



Fire Chief Tim Adler
Public Safety Director

Adam Robarge, CCTP
Deputy EMS Chief

Ambulance Commission Meeting Minutes: February 24, 2022

Date/Location of Meeting: February 24, 2022, Northside Fire Station

Members in Attendance: Brede Sorenson, Joyce Stenklyft, Jerry Steele, Barb Cram, and Richard Yarrington.

Members Absent: Wayne Kling, Rick Murray.

Others Present: Public Safety Director Tim Adler, Deputy EMS Chief Adam Robarge, Public Works Director Kirk Arity.

Meeting called to order at 5:00 PM

- **Approve Minutes:** Motion made by Jerry Steele, second by Richard Yarrington to approve the **December 07, 2021** meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.
- **Persons Desiring to be Heard:** None.
- **Director's Report:**
 - Monthly statistics and invoices presented for January 2022.
 - **See Attached Director's Report.**
 - Staffing
 - Lisa Hart is returning to the service full-time which brings us to full staffing on all three shifts.
 - Had several employees in January affected by COVID and one employee out with a broken hand. All employees back to work.
 - Building Update
 - Bid packets going out on March 03, 2022.
 - Bid opening will be April 07, 2022.
 - Bids awarded at the April 19, 2022 City Council Meeting.
 - No changes to the building timeline at this point.
 - Viewed video walk-through of the building provided by Keller.
 - Vehicle Update
 - Ordered a 2022 GMC Sierra through Larkins to replace the fly car, which struck a deer in May 2021. Vehicle has been built and is in Indiana waiting to be delivered.
 - Ambulance Updates – Minor issues with most of the ambulances mechanically or equipment wise. Working on getting the issues fixed.



- Fifth Ambulance (268) has been ordered with delivery some time in 2022.
 - Update on call volume from last year. Increased from 2,991 to 3,122 calls for service and increased interfacility transfers since upgrade to Critical Care.
 - Motion made by Barb Cram, second by Jerry Steele to approve the Director's Report. Motion carried.
- **Discussion and Action on Rate Negotiation with the Amish Community:**
 - Levi Borntreger reached out to the ambulance service and requested to negotiate payments and set rates for the Amish Community.
 - Mr. Borntreger was told the Tomah City Council sets our rates and we are not allowed to negotiate our rates.
 - Mr. Borntreger indicated the Amish Community has an agreement with Gundersen Health in La Crosse where they bill the Amish Community what they would collect from Medicare/Medicaid and the Amish Community pays that amount instead of submitting the bill through Medicare/Medicaid.
 - Mr. Borntreger requested a meeting with the City of Tomah and Tomah Area Ambulance Service to discuss putting in place the same agreement they have with Gundersen Health.
 - No action taken by the Ambulance Commission. Our rates are set by the Tomah City Council, and we are not allowed to negotiate our rates.
- **Discussion and Action on Deputy EMS Chief Take Home Vehicle:**
 - Discussion about the need for the Deputy EMS Chief to have a take home vehicle so they may be able to respond from home to any emergency in the coverage area at any time of the day or night. Will be used as an administrative vehicle during normal duty times.
 - Vehicle is a used squad car from the Monroe County Sheriff's Department.
 - Motion made by Barb Cram, second by Jerry Steele to approve the purchase of a vehicle from the Sheriffs Department up to \$9,000 for the Deputy EMS Chief's take home vehicle. Motion carried.
- **Other Such Matters by Commission Members:**
 - Chief Adler updated the Commission about Gundersen Health System Ambulance coming to Tomah and conversations we have had with Tomah Health, Phil Stuart, and members of Tomah Health Board.
 - Chief Adler advised the Commission about a complaint the service has been dealing with involving a patient transport in 2019, subsequent billing, and how we are handling the complaint.
 - Chief Adler advised the Commission that we recently signed an agreement with Tri-State Business Machines for a new copier/printer for the Billing Office. It is a lease to own program and spreads the cost out over 5 years.
 - Chief Adler requested the Commission think over the possibility of adding a full-time billing clerk this year instead of waiting until we are in the new building next year. There is additional room in the new Billing Office, and it will help alleviate some of the stress on Christi and some of the other city departments. Will come

to the commission in the future with additional data and ask for discussion and action.

- Deputy Chief Robarge notified the Commission about a complaint filed against the service by a provider at Tomah VA related to PPE use. The complaint was filed with DHS in November. Deputy Chief Robarge responded to the complaint in January. We are awaiting disposition of the complaint from DHS.
 - Deputy Chief Robarge notified the Commission that Governor Evers announced plans to disburse approximately \$30 million dollars in support of Wisconsin EMS Services. There will be additional grant funding made available along with a 16% increase in Medicaid reimbursements.
 - Deputy Chief Robarge notified the Commission that Tomah Area Ambulance Service was selected by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to participate in the Medicare Ground Data Collection System in CY 2022. The data collected in 2022 will then be reported to Medicare in early 2023.
 - Commission Member Yarrington went over the preliminary final budget numbers from 2021. The final budget audit numbers will not be completed until the end of March.
- **Adjourned:** Motion made Barb Cram, second by Richard Yarrington to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM

Minutes Taken By: Joyce Stenklyft

Minutes Typed By: Deputy EMS Chief Adam Robarge

Respectfully Submitted

Public Safety Director Tim Adler

