

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the
Greene County Emergency Medical Services Board
April 21, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Greene County Emergency Medical Services Board was held in the Commissioners' Room of the Greene County Courthouse on April 21, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. Present in-person were Ed Michael, Troy Gaither, Brad Norton, Ambulance Director Doug Hall, and the Board's Attorney Marvin Abshire. Present via conference call were Joe Huntington, Mike Hasler, and Greene County Daily World representative Kristen Inman.

The meeting was called to order by President Ed Michael.

There was submitted for review and approval the Minutes of the January 28, 2020 regular meeting; the Minutes of the February 10, 2020 special meeting; and the Minutes of the March 9, 2020 special meeting. A motion was made by Troy Gaither and seconded by Brad Norton to approve the Minutes as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0.

The next item of business was ambulance service billing rate increases. Upon the board's previous recommendation to the Board of Commissioners, the Board of Commissioners approved "Ordinance 2020-01 an Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2010-08 Regarding Establishment of EMS Fees" effective April 1, 2020. A motion was made by Mike Hasler and seconded by Troy Gaither to officially adopted the rate increases consistent with the Ordinance. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0.

The next item of business was the ambulance billing service. The Board previously agreed that Troy Gaither and Brad Norton would work together as a committee to review proposals and make a recommendation to the board. Troy Gaither reported to the board the committee's thought processes and analysis on determining the criteria necessary to select the best billing service for the Greene County Ambulance Department. The board received three in-person presentations and proposals from billing companies. All three companies were good options. The committee looked at different factors, including length of contract, service fees, business models, size, and references from current customers. After discussion and input from the committee, a motion was made by Brad Norton and seconded by Mike Hasler to offer a contract for services to Ambulance Billing Services, Inc. (ABS), operated by president and owner James Freeman from Elkhart, Indiana. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0. Marvin Abshire will notify the billing company of the board's decision.

The next item of business a proposed “Amended and Restated Agreement for Advanced Life Support Emergency Medical Sponsoring and Supervising Service” between Greene County and the Greene County General Hospital. Among other benefits, the Hospital will provide a qualified physician to serve as Medical Director of the Greene County Emergency Medical Service program and will also provide sourcing of all narcotics. A motion was made by Brad Norton and seconded by Mike Hasler to approve the Agreement and recommend it to the Commissioners for approval. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 4-0. Troy Gaither abstained.

Ed Michael reiterated to the board that the former Ambulance Service Medical Director Dr. William Powers has offered to assist in the future if needed. The board wholly agreed that a letter should be send to Dr. William Powers thanking him for his forty years of service.

The next item of business was the WEX Universal Fuel Cards. On March 17, 2020 the Board of Commissioners approved “Resolution 2020-02 a Resolution Adopting a Policy for the Greene County Government Departmental Use of WEX Universal Fleet Fuel Cards”. The ambulance employees will continue to fill up at the highway department when possible. A motion was made by Troy Gaither and seconded by Joe Huntington to officially approve the WEX Universal Fuel Card as the exclusive means to purchase diesel fuel, diesel exhaust fluid (DEF), gasoline and or oil. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0.

Ambulance Director Doug Hall updated the board on mileage for the ambulances and further reported that COVID-19 is believed to have contributed to the decline in runs and subsequently, a decline in revenues. The service has averaged \$127,000.00 per month this quarter. Within the last week, the service has received a medical stimulus payment in the sum of \$62,131.55 which will help offset the increased spending on PPE.

Doug Hall reported that E-2 sustained grill and headlight damage due to hitting a turkey, but the ambulance is still in service. The van ambulance was fixed and has been designated for COVID-19 patients.

Doug Hall shared information regarding Operative IQ, a subscription service for truck maintenance and tracking system. This system is customizable and can track mileage, inventory, engine hours, and needed maintenance. The system has a one-year commitment requirement and an initial cost of \$1,500.00 which includes training. The monthly fee thereafter is approximately \$175.00 per month for the whole fleet. The company also offers a live demo. Doug Hall will look into a live demo at a later date.


Doug Hall reported to the board that a Medic on E5 has been working as a Basic because the truck is not properly equipped to operate as ALS. This medic has been on 47 transports in the last 90 days. The service is missing out on billed revenue. If the board increases the Medic's salary in the amount of \$3,900.00 per year and properly equips the truck with equipment it already has, so that it could be certified as an ALS instead of a BLS, the service has a potential of \$94,000.00 in return. Doug Hall knows he will need to get Council approval for this to be done. A motion was made by Troy Gaither and seconded by Mike Hasler to show the board's support of an increase in pay for the Medic. A roll call vote was taken and passed 5-0.

The next item of business was extra hire/overtime. A float worker will start May 1st, which should reduce overtime. The float will help cover a couple of FMLA absences. Doug Hall also noted that the board may need to consider a PRN rate increase because our service pays \$1.00 to \$2.00 per hour lower than other services.

The final order of business was the suggestion of tuition reimbursement. Doug Hall believes we need to grow our own paramedics. The current cost to train an EMT to a Paramedic is \$13,500.00 at Pelham which amount includes, tuition, textbooks, labs and exams. A Hybrid class starts September 12, 2020 and lasts sixteen weeks. The board believes this matter would need to be addressed in the 2021 budget.

There being no further business, Mike Hasler made a motion and was seconded by Troy Gaither to adjourn. A roll call vote was taken and the motion 5-0.

APPROVED this 16th day of June, 2020.


Marvin R. Abshire, Secretary