

Emergency Medical Services Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 5, 2018

LOCATION: Barnes Fire Hall at 5:00 PM

ATTENDANCE: Bill Pence, Rose Baldwin, Tom Renz, Diane Rupnow, Seana Frint, Guy Johnston, and Jim Krook

Motion to approve the minutes from the August 6, 2018 meeting by Diane Rupnow second by Jim Krook. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Diane Rupnow reported that the Barnes Town Board approved by unanimous vote to pass onto the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors our letter with concerns regarding the status of the EMS service in the region.

Guy Johnston said there was no further word from Jim Crandall on meeting with ambulance staff separate from their regular meeting.

Bill Pence, Jim Krook, and Guy Johnston met with Nate Dunstan, Tom Hoff, and the finance director for Sawyer County Ambulance. They reviewed two proposals with them: 1) Sawyer County Ambulance providing a FT Paramedic to Barnes and, 2) Total outsource of EMS. Currently, they are geographically and financially stretched. They will work on the financial costs and hope to get back to us by mid-September.

Bill Pence worked on the options chart for the TOB to consider given feedback from Tom Emerson that this would be helpful. Current ambulance costs are \$50K/year. Adding 2 EMT's takes the cost to approx. \$90-95K/year. Each committee member is asked to send Bill (asap) additional content to add to pros, cons, and cost for the identified options. We would like this ready for the next town board meeting on Sept. 18th.

Tom Renz has 6-7 people interested in a first responder class which he plans for Sept. 6-7.

Ray Lemke from state licensing EMS joined the meeting. He highlighted information that may help staffing shortages. For example, in Nov. 2017 a flexible staffing bill was drafted. Currently, if we flex up to a paramedic on a run from Barnes ambulance, they must comply with all the parameters of the level of service we are licensed to have (i.e., EMT). Ray works with a specific legislative liaison at the state level and brings local concerns to them. He shared that Baron County has EMR's credentialed on a county-wide basis vs. the town. And, he believes that more county-wide ambulances (i.e. Sawyer County) will be prevalent in the future with dual and cross credentialing. There are some high schools that offer EMT classes to help with the staffing shortage. And, some Tech Colleges are also partnering with them. A student must be 17 to take the class and assessment exam and they can become licensed at 18. We discussed advantages of a Bayfield County EMS. Moving EMT credentialing to a county-wide system means the license they have is with the county. With a county wide-system there would still be satellite systems. Barnes, for example, could cover for Red Cliff.

The next EMS committee meeting is scheduled for Sept. 18th at 5 pm prior to the next TOB monthly meeting.

Motion made by Rose Baldwin and seconded by Bill Pence to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Immediately following, the EMS committee joined the monthly Town of Barnes ambulance committee meeting for updates and discussions between the two groups.