

## EMS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

February 5, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m.

River Falls City Hall  
City Council Chambers  
222 Lewis Street  
River Falls, WI

Call Meeting to Order 6:29 p.m.

Advisory Board Members Present:

Carole Mottaz, Gary Donath, Ken McNiff, Jeanne Wespetal, Kent Kittleson, Judy Edgar

Also Present: Julie Bergstrom, Asst. City Administrator; Dave Matteson, Interim EMS Director; Karen Bergstrom, Human Resources Director

Advisory Board Members Absent:

Jeff Bjork

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes from January 8, 2018.  
MSC Donath/Wespetal to approve minutes. UNANIMOUS

- 1) Update on EMS Director Recruitment Process
  - a) HR Director Bergstrom provided a timeline for the hiring process and offered to send out a draft of interview questions to the interview panel after the meeting. Interview panel participation and scheduling was discussed. It was clarified that the interview panel members must be available for all interviews.
  
- 2) Discussion of Service Rates for 2018
  - a) There was discussion regarding the proposed service rate chart. Factors behind the rate revision: Rates haven't been changed in quite a while, Medicare is reducing reimbursement rates and bundling cost codes under a base rate. Donath requested clean up cents on the Basic Life Support (BLS) rate. Assistant City Administrator (ACA) Bergstrom indicated that number will be rounded to a whole number.
  - b) Discussion ensued regarding on-scene Advance Live Support (ALS) care description, costs, and adjusting the rate. On-scene care and private insurance reimbursement vs. Medicare non-coverage was explained. Mottaz expressed sympathy to those on Medicare who do not get coverage for this care and get billed and would like the rate dropped more. The board discussed tracking the costs related to this type of call to get a better idea on what the rate should be. Wespetal asked to collect data regarding this level care to see what are we losing on Medicare and what are we gaining. Chair Mottaz was expressed the EMS service shouldn't lose money to provide the service but the primary job is to provide health care, not generate revenue. She would like to see the rate reduced to slightly over the break-even point.  
**MSC McNiff/Wespetal to collect data and revisit rate for On Scene Care (ALS) later in the year. The motion passed 5-1 with Mottaz voting against.**

- c) Vote to accept entire rate schedule:  
**MSC Wespetal/Edgar to accept rate schedule as is with Basic Live Support at \$975.  
The motion passed 5-1 with Mottaz voting against.**
  
- 3) Prescott Relations
  - a) Matteson had a meeting with Prescott and had a good discussion regarding the future and system of operations.
  
- 4) Staff Recertification
  - a) Matteson indicated getting staff recertified is a large process. He described the requirements and costs involved. He is working with Medical Director Duren and Jeff Rixmann to apply for state-approved training facility certification to allow for in-house training rather than outsourcing. Discussion regarding the opportunity to invite others in and charge for the training as we would be able to put on our own EMT Class.
  
- 5) Miscellaneous
  - a) Medication Dispensary. Matteson indicated he is looking into a system to better secure medications. He is researching a vending machine type system currently used by Woodbury and Baldwin that uses a proximity card reader. ACA Bergstrom has the information. Reviewing lease vs buy options and will look to implement that at both Prescott and River Falls stations.
  - b) Narcan Training. Jeff Rixmann has created a Narcan training and is currently training RFPD officers, & UWRF PD officers. Prescott PD has been approached about providing training to that department, as well.
  - c) IV Pumps. The hospital foundation is looking at providing a dollar for dollar match up to \$15,000. Looking at getting five IV pumps, one for each rig and an additional Lukas machine.
  - d) AEDs: Rixmann is meeting with the new large company coming into Prescott to see if they would be interested in a “first response type class” and do in kind donation for the training in exchange for AED donation. Jeff is working with Prescott to get AEDs in the six squad cars.
  - e) Scheduling: Mottaz indicated she will be absent at the April meeting. If others are not available, please let ACA Bergstrom know at least a week ahead of time.

Adjournment: MSC Donath/McNiff at 7:15 p.m.

Next meeting date April 2, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ailene Splittgerber  
Police Services Specialist Supervisor