Northwoods Emergency Medical Services District

Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 29th, 2025 at 10:00 AM

Presque Isle Town Hall

A quorum of Town Board members from each of the four member Towns may be present at this meeting. No official Town Board action will be taken by these members during their attendance at this meeting.

1. The Meeting was called to order by Phil Harris at 10:00 am and he verified that the Agenda had been posted appropriately.

   Those in attendance were:

   Board: John Hanson, Phil Harris, Steve Herzberg, and Daniell Wahlgren
   EMS Command Staff: Chief Jason Joling; Deputy Jessie Mable
   EMS Consultant: Dana Sechler
   Others in the audience and online: Al Eschenbauch; Cathy Logan-Weber; Jim Galloway; Julie Schimmelman; Kim Prott; User4965310; User DH; peg24; Chuck Hable; and Corky Curtis

2. Motion by Daniell Wahlgren, second by John Hanson to approve the Agenda as posted. Voice vote: All ayes, motion carried.

3. Motion by John Hanson, second by Steve Herzberg to approve the Minutes from the Board meeting on 2/4/25. Voice vote: All ayes, motion carried.

4. Report from the Operations Liaison:
   a. Steve Herzberg stated that as a start-up business, the District is doing very well.
      i. The Chief and Deputy have been working very hard with the staff and infrastructure.
      ii. The response time is within or better than the expected parameters.
      iii. There is a stable workforce. As the District is growing, more EMS providers want to work for and be a part of the District.
      iv. There is a progressive set of medical protocols.
      v. A new Medical Director has been brought on, and he will assist with continuing to build a great set of protocols.

vi. The percentage of 9-1-1 calls needing ALS / Paramedic interventions is much higher than anticipated / expected—in which it is making a huge difference with patient care, and the outcomes.

b. The Board needs to work on the issue of ambulance insurance, and is currently working on that. A question was asked from Kathy Weber, and Steve Herzberg clarified that the District should insure the ambulances, and identify the Towns are the co-insured. Additional discussion occurred on the purpose, replacement value, equipment, and type(s) of insurance that would be needed, and the Board members were in general agreement as to the intent of obtaining the insurance.

c. Steve requested that as the Board members determine tasks to be performed by the staff, that the Board members send those requested tasks through Steve Herzberg, to be delegated as the priority allows to do so.

5. Report from the Chief:
   a. Jason Joling stated that he has been involved in EMS for 30 years (working with different agencies) and he is impressed with the current District staff and their EMS experience, as well as the staff on the Fire Departments in the Towns.
   b. All four Towns are currently paying separate contracts for Oxygen. The plan is for the District to absorb all the O2 charges and fees, so that the Towns won't have that expense anymore.
   c. The District is in the process of moving to a new Medical Director, who is Dr. Schiller from Marshfield. He has experience with Paramedic level services, as well as flight / helicopter services. Just finished reviewing / approving the new set of medical protocols.
   d. The first monthly training session for the Volunteers took place. The plan is to host the free training sessions once a month for the staff.
   e. There have been 101 9-1-1 responses from the start of the District Ambulance in January to today. 81% of the patients live in the District. 74% of the patients benefited from ALS intervention that was provided by the District Ambulance.
   f. There will be construction on County W, typically on Mondays – Thursdays, during the daytime hours. There is concern with the ability for access to respond to emergencies. Jim Galloway offered a suggestion of negotiating the ability to have a one-way road available for emergencies. It might be appropriate for the Town Chairs to contact the County to figure out a solution that allows for emergency responses. Information will also be added to the District website regarding the progress of the construction, and potential alternative routes.
   g. Discussion occurred regarding the best form of communication between the NEMSD group, and which emails to use (personal vs. business). Phil Harris directed the Chief to set up an email group to include the four NEMSD Board

members, the four Town Chairs, the four Town Clerks, the Chief, the Deputy Chief, and the EMS Consultant.

6. Report from the President:
    a. Phil Harris expressed appreciation and compliments to the crews about how well they are doing. He gave an example of a 9-1-1 response and how ALS was provided quickly, and how it positively affected the citizen in the community. The patient was very grateful for the Services provided by NEMSD
    b. Would like to see a monthly report that includes the cash balance, outstanding bills, liabilities; upcoming expenses, projected incomes, and other statistical information. Those numbers will be helpful in determining the Budget for the next fiscal year.
    c. Clarification on Board meetings: The Bylaws state that a meeting needs to occur a minimum of once a quarter. That does not limit the Board from meeting more often, but the Board does need to meet at least once a quarter.

7. Report from the Treasurer:
    a. John Hanson stated that he continues to look for an accounting firm that can assist with the Financial reports to be prepared for the NEMSD Board. He would like for the financial information to be prepared in QuickBooks, which can then be used to provide a number of reports that is requested by the Board.
    b. The process for next year's Budget is that the initial work is to be performed stating in July. A DRAFT version will then be released in August, with the intent to have a final version adopted by the end of September. The ratified Budget will then be sent to the Towns for them to plan for their respective Budgets.

8. New Business:
    a. Discussion occurred on the process for Grant applications. Phil Harris suggested that a Grant sub-committee be established (to include Steve Herzberg as the Chair, John Hanson, Kathy Logan-Weber, and Jason Joling) to research and collect information for Grants that are viable and appropriate for the District the submit to.
        i. John Hanson clarified that he has applied for two grants through his Municipality (as Manitowish Waters).
        ii. The first Grant is for the DOR Innovative Planning Grant, which is due tomorrow (April 30th). That will then open up the process for the opportunity to participate in the larger DOR Innovation Grant that will be opening up later this summer.

iii. The second grant was due April 8th through Senator Baldwin's office for discretionary funding for up to $2 million to fund the building of the two proposed facilities.
iv. Additional discussion occurred regarding the process of submitting grants on behalf of NEMSD, as well as the grants that have currently been submitted for the District. Steve Herzberg brought up an article that was recently printed in the newspaper that "Northwoods EMS discusses the expansion of their District". Phil Harris also read from the Bylaws, regarding the current process of expansion for the District. Discussion occurred on scheduling a meeting to further discuss the newspaper article—and how to correct the information that was written in the article—including any suggested retractions. Discussion continued on the process to correct the information that was in the article. John Hanson will start the initial response, and then forward it to Steve Herzberg, who will then send it to the newspaper, as the District PIO.

b. Discussion occurred regarding setting up a sub-committee (to include Phil Harris, John Hanson, and Corky Curtis, as well as other interested parties) to gather information for the potential of two EMS stations and sites, to bring back to the Board for their review and discussion. Anyone interested in being on the committee, should let Phil know that they would like to be on the Committee. Appointments will be made at the next Board meeting.

The Board meeting was then adjourned by the President at 11:15 am.