92% over budget, approximately \$81,000.00 and trending down. He then reviewed the income and expenditures through the end of May.

Director Paul motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, to pay all bills, and to approve all payroll expenditures. Secretary Mueller seconded. There being no discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously, 5 to 0.

Cancelation Report Summary – The Directors reviewed the detailed report which represented June assignments to the collection agency by EMS/MC. There were 203 accounts, from 2021, 2022, and 2023, totaling \$99,265.68.

Director Paul motioned to approve the Cancelation Report Summary. Secretary Mueller seconded. There being no discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously, 5 to 0.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Chief's Comments – Chief Appleton reported the following:

Field personnel and leadership have been attending a lot of training and classes. Policy updates will be presented soon from information gleaned from the EMS Conference that Chief, DC Buchheit, DC Hemmelman, CTO Golec, and BC DeClue attended.

Ongoing meetings have been occurring with FGM representatives regarding the Station 5 project.

The annual Workers' Compensation audit was completed and went well. He thanked Ms. Ello.

Chief Appleton, Secretary Mueller, and Vice-Chairperson Day attended the annual legislative breakfast.

Ms. Christie Hull-Bettale, Community Development Engineer for the City of Arnold, notified Chief Appleton that the city would be returning 90% of our escrow that has been held for the Station 1 project. They are retaining 10% due to additional landscaping and erosion issues that need to be completed. A bid from FGM is forthcoming.

The IAFF Health and Wellness Trust is completing the change from Guardian to Delta Dental which will be effective July 1st. They have reported a rate freeze from Delta Dental, as well.

Even with the hot days we have been experiencing, call volume is the same as last year. K & K has been keeping up with our rig repairs.

The six (6) new full-time paramedics are right on target.

Review Completed Patient Surveys – There were no patient surveys to review.

Union Business-Shop Steward, Ashley Denman – Ms. Denman, attending by audio conferencing, stated she had no union business to present at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution #2023-04: Setting the Reimbursement Rate – Mr. Rogan explained Missouri Senate Bill 870, passed in 2018, and the three (3) related Statutes, allows ambulance districts to be reimbursed up to 100%. The District must adopt a Resolution annually, and provide it to the County by the 30th of June.

Director Paul motioned to adopt Resolution #2023-04 setting the reimbursement rate at 100%. Director West seconded. There being no discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously, 5 to 0.

Health & Wellness Fund Vision Plan Options – Chief Appleton explained that District employees have been receiving vision benefits through the IAFFF Health and Wellness Trust since joining. The Trust realized that the benefit was active for us but it wasn't supposed to be. The Trust made notification that the vision benefits will be ending June 30th. The employees have been very grateful for the benefit and would like to keep them. Chief Appleton requested proposals from Assured Partners, the broker who handles the benefits for the Trust. A mid-level plan with Delta Vision would be \$4,500.32 for the remainder of the year. A lengthy group discussion occurred.

Secretary Mueller made a motion authorizing Chief Appleton to contract with the Trust for the mid-level vision plan through the end of the year. Director West seconded. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion passed by majority, 4 to 1.

Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital / STARS – Business Association Agreement Renewal – Chief Appleton made note that the agenda should read, "Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital" versus St. Louis Children's Hospital. He then explained that the STARS Program originated at RTAD through the work of a former employee. That employee then went to Cardinal Glennon and the program has expanded quite a bit. Mr. Bishop has reviewed the updated agreement and has no issues with it. A brief description of the program was given.

Chairperson Ruzicka made a motion authorizing Chief Appleton to enter into the agreement with Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital. Secretary Mueller seconded. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously, 5 to 0.

Cyber Security Endpoint Detection and Responsive Software – Capital Projects 2021 – Chief Appleton reported that the Capital Projects budget included software upgrades. Our IT firm, PC Tech, is suggesting the proposed upgrade for all thirty (30) units the district operates. The proposed upgrades are being presented for \$7,128.00. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the price. The Board would like more explanation presented at the next monthly meeting.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

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

Ms. Rachel Ahrens, Paramedic, two (2) years; Mr. TJ Nichols, Paramedic, two (2) years; Mr. Ron Lipp, Paramedic, eleven (11) years; and Mr. Alex Wilson, Paramedic, thirteen (13) years.

CLOSING COMMENTS:

Director Paul inquired about the District’s presence at the Strawberry Festival. DC Hemmelman responded that despite the intense heat, it went very well. Director Paul thanked everyone for working in the heat and hoped they stay safe.

Secretary Mueller thanked RTAD for helping her neighbors in need.

NEXT MEETING:

The Board set the next meeting date for Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., at Station 4.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairperson Ruzicka motioned to adjourn. Secretary Mueller seconded. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously, 5 to 0, at 6:55 p.m.



Tara Mueller - Secretary of the Board

Board approved, signed, and sealed on this date: 7-26-23

