

EMS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

June 3, 2019 @ 6:30 p.m.

River Falls City Hall
222 Lewis Street
River Falls, WI

Call Meeting to Order 6:30 p.m.

Advisory Board Members Present: Carole Mottaz, Gary Donath, Kent Kittleson, Judy Edgar, Ken McNiff, Scott Morrissette

Also Present: Jason Stroud, EMS Director; Dr. Joey Duren, Medical Director

Advisory Board Members Absent: Jeanne Wespetal

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes from April 1, 2019.

MSC Donath/McNiff to approve April 1, 2019 minutes. Unanimous.

1) Election of Chairperson for the EMS Advisory Board

MSC Morrissette/McNiff to nominate Carole Mottaz as Chairperson of the EMS Advisory Board. Unanimous.

2) Operational Medical Director Update

Dr. Joey Duren provided an update from the Medical Director position.

- a. Protocols were updated and finalized to reflect those similar to what Allina uses and adjusted to Wisconsin rules and standards and are intended to be updated every two (2) years similar to what Allina already does.
- b. Those protocols will allow the department to eventually get an app for tablets in the rigs for crews when they are on-call. They will be utilized to provide ongoing and real time updates for staff and ability to send data to Allina.
- c. The OMD services contract for Dr. Duren will transition from Emergency Care Consultants to Allina Health EMS; Dr. Duren will remain as the River Falls medical director.
- d. The new protocols provide better guidelines for QA & QI processes.
- e. Continue to do monthly trainings with staff together all at once.
- f. MCI Incident training is coming up June 19th in conjunction with the hospital.

Ken McNiff asked how much harder it was to transfer protocols written for Minnesota into Wisconsin protocols which Dr. Duren replied that the biggest thing to change was River Falls recognizing BLS and ALS level of care.

Carole Mottaz asked if it would be better to align with a Wisconsin group which Jason Stroud replied no, because we do not transport to locations such as Madison, Milwaukee, etc. It makes more sense for us to be inline with Twin City protocols since these are the facilities we more often transport to.

3) Policy Revision – Member Classification & Requirements

Stroud said there is a policy change that needs to be implemented and has been on the back burner for a while – membership classification.

- a. Establish the minimum for casual part time personnel to 48 hours a month.
- b. Build in allowance where the Director can exempt a provider up to 24 hours if they work somewhere else in EMS. This is for provider efficiency and competency.
- c. Reduce the paid-per-call commitment to 30 hours a month of which 6 can be filled by special events stand by coverage.
- d. All scheduled personnel, regardless of classification, are to be present at and remain at the assigned station for the duration of the duty period.

Scott Morrissette asked for clarification if the 48 hour per month is going to be a help or hinderance to our staffing level for casuals which Stroud said it is not a hinderance and it is what the department is already working under now.

Mottaz asked if crews who are out on lunch/dinner with the vehicle, would that be a violation of these new changes which Stroud replied it would not and will clear up the language to reflect this.

4) Prescott Service Agreement

Stroud provided a background of the agreement that the City of River Falls and the City of Prescott entered into back in 2015 for River Falls to provide EMS service to Prescott, Oak Grove, and a portion of Clifton. Currently, the City of River Falls is providing roughly around \$419,000 in staffing expenses a year. That cost is offset by a current per-capita rate of \$19 (based off a population of 7,657) which generates roughly \$145,000 in revenue annually.

Stroud said the agreement is set to expire at the end of the year and if either party intends to not renew the agreement, notification to the other party must be done no later than June 30. It is the intention that the City of River Falls will formally send a letter stating that River Falls will not renew the contract as it currently is as it is not feasibly financial for the department to deliver the level of services we are providing to Prescott, Oak Grove and a portion of Clifton.

Jason Stroud said when you take the per-capita and the fee for service funds that are received and subtract them from cost of doing service, the department is left with a delta of \$121,000. This number is being subsidized by the EMS fund balance. Stroud has talked with the Prescott City Administrator, Chairperson of the Prescott Fire & EMS Association and attended the most recent Prescott Fire & EMS Association meeting.

Stroud told the board that in order for the City of River Falls to continue this agreement with Prescott, the per capita rate would need to be raised to around \$35 to be financially feasible. It is not the final option, but rather one option that Prescott will need to consider if they will want River Falls to provide EMS service to them. A hybrid method can also be considered but that is still being thought out right now.

Morrisette asked how long Prescott will have to respond to our letter of intention to not renew the current contract which Stroud replied that they will most likely make the decision after June 30th and staff is not beholden to them responding to us before June 30th. If Prescott were not to renew the agreement with us, River Falls will be ok because the cost would be proportionate.

Morrisette asked if there would be a soft deadline we can put in place for Prescott to respond by which Stroud said that they most likely will by September but will need to define that time with the Prescott Fire & EMS Association. One of the items they will try to request is to get an intergovernmental meeting established sometime in July or August with government reps from Prescott, Oak Grove, and Clifton for Jason to present to.

McNiff asked what the cost is per capita, apples to apples, to River Falls for emergency medical services because that would be easier for the people of Prescott to swallow. Stroud replied he will ask Finance to provide him some numbers for an equivalent. Stroud added that what makes this challenging is the fact that there is an ambulance down in Prescott and the call volume does not necessitate an ambulance to be located down in Prescott and there is no fee for service to offset that cost.

Stroud said he spoke with Mark Cohen, Executive Director of the EMS Association, about average per capita rates statewide and it is roughly between \$26-\$31 dollars to serve the greater townships.

Mottaz said that the \$35 per capita sounds reasonable to her however, they are going to want to know how they got from \$8 per capita to \$35 per capita in a short period of time. Dr. Duran added that reimbursement rates from the feds are declining and are a big reason for the jump in per capita costs.

Mottaz asked what Prescott owns which Stroud replied that they own the building and would need to discuss with staff the specifics of what items are owned by whom. Mottaz said that when Prescott was absorbed they had an ambulance, their own

uniforms, etc.

Mottaz stated that she is concerned about the timeline of this for Prescott to adjust because it leaves them either scrambling to find a new provider like Hastings or having to bite the bullet and pay the higher rate per-capita, all before December 31st. Stroud responded by mentioning that he had spoken to the Prescott Fire & EMS Association in January and had eluded to a potential need for increased rates.

Mottaz asked why wasn't this brought to the boards attention earlier which Stroud replied that it was because of the June 30th deadline.

Mottaz asked if the board is being asked to support notifying the Prescott Fire & EMS Association that River Falls does not intend to renew the contract with them. Stroud said that they are not officially as they know they should be expecting a letter from River Falls.

Mottaz asked to have the item "Notify the Prescott Fire and EMS Association, no later than June 30, 2019, that the City of River Falls does not intend to renew the current contract terms." removed from the recommendation portion of Stroud's memo as it appears to already be a done deal.

Mottaz said she is not comfortable recommending the items to proposed new terms in the memo as there is ambiguity in what those terms may be for Prescott at this time and proposed that the EMS Advisory Board meet in July to get more information from Stroud. Stroud said that he would caution the group from coming back in July because he might not have the information and decisions needed by then.

Kent Kittleson asked if the board is supporting a new term overall and not a set per capita amount at this time which McNiff said that that is correct. Stroud intended with this memo to provide information to the board of where things are at right now and therefore asks to have his recommendations removed at this point.

Mottaz said that she proposes the board support a motion that if Prescott chooses to stay with River Falls then they are self-supporting. McNiff said he is fine with that as long as Prescott is not subsidizing River Falls. Mottaz proposed a hybrid motion that neither River Falls or Prescott would subsidize each other. McNiff said they could do a 180 and propose the pain be spread to everyone which Stroud replied that he had looked at that and thought that proposal would not be supported by City leaders and that he would not recommend this.

Dr. Duren said there have been talks with area Medical Directors to propose a tri-county agency to provide service to places like River Falls and Prescott but would be a big undertaking. Morrissette said that we are trying to find a solution right now which isn't a charge of this committee and should let Stroud go and find some possible solutions and come back to us when that is done.

Mottaz asked for a motion to support the idea that neither River Falls nor Prescott subsidize each other. **MSC Donath/McNiff. Unanimous**

5) Director's News, Events and Activities

- a. Kelly Bibeau started as a new FT Paramedic with the department.
- b. Attended St. Bridget's "Lunch with Heroes" on April 10th.
- c. Hosted RFHS service leaning students who performed station clean up on April 16th.
- d. RFEMS participated in St. Joseph's "Virtues Walk" in Prescott on May 3rd.
- e. EMS Week – May 20-24. Staff conducted educational presentations to all third graders at all elementary schools in River Falls and Prescott.
- f. RFEMS provided a standby ambulance to UWRF graduation on May 11th.
- g. Went live with ImageTrend for EMS billing on May 1st.
- h. Derek Merriam and Andrew Turner recognized for five years of service at the City employee recognition luncheon on May 21st.
- i. Stroud Attended Local Government 101 training on May 17th.
- j. Save the Date – RFEMS Family Picnic on August 17th at Hoffman Park.

Morrisette asked Stroud to clarify what the radio communications meeting with St. Croix County was about which Stroud replied that since the new police station is being relocated to St. Croix County they talked about radio communication infrastructure that pertained more to police than to EMS operations.

Mottaz expressed her condolences to Stroud after the shooting at Virginia Beach and asked Stroud that at his next EMS training to convey to our staff how much we appreciate what they do everyday.

Adjournment: **MSC Edgar/Kittleson at 7:40 p.m.**

Next meeting date August 5, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brandt Johnson
Assistant to the City Administrator