

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the
Greene County Emergency Medical Service Board
May 16, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Greene County Emergency Medical Service Board was held in the Commissioners' Room of the Greene County Courthouse on May 16, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. Present in person were Ed Michael, George Dallaire, Brad Norton, and Ron Lehman. Troy Gaither participated electronically via Zoom. Also present in person were the board's attorney Marvin Abshire, Director Doug Hall, Commissioner Nathan Abrams, Kelly Zimmerly and Linton Fire representative J. Phillips.

Ed Michael called the meeting to order.

The first item of business was review and approval of the minutes from the April 18, 2023 regular meeting. George Dallaire moved, and Brad Norton seconded, to waive the reading and approve the minutes as presented. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Nathan Abrams approached the board as chairman of the Health Insurance Board of Trustees to inform the board that the Greene County Ambulance Service is not in-network with the county insurance provider. George Dallaire moved, and Ron Lehman seconded, to enter negotiations with Encore to bring the Ambulance Service in-network for county health insurance. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 5-0.

Director Doug Hall updated the Board as follows:

1. Revenue for April 2023 was \$119,441.16.
2. Run volume for April was 291 calls with 207 transports.
3. The ambulance mileage report was provided.
4. Nothing has changed with shortage of paramedics.
5. Doug also noted that the AVL is working well.
6. Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements are expected to increase.

Troy Gaither noted when there is a lack of transport situation due to staffing, the ambulance supervisor should communicate with the hospital about transporting patients with a hospital nurse. There was a recent situation where there were plenty of trucks, but lacked paramedic staff. An EMT with nurse could make ALS transports.

The next item of business was Agreement Between ViaQuest Hospice and Greene County Ambulance Service for transportation of Hospice patients within the county or to Greene County

General Hospital. Doug Hall has not received the fee schedule yet, but hopefully he will have it by the next meeting.

The next item of business was EMS LIT priorities discussion. Ed Michael's top priority is to balance the budget and take the load off the public safety fund. George Dallaire would also like to work toward employee retention. Ed thinks steps should be taken now to keep employees with competitive pay. Doug Hall noted that his study reveals that Greene County EMT's are paid \$3.00 per hour below average and Paramedics are paid \$7.00 per hour below average. Doug also noted Greene County has a better retirement than other counties. Kelly Zimmerly reported that Ben Roeger projects the county will receive \$1.4M per year from EMS LIT funds. Ed Michael proposed that the first-year focus be on getting the budget in the black; give employees a decent raise in advance of the budget for 2024; and put money back for ambulance replacement. Marvin Abshire noted the EMS LIT funds come into a non-reverting fund and the budget will need to reflect that. Marvin Abshire suggested Doug Hall email his salary calculation spreadsheet to all Council members. Kelly Zimmerly noted the salary spreadsheet needs to go out to Council members as soon as possible since they meet on Monday. Kelly further noted the first two priorities discussed, getting the budget in the black and increasing compensation for ambulance employees, is why the Council approved the EMS LIT in the first place. Troy Gaither added that he thinks it would be a good idea to have a tuition reimbursement program for training and education of ambulance employees with a contract for employment.

J. Phillips noted that as a union member of Linton Fire Department they are willing to negotiate assistance with personnel on the ambulances if needed.

There being no further business, George Dallaire moved, and Brad Norton seconded, to adjourn. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 5-0.

APPROVED this 20th day of June, 2023.


Marvin R. Abshire, Secretary