

Carbon County Emergency Medical Services Board

October 30, 2024 Meeting

Present: Commissioner Scott Miller and Bill Bullock; EMS Board Members Kim Haman, Brooke Million, Jeremiah Eldred, Anna Simons, Kim Bader, Jennifer Hickok, and Mark Patterson; Red Lodge Rural Fire Representatives Chief Tom Kuntz, Torston Prah, and Kim Bednarz; Joliet EMS Representative Terry Harper; Bridger EMS Representative Roger Steffensen, County Administrative Officer Angela Newell, and John George.

7:00 Miller called meeting to order. Board members and other attendees introduced themselves.

Election of Officers.

Miller opened nominations for Chair. Bader nominated Haman to Chair; Patterson seconded; motion carried.

Miller opened nominations for Vice-Chair. Hickok nominated herself; Simons seconded; motion carried.

Kuntz noted Fire 7 is willing to provide administrative support via Kim Bednarz should the Board choose to utilize that option.

Miller opened nominations for Secretary. Simons nominated herself; Bader seconded; motion carried.

Chris Pudgred of Joliet EMS joined the meeting.

Miller turned over the facilitation of the meeting to the newly elected Chair Kim Haman.

Bylaws

Board members reviewed the draft bylaws. Newell noted redlines indicate changes from the original document that was circulated over the summer. Haman noted language needed to be added to include the 7th member at large. Haman discussed the quorum clause and the need to have one representative from each ambulance service area.

Million asked if there were established standards related to Article 2, Section 2, No. 4 which states “the Board will ensure an appropriate response(s) to requests for service.” Kuntz noted there is not an established State or national standard; proposed language was intentionally vague to allow the Board to determine what is an appropriate response for Carbon County. Prah added that it could include response times or standards regarding failure to respond. There was a discussion of minimum staffing requirements under Montana law. Haman noted there is similar language in the Red Lodge Roberts Ambulance District agreements which allowed that Board to review activity and service logs to ensure taxpayers are getting the service they are paying for. Prah noted the different staffing scenarios for each

service provider. Kuntz noted the need to ensure the community feels they are getting the service they feel they are paying for; noted it is so to have a diverse board to get that feedback from the community. Steffan noted the vagueness in the bylaw allows the Board the ability to adjust as needed without having to formally amend the bylaws. Patterson noted Carbon County's efforts are ahead of many other Counties in the State and have not been successful in enacting EMS funding on a County wide basis; he would like to be able to show metrics to taxpayers regarding how the EMS levy has benefited services County wide. Miller noted the need for the Board to work with EMS providers to establish short-term and long-term goals as many of the benefits may take years to become apparent from a statistical standpoint.

Simons asked about historic data related to calls, nature of calls, and non-response. Prahm noted some of that information was gathered already from the levy election effort. Kuntz offered the assistance of Fire 7's staff to the benefit of this board and to assist other service areas in compiling information for the Board. Kim Bednarz provided an overview of the kind of information that was historically included in the meeting packet for the Red Lodge Roberts Ambulance District Board.

Discussion of Board oversight, especially related to financial oversight of the Ambulance Service providers. Kuntz believes the level of oversight that the Roberts Red Lodge Ambulance District Board had over Rural Fire #7's budget is a good mechanism to provide accountability to the public.

Harper requested an overview of how and when tax funds would be disbursed. There was a discussion of the rough formula that was developed between the three service areas for the levy election effort.

Hickok moved to approve bylaws as corrected with language concerning the 7th member at large; Simmons seconded; Million, Bader, Patterson, Haman, Hickok, Eldredge, Simons all voted in favor; motion carried unanimously.

Hickok asked about how meetings are to be posted. Discussion of a new county website for calendar, possibly posting at physical locations like post offices in various communities.

Service Agreement Contracts

The Board reviewed draft contract agreements and discussed population, call volume, and taxable values in the three services areas. The Board discussed whether the calculation should be incorporated into service agreements or whether it should be left as something the Board can adjust with concurrence of County Commissioners and service providers. Discussion of how the funding formula was presented to voters for the election. Haman would like to keep in line with what was proposed to voters initially. Discussion of response assistance between service providers with the funding being county wide and lag time between when funds are received, spent, and start to affect the services being provided. Board discussed tabling service agreements until they can be more thoroughly reviewed. Board discussed the funding allocation as it was presented to voters and the desire to not delay the funding for the ambulance services. Hickok wants to ensure that funding benefits smaller services in Joliet and Bridger and noted that some minimums could be established to guarantee that. Discussion of funding resources for the ambulance service providers.

Patterson moved to amend agreements to include the allocation 50% to Red Lodge; 25% to Joliet; and 25% to Bridger; there was a discussion of the formula standing separate from the agreements; motion failed for lack of second.

Patterson moved to adopt an allocation formula to disburse Tax revenue collected as follows: 50% to Red Lodge; 25% to Joliet; and 25% to Bridger; Simons seconded; Million, Bader, Patterson, Haman, Hickok, Eldred, Simons voted in favor; motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting

Board members agreed Joliet is a good central location, but may consider moving it to the Fire Hall as there is more space.

Board members discussed the process to review service agreements, accepting administrative support offer from Fire 7, and if it would be appropriate to utilize the carbonems.org domain that was secured in the levy election effort to communicate.

Simons moved to set the next meeting as November 19th at 7:00 at Fire Hall; Eldridge seconded; motion carried.

Steffan asked about what the board members would like presented from service areas at the next meeting. Patterson would like call information regarding volumes and nature of calls and location of calls. Discussion of how to leverage mapping to provide a visual of this information. Discussion of demographic and call specifics and drilling into call volume after the first of the year.

8:30 Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted; Angela Newell, Administrative Officer