**JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DISTRICT**

360 SW Culver Hwy, Madras, OR 97741

**Board Meeting Minutes**

February 10, 2020

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** John Curnutt, Chair; Patricia Neff, Secretary; David Budden, Personnel Officer; Louise Muir, Budget Officer

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Steve Heydon, Vice-Chair

**STAFF PRESENT:** Capt. Ian Nelson, P; Chelsie Beaver, EMT, Administrative Assistant; Paul Sumner, Attorney

**GUESTS PRESENT:** No guests present at this time.

**I BOARD BUSINESS**

**I.A. Call to Order**

Order was called at 1900 hours.

**SOUTH WASCO COUNTY CRISIS ADDED TO THE AGENDA UNDER NEW BUSINESS.**

**I.B. Roll Call**

Taken and recorded.

**I.C. Visitors**

**I.D. Approval of the January 13, 2020 minutes**

A motion was made by Pat Neff to approve the January 13, 2020 board meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Louise Muir. The motion passed unanimously.

**I.E. Approval of Payment of the Bills for February 2020**

A motion was made by Louise Muir to approve the January accounts payables as presented. The motion was seconded by David Budden. The motion passed unanimously.

**I.F. Date of the Next Regular Scheduled Meeting**

March 9, 2020

**II PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence

**III REPORTS**

**III.A Staff Report:**

**III.A.1 Chief’s Report:**  Chief Michael Lepin, Capt. Ian Nelson

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Response Report** | | |
|  | **2018** | **2019** |
| **Total Responses for December** | **No Meeting** | **249** |
| BLS Calls | **Held due** | 28 |
| ALS Calls | **To bad weather** | 155 |
| *Specialty Care Transports* |  | 24 |
| Driver for AirLink/LifeFlight |  |  |
| **Non-Transport Calls** |  | **42** |
| Agency Assist |  | 2 |
| Agency Assist for WSF&S |  |  |
| Cancellation |  | 2 |
| Blood Draws |  |  |
| Fire Standbys |  | 2 |
| MVC-Non Injury |  | 6 |
| Other |  | 2 |
| Welfare Checks/Lift Assist |  | 28 |
| Billable Miles |  | 3091.4 |
|  |  |  |
| **ProMed Membership** |  | 498 |

* **OSAA:** On January 9th Chief Lepin was voted in as the Treasurer of the Oregon State Ambulance Association.
* **Oregon Office of Rural Health:** Chief Lepin was nominated and selected to receive a full-ride scholarship to represent EMS in Oregon Rural Health at the National Rural Health Policy Institute in Washington D.C. in February. This is where he is at today.

**III.B. Volunteer Report:** Chief Michael Lepin

**Ian-** Nothing to report at this time

**III.C. Budget Report:** Louise Muir, Budget Officer

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **January 2020** |
| Checking Account | 214,250.56 |
| Equipment Fund | 143,266.36 |
| Investment Pool | 639,474.89 |
| **Total Balance** | **996,991.81** |

Checks are signed and ready to send out. Nothing to report.

**III.D. Personnel Report:** David Budden, Personnel Officer

Report

Ian Nelson:

* The District is on target for full time staff. There is one opening for a part time paramedic and one opening for an EMT-Basic; however, it would benefit having paramedics fill those two positions.

David Budden:

* Volunteers have a few openings since The District has hired a couple as full time.

**IV OLD BUSINESS**

**IV.A – Audit:** The Board needs to approve the Corrective Action Plan as described in the letter to the Oregon Secretary of State.

A motion was made by Pat Neff to approve the Corrective Action Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by David Budden. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV.B – Air Link:** We are still waiting for them to correct the contract.

**IV.C – JCEMSD-JCFD#1 Task Force: Paul Sumner, Attorney**

At the JCEMSD-JCFD#1 Task Force meeting, there was no Mediator/Facilitator present, also individuals who were scheduled to speak at the meeting showed up late or did not show at all. There was not really any discussion at the scheduled meeting due to not having Mediator/Facilitator present.

**V NEW BUSINESS**

**V.A – South Wasco County Crisis:** On January 30th Chief Lepin met with other ASA representatives of Wasco County in an ASA Emergency Meeting. South Wasco County EMS, located in Maupin, has declared they are having difficulties responding to EMS calls and will most likely cease to provide service by June of this year.

Short-Term Solution: Wamic Fire will respond to Maupin calls. Dufur Fire will also respond if Wamic Fire is not available. Chief Karla of Warm Springs Fire & Safety (WSF&S) is hesitant to get into a contract to assist but said she will if needed. Chief Lepin suggested that WSF&S can cover Highway 216 between Maupin and Highway 26. Jefferson County EMS District are the closest agency to Shaniko so the District will take those calls. Chief Lepin did suggest Sherman County EMS handle calls north of Shaniko, as they are closer.

Long Term Solutions: The Committee is looking at different ideas on how to provide service. Chief Lepin recommended the Committee investigate how Gilliam County and Sherman County provide their service. Three recommendations have been made by David Colburn of Tygh Valley Rural Fire Protection Department.

1. Consolidate all EMS service providers (Dufur, Wamic, Maupin) into one EMS service area
   1. Focus on effective EMS billing
   2. Find a way to supplement income with a property tax.
2. Consolidate all South Wasco Fire & EMS departments into 1 (Dufur Fire & EMS, Wamic Fire & EMS, Tygh Valley RFPD, Juniper Flat RFPD, Maupin Ambulance, Maupin Fire & Shaniko Fire into SOUTH WASCO RFPD)
3. Consolidate all Fire & EMS services in Wasco County. Mr. Colburn prefers this option; however, Chief Palmer of Mid-Columbia Fire (The Dalles), believes Fire and EMS should remain separate.

Chief Lepin has offered assistance in billing, billing education and invited all to a lecture Jefferson County Emergency Medical Services District will be hosting with an Attorney who deals with Medicare. Chief Lepin will offer up any assistance helping to find a solution to the problem but feels since this is a different county, he’s not going to push any decisions.

This is an example of what Chief Lepin will be bring up to the Oregon State Rural Health Association and the National Rural Health Association. Besides South Wasco County EMS, Bly EMS, in Klamath County has collapsed and Mitchel Ambulance is nearly there. The ‘Listening Tour’ put on by the Oregon Health Authority was just a beginning in addressing this crisis. There’s more to be done. The District has pinpointed some of the reasons for these shortages and some solutions. More details will be shared in the future.

* It seems to be more and more difficult to find younger individuals who are willing to volunteer in rural areas where most of the population is retired. It now seems to be more difficult for the younger population to put in volunteer hours when their full-time employer does not allow hours to train or volunteer. The State needs to be looking into these kinds of situations and should have at least one person in office who can interest more young individuals into volunteering. For example, the City of Dufur has one person who is the volunteer fire and EMS chief.

**VI GOOD OF THE ORDER**

**VI.A –** ProMed – What is covered vs what is not covered in the membership.

Discussion: The lift assists are no longer covered in the ProMed Memberships and is stated in the informational brochure. This has changed when the lift assist coverage was being over utilized by certain individuals and has since then been removed. It is thought that Medicare will cover one lift assist per month. Would it be possible to change the lift assists through ProMed to match Medicare? How can The District better inform the public of what ProMed offers so there is no confusion if a bill is received? Will discuss this with Chief Lepin after he returns from Washington D.C.

**VIII MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting Adjourned at 1934 hours.

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Patricia Neff, Secretary

Secretary, Board of Directors

Jefferson County EMS District

Minutes were taken and prepared by Chelsie Beaver.