

TOWN OF BARNES
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, September 11, 2015

9:00AM in the Barnes Town Hall

Meeting Minutes

1. Call Emergency Medical Services Committee (EMSC) Meeting to Order

Tom Krob called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. He handed out information on Governance and a Mission Statement drafted by Dr. Tom Stolee for our review. Unfortunately, Dr. Stolee needed to step down from serving on the committee due to personal issues.

2. Roll call to establish quorum/Verification of Public Notice

Present: Bill Pence, Guy Johnston, Rose Baldwin, Kara Foat, Chris Webb, Tom Renz, Tom Krob. Absent: Dr. Carl Heltne

3. Approve the Agenda

Tom K. asked for approval of the agenda. Motion was made by Tom R. and seconded by Bill All were in favor to approve the agenda.

4. Introductions

Each member gave a brief update on their connection to the town, work history, interests, etc.

5. Overview of Ambulance Department/Emergency services by Ambulance Director Tom Renz

Tom explained how the past and current services of the ambulance department/emergency services operates. Currently, there are 10 EMTs. Every member must average 72 hrs/mo. of call time. Thirty hours of training are offered for active members and they are paid \$10 for every meeting attended. Members must take 12 hours every 2 years of re-training. One of the challenges is that not all members were giving back to the town for the pay they were getting. They would go to training in nice locations, take their families, and not work in the system.

In 2005 Tom started an on call program also used throughout the county. Keeping track of all of it is done in a computer program. In 2005, members signed up for their availability which totaled 9,000 hours. In 2006 this increased to 21,000 hours. Today, with the EMTs signed into the system the total hours are 7,146 hours. 4 EMTs currently do not put in any time even though they put their name into the system.

Tom identified several challenging issues:

- **Age:** Younger people are not coming on board and our current members are getting older. They will not want to do this much longer. People complete the EMT course, become certified and then must commit to 72 hours/month.
- **Membership:** In 2005 there were 10 EMTs available and that is the number today with several people coming and going throughout the past 10 years. And, there is a shortage of EMTs nationally not just in Barnes. Tom would be happy with 10 members in good standing; 15 are optimal. There is some cross-over with the 15 members that are in the fire department.
- **Number of Runs:** 88 calls/y.t.d. This is up 20 over last year at this time. The ambulance goes to every call. Because the numbers are up this year, so is the call volume. The problem is staffing day time calls because people have other full time jobs.

Tom reviewed some of the options and goals he has already pursued:

- Creative ways to recruit new, and hopefully, younger members—perhaps call them paid on call vs. volunteers, work with the schools, etc.
- Hiring and training new EMTs--there are good training programs. We as a town have current, state of the art equipment, and we keep up with all current training requirements. Our response time is the best in the county--no longer than 10 minutes.
- Contracting to another service—Tom looked into Great Divide. They would take over the EMT management and also provide paramedic coverage. The town would still maintain the ambulance, equipment, etc. Cost: \$105,000/yr. Someone from Great Divide talked at a town meeting. They have 4 units and service surrounding towns such as Cable, Grandview, etc. Tom asked them for some follow-up information and Great Divide did not respond back. In the past we also looked at Gold Cross Ambulance Service for paramedic intercepts. They are a 24 hr/day operation stationed in Hawthorne. Each run would have 1 EMT and 1 paramedic. Cost was in the \$400,000/yr. range.

Tom also reviewed the pay rate for EMTs which had been \$45 for the 1st hour and \$15 for each hour thereafter. Several years ago when Tom put in a new computer program to keep track of all runs, call hours, etc., the pay rate changed to \$25/EMT for everything and they are paid on a monthly basis. People are not paid to be on call. He explained that only some EMTs have kept up their licenses in the national registry which isn't required to remain on the EMT staff. The town offers local EMT training in conjunction with WITC. People are paid \$10/hr. for training and for a monthly meeting they attend at the same time or \$20/mo.

There are some broader changes happening that would affect the current state of coverage. There is a 2 EMT requirement in the State of WI to be on every ambulance run. One can be the driver. Currently, being considered in the legislature is a change to 1 EMT and 1 certified first responder. Tom is in favor of this and the town association meeting that Chris attended this past week felt that it would pass. This change would help us get to intercepts faster when they

are needed. The first responder training course is only 40 hours. Note: currently, we have a rule of 1 patient/ambulance and in a worst case scenario we could handle 2 patients/ambulance. If triaged as a paramedic call, they are called right away.

The committee then spent some time discussing short and long term goals. In the short term there are not enough people to dedicate the time needed for the services required, especially with the aging population. In the long term, leadership is a challenge. Tom R. will eventually want to retire. Tom did talk about how he is cross training staff to do some of the things he does and that he has had his son, now 19, go out on many runs with him over the years.

Other Ideas Presented:

- We could look into whether Sawyer County would be willing to expand.
- We asked whether any of the surrounding communities have paramedics on staff and if looking into a larger, shared paramedic service with other towns is possible.
- Might there be mutual EMS agreements through other agencies?
- Added training—currently for new EMTs, Tom has 1 packet sent out which is not returned yet, and a second person presently on the fire dept. is interested. If we offered a 1st responder course Tom feels we could fill it. We asked if any of our fire dept. members would be interested in a first responder course. Tom feels there would be.

6. Discussion and possible action on election of officers

A motion was made and seconded by Tom R. to approve Guy Johnston as chair of this committee for the first 6 months. Rose will record and distribute minutes with Chris as back up. Motion made by Tom R. to approve and seconded by Guy. The committee circulated a sheet for all to sign up with phone numbers and e-mails (attached).

7. Discussion and possible action on EMSC mission statement

This was tabled until the next meeting

8. Discussion and possible action on future meeting dates

We will meet twice a month to start in the town office. We agreed on Tuesday late afternoon with 1 to 1 ½ hours max/meeting. Our next meeting is Tuesday, October 13th at 3:30 pm. The meeting after that is Tuesday, Oct. 20th at 3:30 pm.

Agenda items for next meeting: Budget information, walk through of the building next door housing the ambulance.

9. Adjourn

Motion made by Chris and seconded by Rose to adjourn the meeting at 11 a.m.

TOWN OF BARNES

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MEMBERS

Committee Member	Phone	E-Mail
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