

## **EMS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

**August 5, 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, Judy Edgar, Ken McNiff,  
Jeanne Wespetal, Scott Morrissette

Also Present: Jason Stroud, EMS Director

Advisory Board Members Absent: Kent Kittleson

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes from June 3, 2019.

Carole Mottaz provided Jason Stroud with some spelling and clarification edits to the June 3, 2019 minutes.

**MSC Donath/Wespetal to approve June 3, 2019 minutes with proposed edits. Unanimous.**

### 1) EMS Advisory Board Appointments

Stroud notified the board that the appointments for Mottaz, Donath and McNiff have expired, any of these members wishing to be reappointed should notify the Mayor. Mottaz said that Gary Donath is not eligible for reappointment because of a family member's employment with the department. Mottaz thanked him for his service to the EMS board for seven years. Discussion ensued about the requirements for serving on the board. Stroud informed that he would look into this and inform the board. Stroud asked if Donath was fine with continuing to be a board member until a replacement has been found in which Donath agreed to that.

### 2) Prescott Service Agreement Update

Stroud provided a memorandum update to the board regarding the Prescott Service Agreement. Stroud said that the rate of \$28.50 for 2020 was proposed to the Prescott Fire and EMS Association and that it was relatively well received. Mottaz said that even though the board does not approve rate increases anymore, she asked for a motion to support this measure.

**MSC Donath/Edgar to support the rate increase as presented. Unanimous.**

3) Allina Support Services Update

Stroud provided the board with an update on the Allina Support Services Agreement. The revised agreement will reduce the amount that River Falls currently pays monthly for medical direction and support services. This revised agreement will include medical direction, protocols, access to training and some chaplaincy services. McNiff asked if the agreement was capped at \$1,500 which Stroud replied that was correct and if more hours are needed it would require his approval. Morrisette asked with the transition of Dr. Duren to Allina does that give the City the same amount of coverage as far as liability which Stroud replied that is correct.

4) State of the Service Financial Update

Stroud presented to the board a mid-year report concerning the departments finances. Stroud said that expenses are forecasted to outpace revenues for the current, and subsequent years. Stroud reported that the service will not be able to be self-funded in the years ahead and would require a supplemental source of revenue or funding if the department is to continue to operate as is.

Wespetal asked if the new company the City instituted to collect payments will increase the revenue for the department which Stroud replied that it is anticipated that they will but that there will be a delay of 3-6 months for them to start fully collecting those payments. Wespetal also asked if the department should consider going back to a 12-hour shift instead of the current 24-hour shift and Stroud replied that he looked at that and concluded that it would cost more to staff a 12-hour shift than a 24-hour shift; however, he continues to examine opportunities for savings.

Mottaz provided the group with a handout that detailed the history of the River Falls EMS service since she started in 1984, left in 1999, and the 2020 budget shortfall. Mottaz said it is not equitable for the residents of the townships to be paying a per-capita fee for EMS services while the residents of the City of River Falls do not. Mottaz said for the point of this discussion, she would like to recommend the City of River Falls residents pay between \$11 and \$15 per-capita to cover the bills and that such a per capita should be incrementally increased as needed each year. Related discussion about a per-capita ensued.

Morrisette asked where the \$500,000 came from to fund the construction of the EMS building and Mottaz replied that it came from the City and that was one of the reasons why residents of River Falls have not been assessed to provide for EMS services. Morrisette also asked if the projected gap of \$358,000 in 2020 includes the savings that have been mentioned so far to which Stroud said that was correct and it's where he begins forecasting the 1% increase in revenue. Morrisette asked about the number of calls and if the plateau is around 2,000 calls a year which Stroud replied that is correct.

**MS McNiff/Edgar to recommend the City consider a user fee to go towards the ambulance service to the equivalent of an \$11 per capita.**

Stroud asked for clarification to the motion if it was being recommended to City Council or to the City Administrator, to which Mottaz said it was recommended to City Council.

Wespetal asked if our rates our in line or do we need to look at that as a funding source which Stroud replied that rates were increased in 2018 and are in line with other comparable around us. Stroud said he is hesitant to increase rates anymore due to how Medicare/Medicaid reimburses services provided and residents would be left with the self-pay portion of the bill which would be higher.

**The board then voted on this with only Scott Morrissette dissenting and Kent Kittleson being absent. 5-1.**

Stroud provided the board with some news and happenings around the area.

- a. St. Croix EMS is officially out of business in early September. Lakeview EMS will be taking over in place of St. Croix EMS.
- b. August 17 there will be a crew member picnic day at Hoffman Park from 2 – 6 p.m. and all board members are welcome to attend.

Morrissette asked what communication we have with Lakeview regarding transfers, mutual aid, etc. and Stroud replied that we have an existing mutual aid agreement with Lakeview and Lakeview will have two ambulances in service: one at the hospital and one at the St. Croix EMS facility.

Adjournment: **MSC McNiff/Donath at 8:09 p.m.**

Next meeting date October 7, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brandt Johnson  
Assistant to the City Administrator