

**TOWN OF BARNES**  
**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, Nov 30, 2015**

**7:00 PM in the Barnes Town Hall**

**Meeting Minutes**

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

Guy Johnston called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

**2. Roll call to establish quorum and verification of public notice**

Present: Bill Pence, Guy Johnston, Rose Baldwin, Dr. Carl Heltne, Tom Renz, Dr. Jim Krook.

Absent: Chris Webb, Kara Foat

**3. Approve the agenda**

Guy asked for approval of the agenda. Motion was made by Bill and seconded by Rose. All were in favor with an addition by Dr. Heltne to talk about his discussion with North Memorial Healthcare.

**4. Approve the minutes from the previous meeting 11/09/15**

Motion made by Dr. Heltne and seconded by Bill to approve the distributed minutes.

**5. Review the status of the 2015 Ambulance run data – discussion**

Tom is not quite finished with run data entry which he says will be completed within a week. Bill asked about intercepts and who specifically owns the call—the ambulance service transporting the patient or the ambulance intercepting in route? Tom explained that if the intercepting crew does something specific, they own the run, meaning they took over the patient's care at the intercept. If that is not the case, then the initial transporting ambulance owns the run.

**6. Discussion with North Memorial Health Ambulance Service**

Dr. Heltne asked to update the committee at this point on what he learned in speaking with Pat Coyne, Vice President of Ambulance Services for North Memorial Health Care. He reported that North Memorial runs out of Spooner and they have a much higher run rate than we do. Financially, for them to make a run here to Barnes would be expensive and Dr. Heltne is not recommending that we pursue this option. He also talked with Mr. Coyne about paramedicine

programs. While the concept is gaining regional and national attention, there are several challenges making it difficult to get these kinds of programs operational such as funding and state approval. He handed out an article entitled, "Community Paramedics Catching on in Wis." which talks about pilot programs at the Madison and Green Bay fire departments approved by the WI state dept. of Health Services. Currently, fire departments, ambulance services and tech schools are drafting proposed legislation to certify community paramedics and authorize payment under the state's Medicaid program. It is not yet clear how community paramedicine would be paid for and getting state approval and Medicaid funding is still a ways off. Dr. Heltne recommended further study by a task force perhaps in a phase II effort.

## **7. Review EMS Provider Survey and approve for distribution**

Bill distributed and reviewed a survey that would enable us to collect data from other surrounding community ambulance services. Our intent is to have 1-2 committee members meet with key people in other services. We would send the survey to them in advance of the meeting and start with completion of the survey for Barnes.

Rose asked how receptive the respective service providers would be to our survey and what would be in it for them to do this? Tom believes they would be willing to complete the survey and talk with us as long as it is explained clearly that our intent is learning and collaboration. Dr. Heltne asked about confidentiality. We would want to assure them that the information would only be shared within a certain sphere such as the town board or very specific committees. We discussed adding section on the last page of the survey to ask if data could be shared and sent back to those participating. With this addition, Tom made a motion and it was seconded by Dr. Heltne that we approve the survey. Final copy will be sent with these minutes.

We will use it with 3 small and 3 large EMS providers: Mason, Iron River, Gordon/Wascott, and Sawyer County, Gold Cross and Great Divide. Tom Renz will complete the Barnes survey by the next meeting on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. Guy is working on a cover letter that will be sent with the survey.

## **8. Discussion of recent Wisconsin Legislation Act 113 -Enacted 11/11/15 (permitting ambulances to be staffed with one EMT and one First Responder)**

Guy asked what the ramifications would be for us in Barnes of having this new legislation pass. Tom explained that the primary benefit is that it would give us more coverage time with people. He will still have 2 EMTs and 1 first responder (to drive the ambulance) on each run and there are 3 slots for sign up. Some of our firefighters have interest in being first responders and Tom is planning to hold a class in January or February. He also added that one of the things he does in other meetings to help facilitate input is to include an agenda item entitled "membership input." This gives members an opportunity to individually say what they want before the meeting ends. We thought it a good suggestion although it was also noted that none of us appear to be too shy about saying what we need to say.

## **9. Adjourn**

Motion made by Dr. Heltne and seconded by Bill to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 pm. Motion carried.