

Eastern Pennington County Ambulance Board of Directors

Minutes

February 27,2023 6:00 pm

Wall Community Center, 501 Main St, Wall, SD

1. Call meeting to order at 6:00 pm
2. Roll Call
Zack, Lilly, Dan, Angel – present for a quorum
Others: Mary Williams, Mike Anderson, Jarome Harvey, Linda Eisenbraun,Carolynn Anderson
3. Attendance on zoom
4. Approve Agenda
Motion by Zack to amend the Agenda, Angel seconded.
Lilly made a request for an amendment to add a public statement to the agenda after executive session to be recorded in the minutes. Angel made a motion, Zack seconded. Motion carried.
Lilly made a motion to approve the amended Agenda, Angel seconded. Motion carried
5. Approve minutes:
 - Minutes from January 17,2022
Lilly made a motion, Zack seconded. Motioned carries.
6. Appointment of a new Board Member
Angel made a motion, Zack seconded to appoint Mike Anderson to the Board to finish Kaylynn Grimmets terms.
7. Visitors:
 - Wall City Council

Mary stated the council has contributed above and beyond. Mary requested that the Board of Directors report to the council on a monthly basis.

Financials:

- Revenue and Expenses for month
- Revenue and Expenses year to date
- By April Meeting, three-year projected budget

Workforce:

- Number of people on staff
- Schedule for staff for the next month
- Identify solutions to problems regarding staff.
- Have volunteers.

Mary indicated that the Board should keep the city council aware if any problems occur and solutions, as well as goals. Working through this going forward and have open communication.

8. Approve bills.
Lilly made a motion, Angel seconded to approve bills. Motion carried

9. New business

- Liliya shared her and Lynn attended the EMS Conference.

Lynn gave an update that she attended the Director portion to see how others do things but we are so different from others, and it was a small conference and geared to the directors. Liliya stated she found out that state started three initiatives towards Ambulance Services. First one: each Ambulance service in the state will be receiving an updated life pack. Second: State is rolling out telehealth in motion as an additional support on the back of the Ambulance. 98 Services in the state signed up for this, 50 in the transition and 11 are live. Telehealth option was discussed at the recent meeting with SD Dept of Health, but at this time our Medical Director is not ready to sign off on this. Asked questions: on how it would work and have more questions. Hold the discussion until new members are on the board. The third initiative is a statewide assessment. Following the statewide assessment, the DOH will provide planning grant opportunities to support the planning, development and implementation of regional EMS hubs.

GADCS report was discussed. Lilly recognized there was a previous email, and she reached out to Angel to find out the status of it. We were chosen this year for this report and Lynn stated she will take care of it and it is needed under our service-Lynn plans to work further on it and it is a statewide requirement or we will lose funding if not done.

Lynn talked about the life pack and the Minute man on the reservation would like to buy our used ones.

Cassidy Cowan spoke on using Telehealth at Hot Springs and the telemedicine has protocols for following to cross your t's and dot your I's but will not be replacing a provider and they are not going to override but based on just a support system. Mike asked if Dr. Long has expressed why he doesn't want it and Linda asked who authorized it for Hot Springs. Cassidy stated Hot Springs have a different director, and only one truck has Telehealth, and after having it for some times would be willing to share how it works. Liliya thinks maybe Keystone is considering it and they have Dr Long as well. She expressed the concern of getting behind when others are getting on board with it. The contract should be looked at closely because the spotty cell service. Telehealth is being carried by both providers to help. Jerome feels let others get the arrows in their back before jumping on board. Feel we need to keep it on the radar. Comprehensive assessment are being done statewide. Lilly brought the idea to the Board to get comprehensive assessment done for Wall Ambulance Services to see what our issues are, and to help assist the board members understand the process. Lilly shared that she is planning to apply for a grant to assist with the cost and shared the proposal. Due to the high cost it was mentioned that this cost can't be covered from the budget but hoping to get a grant for it. The commissioner is also looking at helping with some funds and only if we get the funds to pay up front and no money taken from our budget, it was a consensus of the Board to pursue with the assessment, so it can be taken to the County Commissioners for funding.

- Petitions Zack for 1 year, Liliya - 3 years, Linda for 2 years and Melanie for a 3 year term

10. Directors run report.

Lynn gave the run report. Crew has been cleaning and trying to get things in order and gave herself a timeline to get things done.

Lynn read a statement on her work for the last 1,5 years, she stated that by June 30, 2022 she got things in compliance with some pushback. Events that been held: chili feed, some training and free blood pressure, had been to school for the students to understand the safety of ambulance. Lynn presented a list of what needs to be done. Including new fridge, washer machine, stove, carpet, ceiling, and need an office space for the Director separately from the living quarters for privacy reasons. The doors need to be replaced and Dan said the seals can be replaced They have radios and the pager problem. Jerome feels they need to get a different provider. He will send information to Lynn.

Lynn indicated that we need to shred records and need to make more room archiving the records. School and Bank use A&Z-needs to be a third party provider for this
Conversation about wages that other Ambulance Services provide. What Wall could do to incentivize people to work here.

Liliya stated she has reached out to Rapid city Fire and they are Union employees and we can't match that Their volume of call is high. They have 56 hour-week, and do not pay OT until 56 hours met

Cassidy commented she has grown to love Wall and drives for 2 hours to get here and no benefits are offered. Anyone over the age of 26 not wanting to work here.

Liliya feels we need to look for someone who want a part time job and feel we are compatible to other small communities in the region, she feels it will take time.

Cassidy commented on maybe looking to the Sturgis they have offered SD retirement as an additional benefit for the part time of the other job that offers other benefits. Hot Springs has health-vac-sick and to strive to be a top provider for them. Liliya stated at the end of the day we need to get the revenue first and then work towards the solution. Jerome feels the list needs to be prioritized and numbers for this cost. Mike asked about the calls being down and asked if the revenue to collect them is down. Last year number of calls was down but revenue from this calls is up.

11. Old business

- By laws were shared with Stephanie and gave some things to talk about with the board members from the district they represent. Has some contradictory sections that needs to be revised. Need to change the security bond. It was decided to send it back to Stephanie with the revisions.

Angel shared information on the 501C3 and needs to have the bylaws compatible for that status and there will be a cost.

- Policy and procedures- our billing situation was shared by Lynn. With some concern on the collections. Lilly stressed out that this item has been on Agenda for 4 month on a row and nothing has been done. Lynn tries to work on a payment plan to prevent it from going to collections. Lilly also mentioned that at the last meeting she gave Lynn insurance rates to look over. Wall Ambulance Services didn't update their rates for couple years. Lynn had nothing to report on rates at this time.

Lilly stated once again that we need to look at all revenue possibilities.

- Lilly gave an update on Lifepack. Carrie raised money for two life packs. State can't reimburse us for those Life packs. When we receive a new Life Pack from the state we can sell our old one.

12. Presidents' report – no report

13. Vice President report.

14. Dan brought up an idea for the new board to kick around is to create an Advisory Committee.

This idea came up from the discussion with the county. The committee should include townships, council, board member, other reps from Wasta and Quinn, etc. to keep everyone involved, and stay informed, and help to head off some issues.

It was a question about Ambulance as an essential Service. Jerome explained there is nothing in the state statute of this being an essential service.

15. Treasurer's/Secretary report

Angel stated we will make it past May.

Lilly indicated that the Board decided to open a bank account for donation purpose only. We have two donations of almost \$700 (100 to open acct) and other donations to total \$4600-over \$5000 on the go fund me acct. There are other challenges happening on social media to raise money.

Lilly gave an update that we received \$854.25 from Consession stand during wrestling tournament.

Donations from city of \$96,000 year to date.

Angel updated that payroll has been under projected the last two times. We've got 2 volunteer drivers. Lynn will need to split two medics for different shifts and a total of 4 paramedics.

Jerome asked if Lynn was utilizing the recruitment program, she wasn't aware. He will send the information again to Lynn, it is a free program to utilize and needs to take advantage of it.

- CD account. Lilly mentioned that we possibly could take on loan against it. Also updated that our CD matured and was transferred to a different CD.
- Grants update. Grant through SDML for Stryker Stair pro was approved. Lynn was asked to find out if the amount of grant that got approved will cover the equipment needed. Lilly applied for a grant through Operation Round Up. Plan to apply through Wall Foundation as well.

Jerome talked about pager system and how it works. Mary suggested going to the SD Community for the assessment grant and other funding for the pagers-uniforms-tires etc.

16. Public comments – no comments

17. Next Meeting will be March 14,2023, 7 pm at the Community Center.

18. Report from SD Dept of Health needs to be addressed in executive session.

19. Executive Session for the purpose of discussing legal/personnel issues according to SDCL 1-25-2 motioned made by Zack, Lilly seconded. Motion carries.

20. Dan declared Board out of executive session at 11 pm

21. At this time Lilly stated that she will hold a public statement until issues that has been discussed in executive session will be resolved.

22. Meeting adjourned at 11:02 pm