



AREA AMBULANCE SERVICE

Randal Dunford
Director

Heather Daly
Captain

AMBULANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES: MAY

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Date of Meeting: May 28, 2020 / Virtual - Via GoToMeeting.com

Member Attendance: Joyce Stenklyft, Jerry Steele, Wayne Kling, Brede Sorenson, Barb Cram, Rick Murray, Remy Gomez

Absent: None

Others Present: Director Dunford, Councilperson Richard Yarrington

Meeting called to order at 5:10PM

- **Approve Minutes:** Motion made by Joyce Stenklyft and second by Jerry Steele to approve February 26, 2020, and April 30, 2020 Meeting Minutes as presented.
- **Persons Desiring to Be Heard:** None
- **Director's Report:** • Monthly statistics and invoices presented for May, 2020
 - **See Attached Director's Report**
 - Discussed current staffing. Will Fill open position from part-time staff.
 - Director provided full update of COVID-19 Response by Department
 - Provided update regarding V.A. billing and possible contract
 - No update on land purchase from the Railroad. Director and Chief Adler working with Architects. Hope to have presentation for the Council at the July meeting.
- Motion to approve Director's Report by Barb Cram and seconded by Wayne Kling. Motion Carried
- **Other Such Matters By Committee Member:** None
- Motion by Wayne Kling and second by Barb Cram to adjourn. Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned at 5:34PM

Minutes Taken By: Joyce Stenklyft

Minutes Typed By: Randal Dunford 6/8/2020



City of Tomah Ambulance Committee – May 28, 2020

Director's Report For: APRIL, 2020

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1. **STAFFING:** We have one employee that is out on temporary active duty orders with the National Guard. I cannot express enough how proud and thankful I am for the staff at TAAS who continue to deal with this pandemic on the frontlines. They continue to step up to the plate and fill gaps in the schedule and take on the extra workload needed when transporting a COVID/or flu-like symptoms patient. Crews on many occasions have had to shower and wash uniforms multiple times during a shift.

- I have rescinded our minimal staffing order. To save on potential exposure of employees, we reduced on-duty crews to 4 plus the Crew Leader. Our current procedures of staff changing out of uniforms and showering before entering station work areas has proven to be effective.
- We recently hired an EMT part-time who currently lives in LaCrosse. He currently works part-time for Tri-State Ambulance as well. He is currently enrolled in the WTC's Paramedic program.
- Currently we have 2 full time employees and 3 part-time employees that are in the final stages of Paramedic training and will be involved in final exam testing and the National Registry written and practical testing. They must pass both to be licensed. Once they become Paramedics they go back into Field Training to gain experience and will not be on their own for a minimum of 6 months due to being inexperienced and new.

2. **COVID-19 DEPARTMENT UPDATE:**

- To date, we have had 17 COVID-19 like symptom calls. We transferred 8 confirmed cases to other facilities. In our 9-1-1 responses we transported 9 patients with COVID-19 like symptoms and 1 confirmed COVID.
- We continue to gain ground on our personal protection equipment (PPE). We have received additional supplies from the Wisconsin Emergency Management. We currently have enough PPE for continual use for approximately 30 days. Our goal is to increase our PPE supplies to carry us out a minimum of 3 months.
- I want to publicly acknowledge the work of Monroe County's new Emergency Management Director, Jared Tessman. Jared is a resident of Tomah and a current member of the TFD. Jared was literally tossed in the water and was going to sink or swim as he was saddled with this pandemic within weeks of taking on the job. He has done a phenomenal job in staying on top of all this and meeting the needs of all county departments.



- TAAS wants to publicly thank MECA Sportswear for stepping up and meeting our need for protective gowns for our staff. We recently purchased a significant quantity of washable level 1 gowns from MECA. We are very appreciative that we have a local business that saw the need and retooled to help not only their local hospitals and ambulance service but also many other facilities around the country.
 - Last week I found a company in Texas that builds industrial grade germicidal UV Lights. I did order one for the department which is due to arrive the first week in June.
 - Captain Daly and I continue to be a part of the state and regional meetings regarding COVID. It appears that this pandemic is slowing down. We did suspend accepting transfers from hospitals outside our area and only focused on our own facilities. We are planning on meeting more requests for area facility to facility transfers staff permitting.
3. **BILLING ISSUES:** Our Billing Clerk and the Deputy Treasurer have been struggling with the Veteran's Hospital payment system for services given. The V.A. has always been a "beast of its own", so to speak, when dealing with denials or claim issues. It appears that the Federal Veteran's Hospital Administration is going thru internal changes and we now have to deal with layers of bureaucracy from employees in other parts of the country to get our local questions answered. On May 4th, Christi, Barb and I had a phone conference with Karen Long (Acting Director) and Staci Williams (Deputy Director). They were very sympathetic to our needs and will be addressing our concerns and assisting us with streamlining our billing process with them. One issue that we had was in regards to TAAS accepting a transfer from Madison V.A. back to Tomah V.A. We submitted the invoice and were paid at Medicare rate which amounted to \$250.00. We were advised that Madison V.A. and several other veteran's hospitals in the country are now paying only in Medicare rates. I did advised Acting Director Long that we will not be able to accept long distance transfers if that is the case. She agreed and acknowledged our situation. Acting Director Long would like to discuss the possibility of having a contract with TAAS to provide their needs. We will be meeting at a future date to discuss in more detail.
4. **BUILDING UPDATE:** Chief Adler and I continue to work on the combined facility building plans and have had two meetings with Keller Architects. Our task has always been to design this municipal facility to meet the demands of Tomah Fire and Tomah Area Ambulance Service for the next 30-40 years. This is no easy task and we have solicited the assistance of our employees, other Fire Chiefs/departments from around the state, and other full-time Ambulance Services. We hope to have Keller make a presentation to the Council at the June or July Council meeting. As of the date of this report, we have no new information regarding the land negotiation with the railroad company.
5. **FEDERAL RELIEF PAYMENT:** TAAS has received \$24,000.00 through a federal relief bill directed towards healthcare providers. These funding were distributed through the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Funds are to be used for COVID-19 expenses. I am currently working with Julia to assure that the funds are appropriated correctly.



6. GRANT REQUESTS: For the Andres Grant TAAS requested \$16,000.00 to purchase an AeroClave Decontamination system. This system utilizes an aerosolized system that will disinfect anywhere that is exposed to open air. The back of an ambulance can be disinfected in 15 minutes. This unit can also be used to disinfect the employee dayroom and sleeping quarters. For the Thomas B. Earle Grant TAAS requested \$800.00 to purchase children's educational material with the focus to be on personal hygiene to stay safe during this pandemic.
7. COMMUNITY SUPPORT: I wish to publicly thank business owners and citizens for the continuous outreach of support that they have given to Tomah Area Ambulance Service. Several businesses and community members have donated to provide meals to the ambulance crews. I want to express how much that is appreciated. We don't have a stove and crews are very limited on what they can cook in our current facility. Employees are in the building for 48 hour shifts so it becomes very difficult for them cook good meals and extremely expensive to purchase every meal through a carry out.

Respectfully,


Randal Dunford
Director

