

FITCH-RONA EMS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Fitch-Rona EMS District
101 Lincoln St., Verona, WI
Thursday, September 16, 2021

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was hosted virtually utilizing Zoom and coordinated with Fitchburg FACTv in compliance with current open meeting laws. With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM. Roll Call Present: Shannon Strassman, Connie Hilla, Kate Cronin, Derek Johnson, David Lonsdorf, Terry Schnapp, Sue Luginbuhl. Also present: Patrick Anderson, EMS Chief, Michelle Wachter, EMS Office Manager, Andrew Bamlett, Fitchburg FACTv, and Chad Cole, Fitchburg FACTv. Absent: James Roberts, Gregg Miller.

Public Comments: None

Review and Approval of August 19, 2021 Minutes: Motion Cronin, Second Luginbuhl. *Motion carried.*

Chief's Report: Chief Anderson noted that runs were up to 375 which is the second highest amount ever. This is a 21% increase. It's a 14% increase from the prior year. He noted that staff are doing a phenomenal job. He discussed fractal times and noted that the most calls this time period were for Fitchburg.

He discussed training and events we have a presence at including the football games and the Ironman competition. He noted the calls by day and everything for the month was on par for expectations.

Chief Anderson went on to discuss financials and noted that the aging report was showing that we are where we should be at this timeframe. He noted that he contacted WISC to discuss the investments there and took action to move funds to gain additional dividends going forward. This included investing in a 2-year CD.

Chief Anderson noted that he had just submitted the FAP request. With that, he noted that the bike medic fund was used for bike maintenance and uniforms and now has a zero balance. He announced that EPIC would be providing grant funds in the amount of \$42K to be used for a Lucas Device and 2 ventilators. Once the equipment is received, all 5 ambulances will be identical with equipment. The funds should be received within the next couple weeks.

Chief Anderson went on to discuss the operating budget. He noted that expenses were on par for the year. He noted that overtime looks over budget, but events that caused the increase will reimburse the cost. He also noted that when he brought the budget to the commission last month and discussed the shortfall, he noted the only options are municipal funding, retirements or reducing staffing. He made it clear to the commission that reducing staffing is routinely a common option with any establishment's budget, however, for Fitch-Rona EMS it is not a viable option.

Commission member Lonsdorf did question why the run volume was up. Commission member Luginbuhl did note that the hospitals are above capacity and that it's a mix between COVID and other health issues. Commission member Strassman concurred and stated that it's also been hard

to get patients out of the hospitals. Chief Anderson noted that we have seen spikes before and we have no idea if this will continue.

Committee Reports:

a. Personnel –

Committee did not meet – nothing to report.

b. Finance –

Committee did not meet – nothing to report.

Review and approval of accounts payable checks as authorized by Chief Anderson: Motion to approve Luginbuhl, Second by Lonsdorf. *Motion carried*

Review and possible action of GASB 54 revisions:

Chief Anderson updated the commission on the amounts and noted that the total is different because of spending down the two EPIC accounts. He noted that he will correct the date on the document. Motion to approve resolution 2021-03 made by Lonsdorf; Second by Strassman. *Motion carried.*

Discussion on a possible action on funds from ambulance sale:

Chief Anderson explained the process of the sale and that the process followed takes \$5K from the purchase and holds it for the next ambulance purchase. Usually, the district expects to get around \$10K at auction. He noted that this sale was different in that it brought in just over \$22K. He noted that we also have a CD for \$9K to go towards the next ambulance (from sale of ambulance + sale of cots). He noted that we can save \$5K and then put out a couple options for the remaining funds: A) Can apply to the 2023 purchase and reduce the CIP request; B) Identify \$5K for the next purchase and put the remaining amount in the Reserve Fund; C) Identify \$5K for the next purchase and apply the remaining amount to the 2022 budget to reduce the need.

Commission member Cronin noted that she brought this up at the City of Verona meeting and their thought was to put the funds into the Reserve Fund.

Commission member Strassman noted for the City of Fitchburg that the preference would be to place the remaining funds into the Reserve Fund.

Commission member Lonsdorf for the Town of Verona noted that the preference would be to place the remaining funds into the Reserve Fund.

Chief Anderson noted that he would need to put a resolution together to approve at the November commission meeting. Until then the funds will go in the general fund.

Review and possible action for the 2022 EMS rate changes:

Chief Anderson noted that the rates are reviewed every two years. He explained run income past and present. He compared rates for other municipalities. Commission member Cronin noted that some of the cost needs to be passed to the patients and that she is comfortable with the numbers that Middleton uses. Commission member Lonsdorf disagreed at this juncture. He would like to know more about what Middleton and Sun Prairie are basing their numbers on. He felt that those without insurance would be left to bear the burden. He asked for additional supporting information.

There was also discussion on the issue that the City of Fitchburg will be building five more senior housing developments which is increase calls.

Chief Anderson will pull together additional information for the November commission meeting.

Other Business:

None

Adjournment: Motion Strassman, Second by Luginbuhl to adjourn at 8:02 PM. *Motion carried.*

The next meeting is the annual meeting which will be held on October 21, 2021 at 7 pm.

Note: Chief Anderson will reach out to municipalities to determine whether the annual meeting will be virtual or in person.

Approved:

Terry Schnapp, Chair