

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the
Greene County Emergency Medical Service Board
January 18, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Greene County Emergency Medical Service Board was held in the Commissioners' Room of the Greene County Courthouse on January 18, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. Present in person were Ed Michael, Mike Hasler, Troy Gaither, Joe Huntington, and Brad Norton. Also present in person were the Board's attorney Marvin Abshire and Director Doug Hall.

The meeting was called to order by President Ed Michael.

The first item of business was election of officers for the year 2022. A motion was made by Joe Huntington and seconded by Troy Gaither to re-elect Ed Michael as President. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Joe Huntington and seconded by Mike Hasler to re-elect Brad Norton as Vice President. The motion passed unanimously.

There was submitted for review and approval the minutes of the November 16, 2021 regular meeting. It is noted that the December 21, 2021 meeting was cancelled. A motion was made by Mike Hasler and seconded by Brad Norton to waive the reading and approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Ed Michael reported that on December 21, 2021 Doug Hall appeared before the Board of Commissioners and requested approval to purchase a new Stryker Cot in the amount of \$14,478.14 after trade-in. The Commissioners approved the purchase but requested ratification from the EMS Board. A motion was made by Troy Gaither and seconded by Brad Norton to ratify the purchase of the new Stryker Cot in the amount of \$14,478.14. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Doug Hall updated the Board as follows:

1. Revenue for 2021 was \$1,763,336.65, up \$279,671.43 from 2020.
2. Run volume remains steady with 396 calls for December.
3. The Department is in a better financial position with Public Safety Tax than 2020.
4. LUCAS devices purchased with Smithville grant monies are in service and on all trucks.
5. Power loads for the cots should be installed in late January.
6. The department has received a few paramedic applications.
7. The ambulance mileage report was circulated.
8. A controlled substance registration will be required by the state and will also require a DEA number.

Marvin Abshire updated the Board on the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) healthcare worker vaccine mandate. CMS issued a rule requiring COVID-19 vaccination for healthcare employees who are employed by specific facilities that are regulated under the Medicare health and safety standards known as Conditions of Participation and Requirements of Participation. The mandate is in the appeal process, but on January 14, 2022, the US Supreme Court lifted the stay issued by the District Courts, allowing the CMS rule to be applied until such time as the appeals process, including possible appeal to the Supreme Court, has concluded. Unlike the new OSHA ETS, this requirement does not allow for testing in lieu of vaccination except for limited accommodation of employees with recognized medical conditions for which vaccines are not indicated, or for sincerely held religious beliefs. Those employees may be required to test on a regular basis. The new vaccination requirements apply to 21 different provider and supplier types, such as hospitals, hospices, end-stage renal disease facilities where EMS agencies provide emergency and non-emergency ambulance service. There is argument as to whether or not EMS services are under that rule. EMS is not explicitly listed, but the definition of staff covered by the rule is very broad.

Troy Gaither reported that the Greene County Hospital asked its employees to voluntarily be vaccinated. Before the stay was lifted, the hospital asked employees if they would be seeking an exemption. Several exemption requests would not stand up to CMS guidelines and after receiving education and guidance, most employees received the vaccine. One or two hospital employees had legitimate reasons for religious exemptions. The hospital continues to educate employees and have not given a deadline for vaccination, but it will be required.

Marvin Abshire notes that it is likely that the Greene County Hospital and other hospitals will be requesting information from EMS employees regarding vaccination status to come through the doors of the hospital. For that reason, whether or not the rule clearly applies to EMS, the Board needs to implement a plan for collecting, managing, and reporting employee vaccination status and exemptions. Locally, the EMS board will determine whether an Ambulance Department employee request for exemption is consistent with CMS guidelines.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Brad Norton and seconded by Troy Gaither to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED this 15th day of February, 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Abshire', written over a horizontal line.

Marvin R. Abshire, Secretary