

TOWN OF BARNES
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

3:00 PM in the Barnes Town Office

Meeting Minutes

1. Call Emergency Medical Services Committee (EMSC) Meeting to Order

Guy Johnston called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Roll call to establish quorum and verification of public notice

Present: Bill Pence, Guy Johnston, Rose Baldwin, Dr. Carl Heltne, Kara Foat, Tom Krob

Absent: Chris Webb, Tom Renz

3. Approve the agenda

Guy asked for approval of the agenda. Motion was made by Dr. Heltne and seconded by Bill. All were in favor.

4. Approve the minutes from the previous meeting 12/12/15

Motion made by Guy and seconded by Bill to approve the distributed minutes. There was one word change in agenda item 5. In the sentence, "It was noted that the mode time changed by 5 minutes from 2014-2015, amend it to say, "It was noted that the mode time decreased by 5 minutes from 2014-2015." Motion carried by all with this change.

5. Review Barnes Ambulance year end (2015) run data – discussion

Guy will get thumb drives of the Barnes data to these committee members: Dr. Heltne, Chris Webb and Kara Foat. Dr. Heltne and Bill stated that it would help to have 2013 data to show trends. The remainder of this discussion was deferred since Tom Renz was not present at the meeting.

6. Confirm potential meeting dates with other EMS providers – discussion

Guy has received two completed surveys--one from Great Divide and from Gold Cross. The surveys were passed around for review. Dr. Heltne noted that Gold Cross doesn't have times available from the 911 call to final destination. This would be a discussion topic during the meeting with them. Guy called the remaining providers to ask about their survey completion

and to set up meetings with them. Great Divide will meet with Dr. Heltne, Bill, and Guy on Tuesday January 19th at 9 a.m. in Cable. And, Gold Cross will meet with Bill, Rose, and Guy on Thursday, January 21st at 10 a.m. in the Barnes Town Office.

The discussion moved to a general inquiry from Bill about the value in the numbers we are collecting. Dr. Heltne felt that specifically we will know more about sustainability and whether we should have a higher level of service. He noted that two numbers stand out relative to 1) length of time from arrival on scene to final destination—can anyone match this or do better? and, 2) how do we compare to others with a higher level of service (i.e. paramedics). Can we improve on these numbers? Also important is information on the sustainability side which is basically staffing.

We decided that a master copy of the completed surveys will be typed up by Bill with a copy given to Tom Renz who has offered to set up the spreadsheet for recording data collection. We talked about some of the smaller providers perhaps not having this data readily available and what we would want to have happen if they were not able to complete their survey. Guy will call them again, soften his approach, and ask that even if they don't have data we would value a discussion with them. And, he will send the committee members an e-mail inviting our participation if he is able to set up other meetings.

7. Discussion of format/presentation for EMS Committee report.

Bill asked what is our final product? Are we looking to make a presentation to the town at the April meeting or present to the Town Board? We agreed that the April meeting is not the best venue for a presentation and rather a presentation to the Town Board at a special town meeting would be appropriate. Tom Krob confirmed the protocol for this to happen. Some of the points in this presentation would include: sustainability, point of service, long term vision, including whether there should be a higher level of service. There should also be some baseline data presented such as costs, times, comparisons to other providers, etc. Dr. Heltne handed out a recent Sawyer County news article discussing the town of Sinnott electing not to contract with Sawyer County Ambulance. Instead, they agreed to a 6 month trial contract with North Memorial Ambulance Service for less cost/resident. This led to a discussion on how to fairly assess charges for ambulance services (i.e. cost/tax payer parcel, by developed parcels, etc.). There are questions in the survey about cost/taxpayer parcel and cost/resident. When we meet with providers we will determine if all are interpreting and responding to these questions in the same way. This is important for consistency of data comparison and analysis.

The outcome of this agenda discussion was that Bill and Dr. Heltne will draft the presentation format for review by all members at our next meeting. This will help us move toward identifying what our end product will be. Since we are aware that not all providers want to publically share their data, it will be important that we blind the data when reporting it. We are targeting May to complete our committee work.

8. Identify future agenda items—discussion and possible recommendation

Dr. Heltne would like more information on billing and how we capture our total revenues collected. Guy will send Chris Webb an e-mail asking her for this data. Bill asked that we try to get a 3rd year of Barnes data. We are sensitive to how challenging and time consuming this is but valuable to show which direction we are heading. Guy will e-mail Tom Renz on this issue.

9. Adjourn

We set our next meeting as **Monday, February 8th at 7 p.m.** as this is a better time for Tom Renz to meet with us. Agenda items will include the data collection format and entering data from providers as we receive their information, review of the presentation format to be used in the special town board meeting, and billing and revenue information. Motion made by Rose and seconded by Dr. Heltne to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 p.m. Motion carried.