

Great Divide Ambulance

**Board of Directors Meeting**

Friday, July 28, 2023 Minutes

9am at the Cable Community Center

13660 County Highway M, Cable, WI 54821

Roy Bloom called the meeting to order at 8:59am. In attendance were Roy Bloom, Ron Gran, Jack Iverson, Jack McGregor, Jamie Holly, Tony Lang, Rob Puls and Laura Bjork.

**Update on the activities with the ambulance service** – Rob Puls reported that the service has renewed their Critical Care license and all EMTs and Paramedics are current with their licenses. Two employees did not renew their license, Henry Rieckhoff and Candy Hankins. The service is running 2 trucks 24/7 with 3 Paramedics and 4 EMTs. The service has become remarkably efficient. Last year there were 975 transfers, and the prediction for this year was 500. Currently 475 transfers are done. Costs are being affected with lower transfers. Fuel and payroll costs are down. Personnel is currently the main concern. The two ambulances listed through WI Surplus sold for just over \$22,000. Tony Lang stated that the service is staying more local with transfers because of the lack of staff. The employees are working hard and doing very well. The schedule is difficult to fill. Paul Popelka is going to Paramedic school and during that time, the schedule will be even more difficult to fill. The protocols are almost done. Currently they are being reviewed and then they will be sent to Fogarty to sign off on. There have been a couple in house trainings, and it has been good to get everyone together. He suggested purchasing equipment with the donation money from the townspeople. Laura Bjork noted that the money that was received was to maintain critical care in the area, so if equipment is needed, it can be used for such a purpose. There is also an equipment fund that is set aside. Rob Puls noted that there is also money budgeted for equipment. Tony Lang has been pursuing hiring employees, talking with people who might be interested in working with the service. Paul Popelka is upgrading from EMT to Paramedic. Jim Diamond was hired as Fleet Manager. Rob Puls stated that transfers from Hayward can only be taken one at a time due to staffing. Sawyer County has tried to pursue taking more transfers with the hospital. The service director filed a complaint with GDAS at the state level from a run that was done at the Birkie. The complaint came from a service director who is in direct competition with our service. The run has been reviewed by Fogarty. It is still in process. We had a Medicare audit which requested 40 of our runs. Four of them did not meet Medicare criteria for medical billing. The billing department is working on this review. Roy Bloom will be contacting Raymond Signs to inquire if they can remove the Runamuk lettering off the station roof. Laura Bjork noted that Great Divide is sponsoring an EMT for class in August. Jack McGregor mentioned the consolidation of Ashland and Bayfield Counties for dispatch, which will affect the service.

**Quarterly Budget Presentation** – Laura Bjork reported that there was additional FAP money that came in as well the second half of the Flex Grant monies and money from Bayfield Couty. The first payment for the vehicle loan was paid. Otherwise, the financials are holding their own. If it stays the same for the rest of the year, we could put money into a 7-month CD from the second half subsidies, which are not in the second quarter report.

**Open Accounts with Superior Choice Credit Union** – MOTION made by Jack McGregor to allow Business Manager, Laura Bjork to open a 7-month CD and a checking account with Superior Choice Credit Union. MOTION seconded by Ron Gran and carried.

MOTION made by Jack Iverson @ 10:21am to adjourn to Closed Session according to Wisconsin State Statute 19.85(1)(C) considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. MOTION seconded by Jack McGregor and carried.

MOTION made by Roy Bloom to reconvene to open session @ 11:50am pursuant to State Statute 19.85(2) to take any necessary action(s) as required and resume regular business. MOTION seconded by Jack Iverson and carried.

There was discussion on Shared Revenue and Joint Fire/EMS Districts.

Roy Bloom adjourned the meeting at 11:17am.