Lamberton Ambulance

Special Meeting Minutes

October 8th, 2018 6:00pm

Members Present: Colby Davis, Madonna Peterson, Allison Rue, Marissa Brown, Jill irlbeck, Debbie Vollmer, Mike Vollmer, Tony Sauer, Nick Anderson

Arriving Late: Tim Birkemeyer-6:45pm, Amber Wolmutt 7:15pm

Absent: Stacy Osland, Britany Bartholamus, Derek Stevenson, Chad Stavnes, Paul Bellig, Matt Lenning

Debbie requested a special meeting for crew to discuss issues/ideas/concerns that have been brought up about the Ambulance service. The majority of the time was spent on payroll and recruitment.

 -Do we want to continue with the hourly wage or explore other options

-Run into times where it is considered “double dipping”, for example-on call, but attending a meeting/training/football game

 -Is this sustainable for the service/city?

-This brought up discussion about grants that are available, which Marissa found. Allison will look into this further to make sure we qualify and if we do, will submit an application with help from Madonna. There is over $315 million available in grant monies to use for things such as financing payroll, education/training classes for current and new member, as well as purchasing items such as a new rig, etc.

-Tim made the group aware of other ways to receive reimbursement for the service for things including new members training and equipment purchasing. Nick will work on these.

-Tim was also aware of OSHA grants available, but these can carry stipulations such as inspections, extra training, etc.

-During discussion about finding these sorts of funds, which are out there, but no one really knows where to look or how to find them, Tim mentioned a contact from Cottonwood to get in touch with that he feels can help with this issue. Marissa will contact Dane Meyer and keep her eye out also for other sorts of monies our service may be able to utilize.

-Discussion was brought up about varying wages between crew members based on Driver, EMR, or EMT status. Some feel this may be beneficial, as if a Driver wants to bump up, he or she may be willing to become an EMR or EMT as time goes on. No firm decision was made on this, but is an option we can look at in the future.

Tim brought discussion about the idea of a coalition between cities. For example, if the surrounding services would want to join with us and place a centralized truck to cover the areas. This option is something that is being done in Longville, and for them to staff 2 people 24/7, the cost is around $200,000/year. When visiting how many ALS calls we have per year (around 30, rounding to the high side), this puts cost for ALS care at $6,000/year. Coming up with the extra $194,000/year seems extremely unreasonable for the City to sustain should we choose any sort of option like this. It also brings up longer response times for the PSA being covered. The cities involved would also still need to provide a first responder group, adding additional cost to the city.

Debbie moved the meeting onto Scheduling

 -Do we want to continue with the way we are scheduling or make changes?

 -Crew felt the schedule works well, just to make sure holidays are 24hour shifts

 -How would we schedule EMR’s

-This brings up liability issues for the EMT’s. Most stated they are not comfortable being the one responsible to instruct an EMR on a call, especially if it is just an EMR and EMT on a run.

-For the time being, we will continue schedule as it has been done with the online sign ups and re-evaluate at monthly meetings.

Recruiting

 -Crew discussed having new joining members fill out a class agreement. Tim has done this in the past and will work on drawing up a few options for crew to vote on at this month’s meeting. After the vote, Nick will present this to the council for approval.

 -Members feel this will help “weed out” people who join and then end up quitting the class after the city has paid for them to attend. In the past, this has added up to large amounts of loss financially for the city and we hope to prevent this in the future.

 -Members were also made aware that the EMSRB will reimburse cities for any students they send to classes. Nick will look into this for the most recent class which had 4 members attend.

 -Discussion was held about the number of people we have interested in being an EMR vs. an EMT. It was felt that most of these think an EMR is only a Driver, when in fact they are participating in patient care with the EMT. In order to clarify this assumption, members feel it is necessary to hold an Informational meeting for anyone interested in joining our service.

 -In this meeting we will discuss the differences in what the roles are for Driver, EMR, and EMT’s.

-Following the meeting we will hold individual interviews for those interested, and present the agreement to them prior to starting the class in November.

 -The meeting will be held on Monday, October 15th at 6:30pm.

-Debbie will work on getting flyers put together and Marissa will distribute and hang around town and neighboring communities.

-Allison will also put the flyer up on social media and send messages to those we know have expressed an interest so they are hopefully able to attend.

-Colby and Madonna discussed if it is expected for law enforcement to respond to each and every ambulance call. As the meeting was already running long, members felt this discussion was a separate topic for a separate meeting, specifically between council and law enforcement.

Meeting dismissed at 9:30pm