

Special Meeting: Ad Hoc Committee and Interested Members of the Community Regarding Florence County
Rescue Squad Possible Reorganization

Meeting Minutes

Sheriff Miller called the meeting to order on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 5:30pm.

In person attendees: Sheriff Miller, Bob Broullire, Tim Bomberg, Chad Hedmark, Sarah Mattas, Scott Westman, Duane Drewa, Tom Krans, Jack McCraw, Robert & Joanne Friberg, Doug & Elaine Johnson, Pat Smith, Mike Theis, Amanda Mulvey, Becky Peterson, Amanda Rudnick, Ed Hawacha. Webex attendees: Mark Mandler, Helen Pullen and Donna Trudell

The purpose of this meeting is to continue discussions on how to devise and discuss options for a viable solution to EMS Services in Florence County.

Motion to approve the agenda by Tim Bomberg, support by Mike Theis. No opposition.

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2020 meeting by Scott Westman, support by Fred Hedmark. No opposition.

Status of changing operational plans with the state. Scott Westman reports Aurora has opted not to pursue changes at this time. Mike Theis reports Florence has spoken with Mark Mandler at the state and changing the operational plan to accommodate first responders being dually paged would not improve efficiency at this time. Discussion on scope of practice at various licensure levels. Helen Pullen provided the scope of practice document from the state office via Webex chat.

Status on cross credentialing between organizations. Chad Hedmark reports they had a member credential last week and are waiting for the Medical Director approval. Sarah Mattas reports the changeover to Dr. Hart as the Medical Director for Aurora is now complete and those approvals should be happening without delay; she will follow-up. Florence previously had members from both Long Lake-Tipler and Aurora services cross credentialed. Services will continue working to cross credential as appropriate.

Discussion/Review of possible RFP for EMS services. This will be done at the municipalities. Pat Smith is willing to take the sample RFP and work on modifying it to fit the needs of Florence, Fence, Fern & Commonwealth. The municipalities will work together to send out one RFP.

Concerns voiced during discussion: What is leading to a volunteer shortage? Why such a short time between notification to closure? Timeframe is too narrow to get the RFP's out and bids returned. What will happen if no one bids on the RFP? There could be more push for recruitment and retention.

Helen Pullen offered input of this matter coming to the state's attention about the same time the municipalities were notified. They became aware during an investigation secondary to a complaint being filed. She credits the dedication of the 2-3 responders who continue to volunteer with the Florence unit but expresses that is not a sustainable service and the 39-day window to proposed closure is coming quickly. Helen spoke about services who have done RFP's for a year to allow time for building up their local service. That option may have potential in the present situation.

Discussion on potential for Aurora and Long Lake-Tipler services to assist Florence and extend the March 1st deadline to allow the municipalities time to send out/receive back the RFP. Amanda Mulvey will follow up with the state on operational plan components which need to be met to remain compliant with state regulations and report back at the next meeting. Services will discuss this with their membership as a whole and bring the replies back to the next meeting.

A press release draft was distributed. Attendees were asked to review the draft and send edits suggestions to Mike Theis before Monday so that he may submit it for publishing. Discussion on distributing the release to other media outlets and via mail to property owners.

Online Training/Recruitment ideas. Duane Drewa, Sarah Mattas, Tim Bomberg & Becky Peterson volunteered to form a sub-committee and will meet at 4:30pm next Tuesday.

New ideas discussed included talking with area employers about offering stipends or granting release for employees to respond to EMS calls when working.

Future agenda items:

Old business - Operational Plans/Updates, Cross Credentialing Update, Status of RFP (Review Draft), Press Release follow-up

New business – Online Training/Recruitment sub-committee report, Letter to taxpayers, Potential extension of the March 1st deadline with support from Aurora and Long Lake-Tipler

Next meeting scheduled for February 3rd, 2021 at 6pm in the same location.

Motion to adjourn by Scott Westman, support by Bob Broullire. No opposition. Meeting adjourned at 6:49pm.