

Great Divide Ambulance  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, February 1, 2023  
4pm at the Great Divide Ambulance Station  
43555 US Highway 63, Cable, WI 54821

Jack McGregor called the meeting to order at 4:10pm. In attendance were Jack McGregor, Ron Gran, Kyle Weber, Laura Bjork and Rob Puls.

**2022 END YEAR REPORT** – Laura Bjork presented the 2022 report. It was noted that the end year was extremely busy, so the patient income was higher than expected leaving the balance in accounts much more feasible to work with. Rob Puls presented statistical information on runs made in 2022 per location, time of day, etc.

**UPDATE ON THE ACTIVITIES WITH THE AMBULANCE SERVICE** – Rob Puls stated that the schedule is becoming very difficult. Last July, we lost a paramedic. In August, we lost another paramedic. Last week, a paramedic was terminated. There has been a huge loss to fill the schedule with paramedics. We had 4 crews before losing any employees. We went down to 3 crews in August, and now we are running with only 2 crews. There is a paramedic interested in employment but no decisions have been made. Only one truck can go out at a time with 2 crews. There was discussion on wages and employee needs. Rob Puls stated that North Central Ambulance Service will be taking the 2018 vehicle when delivering the new vehicles and will be refurbishing the chassis.

**SHORTAGE OF EMPLOYEES** – We are currently operating with 2 crews. With the shortage of paramedics, there is no need for a third EMT to be on staff, so that shift will be cut. There was discussion of offering health insurance instead of the QSEHRA benefit. There was discussion on having a Station Manager. There was consideration of wages and comparisons with other jobs and areas. There was discussion on an incentive program offering \$1,000 to an employee for referring a new employee, if hired, and a \$2,000 incentive for a new employee with a two year contract. There was discussion on bonuses for current employees. Incentives would be given after 3 months of employment for the new employee. This would only be for the paramedic position. Laura Bjork will work on setting up the incentive and present at the next board meeting.

**DISPERSAL OF RETIRED AMBULANCES** – Rob Puls stated that there are two old ambulances that need to be dispersed after getting the two new ambulances. MOTION made by Jack McGregor to disperse the two old ambulances through the WI Surplus Auction. MOTION seconded by Kyle Weber and carried.

**TOWN OF CABLE DONATION LETTER** – MOTION made by Jack McGregor to send the donation letter out to the Town of Cable. MOTION seconded by Kyle Weber and carried.

**DONATION INCENTIVE** – Laura Bjork presented a window sticker incentive for the donations that have been coming in. MOTION made by Jack McGregor to order the window stickers and also inform donors that funds are going to maintain critical care in the area. MOTION seconded by Ron Gran and carried.

**THE WISCONSIN GROUND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORT PROGRAM –**

2021 Wisconsin Act 228 creates a supplemental reimbursement under Wisconsin Medicaid (MA) to public ambulance service providers. The act provides for supplemental MA reimbursements for public ambulance services, which includes any ambulance service provider that is owned by any municipality or group of municipalities, regardless of whether or not the ambulance service provider is organized as a nonprofit corporation, by requiring that DHS seek federal approval of a state plan amendment that would allow supplemental MA reimbursement through certified public expenditures. This program is being offered on a fiscal year basis. This year it will begin in January and go through June as a trail year.

**CONTRACT WITH A COUNTY-WIDE MASS CASUALTY EMS TEAM** – Bayfield County will be paying each service in the county \$20,000 in 2023 for continued EMS Services in their districts with a signed contract. MOTION made by Jack McGregor to approve the contract with County-Wide Mass Casualty EMS funds. MOTION seconded by Ron Gran and carried.

The meeting was adjourned @ 6:20pm.