

**The Minutes of the 505th Meeting
of the ROCK TOWNSHIP AMBULANCE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
November 20, 2019**

OPEN MEETING:

The 505th 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, November 20, 2019.

ROLL CALL:

Directors and Administrative Personnel – Secretary Cathy Wooldridge conducted a roll call of those in attendance. In addition to herself, Chairman Mark Paul, Vice-Chairperson Lynne Ruzicka, Director Christy Gay, Director Alicia Ott, Director Paul Horn, 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. Mr. Rick Rognan, Treasurer for the District, was not expected to attend the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

VISITORS AND GUESTS:

Acknowledgement – Chairman Paul acknowledged a large attendance of guests and employees and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Public Comments – There were none.

MINUTES:

Approval of the 504th Meeting Minutes from October 23, 2019 – Director Horn questioned that the minutes did not state that the ambulance was purchased in Canada. Chief Appleton reiterated that the ambulance was purchased in Arkansas; it was manufactured in Canada. Pinnacle Emergency Vehicles is located in Arkansas. Discussion regarding the bid process ensued.

Director Ott motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Secretary Wooldridge seconded.

There being no further discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion passed by majority, 4 to 1, with Vice-Chairperson Ruzicka abstaining, and Director Horn voting, “Nay.”

FINANCIALS:

October 2019 Treasurer’s Report – Chief Appleton reported, per Mr. Rognan, that the reports reflect good spending.

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, 5 to 1, with Director Horn voting, “Nay.”

Cancellation Report Summary – None

COMMUNICATIONS:

Chief’s Comments – Chief Appleton reported the following:

The District has been very busy with calls, averaging twenty-eight (28) calls per day, which would put us at 10,220 calls for the year.

The pickup truck has been repaired and is back in service.

The District has hosted a two-day TECC training. He believes it is a really good training event.

There have been numerous insurance meetings with representatives of Custom Insurance Services.

He, Chief Appleton, has been enjoying time off for vacation this week.

The new buildings projects are moving along with final submissions to Arnold's Planning and Zoning division scheduled for December.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Review Completed Patient Surveys – There were none.

Union Business-Shop Steward, Ron Lipp – Mr. Lipp addressed the Board of Directors via telephone to report that the negotiation committee has met with Administration and is looking forward to working with the Board.

In addition, he asked the Directors to consult with the shop before making any decisions regarding healthcare coverage.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

2020 Operating Budget Draft – Chief Appleton explained that he, and members of the union, Deputy Chief Buchheit, Ms. Ello, and Mr. Rognan, met to create the draft budget. The budget does not include wage increases but does include worst case insurance scenarios. It is a work in progress. The 2020 Operating Budget will require final approval at the December monthly meeting. A group discussion occurred regarding trending, line item adjustments, wages, additional crews, response times, etc. The possibility of having a work session was also discussed. The Directors checked their availability to have a meeting on the 4th of December.

2020 Ambulance Fee Increase – Chief Appleton reminded the Directors that the District did not increase ambulance fees in 2019. He reported that the CPI increased 1.9% in 2019, and will be 2.1% in 2020. In addition, the District is currently charging \$9.92 per loaded mile and the Medicare allowable for mileage is currently \$15.00 per loaded mile. After consulting with Mr. Rognan, Chief Appleton is recommending increasing base rates by 5% across the board and increasing mileage to \$15.00 per loaded mile. Discussion ensued.

Director Ott made a motion to increase fees by 5% and increase mileage to \$15.00, effective for dates of service January 1, 2020. Director Gay seconded.

There being no further discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion passed by majority, 5 to 1, with Director Horn voting, "No."

2020 Health Insurance Renewal – Mr. David McKinney from Custom Insurance Services was welcomed to the meeting.

Mr. McKinney reported that Guardian, the District's dental insurance carrier, has issued a rate hold for 2020, and promised that if there is an increase in 2021, it will not be more than 3%.

He then reminded the Directors that the Standard, the District's life, STD, & LTD insurance carrier, had issued a two-year rate freeze last year, which includes 2020.

Mr. McKinney addressed the health insurance renewal from Anthem next. The closest plan proposed, to the District's current plan, is 22.24% more than the District is currently paying. He reviewed the changes to the proposed plan. Three (3) additional plan options from Anthem were reviewed, one of which was an HSA (Health Savings Account) compatible plan. He then explained what an HSA is and how it works. Next, Mr. McKinney reviewed plan proposals from United Healthcare (UHC), which also included HSA compatible plans. A brief group discussion occurred. Chairman Paul asked the Directors to review the proposals and to be prepared with numbers, for the December 4th meeting.

Mr. McKinney was thanked for his work and presentation.

2020 Liability Insurance Renewal – Mr. Don Becker, and Mr. Tony Becker, from Custom Insurance Services were welcomed to the meeting.

Mr. Don Becker began by explaining that the renewal that they are presenting is all of the District's insurance with the exception of workers' compensation (WC). The District's WC insurance renewal is in April. Mr. Becker

obtained three (3) proposals. They were from VFIS, Provident, and Missouri Rural. They will be comparing VFIS, The District's current carrier, and Missouri Rural. Provident is virtually the same proposal as VFIS.

Mr. Tony Becker explained the two proposals in detail. A lengthy group discussion occurred.

Vice-Chairperson Ruzicka made a motion to renew with VFIS. Director Gay seconded.

There being no further discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion passed by majority, 5 to 1, with Secretary Wooldridge voting, "No."

Mr. Don Becker and Mr. Tony Becker were thanked for their presentation.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

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

Full-Time service anniversaries in November: Mr. Jerry Appleton, Paramedic/Chief, twenty-seven (27) years; Ms. Kathryn McClune, Paramedic/PR Coordinator, eighteen (18) years; and Mr. Mark Liston, Paramedic, thirty-one (31) years.

There were no Part-Time service anniversaries in November.

CLOSING COMMENTS:

Director Horn wanted it noted that the ambulances are made in Canada, and he is upset with the cobwebs at the entrance to the building. Chief Appleton said that cleaning and pest control are performed regularly and because of the lighting of the entrance, bugs are attracted, and that attracts spiders.

Secretary Wooldridge commented that she was happy with the way things were going at the District.

Chairman Paul commented "Ditto" to Secretary Wooldridge's comment.

NEXT MEETING:

The group discussed rescheduling the December regular monthly meeting date due to Christmas. The December regular monthly meeting date was set for Wednesday, December 18, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. at House #4.

The group also set a Special Meeting date for Wednesday, December 4, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. at House #4. The Special Meeting will be for discussion of health insurance and the 2020 budget.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Secretary Wooldridge made a motion to enter into a closed session with closed vote and closed record for the purpose of approval of the Executive Session Minutes from October 23, 2019, and consultation with counsel to discuss personnel and contract negotiations pursuant to Section 610.021 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri. Director Gay seconded.

There being no discussion, a roll call vote was taken as follows: Chairman Paul, "Yes."; Vice-Chairperson Ruzicka, "Yes."; Secretary Wooldridge, "Yes."; Director Gay, "Yes."; Director Ott, "Yes."; and Director Horn, "Yes." The motion passed unanimously.

The Board left open session at 7:46 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 8:22 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Paul motioned to adjourn. Secretary Wooldridge seconded.

A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously at 8:22 p.m.



Cathy Wooldridge
Cathy Wooldridge - Secretary of the Board

Board approved, signed, and sealed on: 12/18/19