

EMS System Oversight Committee Meeting

August 9, 2007

Members/Liaisons Present: Faye Barefoot, Tom Czaplinski, Jack Cote, David Lusk, Jimmy Garris, Jack White, Kyle Willis, Chuck Owens

Staff Present: JoAnne Burgdorff, Noel Lee, Scott Elliott, Melonie Bryan

Absent: Duane Holder, Ted Delbridge, MD; Juan March, MD

Open: David Lusk called the meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Garris made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Jack Cote seconded the motion. Agenda was approved.

Approval of minutes: Faye Barefoot made the motion to approve the minutes from July 26, 2007; Commissioner Garris seconded the motion. Minutes were approved as presented.

Old Business:

A. Mission Statement and Purpose: Scott Elliott reviewed the Mission and Purpose statements that were distributed at the last meeting. Scott reported he had only received one response back from the committee.

Kyle Willis reported that in one of the Special EMS Study Committee Meetings that Commissioner Ward said that the EMS Oversight Committee's duty would be budgetary oversight of the system.

Commissioner Garris reported that the duties of this committee are clearly spelled out in the Ordinance and the mission statement is generated straight from the ordinance.

Scott reported there is no need for the Mission statement to go to the Board of County Commissioners since it is generated from the ordinance and the ordinance has been approved by the Board.

Motion: Commissioner Garris made the motion to approve the Purpose and Mission Statement as stated below. Faye Barefoot seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Pitt County EMS Oversight Committee Purpose

The purpose of this committee is to provide oversight for both Emergency Medical Services Providers and Non-Emergency Ambulance Providers, under

criteria established in the Pitt County Emergency Medical Services Ordinance and EMS System Plan.

Mission Statement

It is our mission to review the Pitt County Emergency Medical Services Plan and to offer advice as to how that plan might be improved to provide services that improve system performance in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

B. Bell Arthur EMS Request: Melonie Bryan reported that she made a partial advance last Friday to Bell Arthur EMS so they could make payroll and will advance the rest of the monies tomorrow, August 10th. She also reported that she advanced Eastern Pines EMS enough money to cover payroll last Friday also and will disburse the remainder of the money tomorrow.

Eric Deans, Bell Arthur EMS Captain, requested to speak. He distributed handouts which included monthly budget reports for July, fiscal year 2006-2007 budget information, detailed expense report for July 2007 and a recap of the monies received from the county and expenses for the month of July. Eric reported that he got a line of credit from the bank to make sure Bell Arthur EMS was able to make payroll and now has the advance to pay back.

Discussion: Scott Elliott reported that the county has received 8 signed contracts, one contract changed the amount of the appropriation; therefore voiding the contract. It was noted that Bell Arthur EMS signed their contract in protest because they had to have the money to operate the squad.

Melonie reported that she has been contacted by 5 squads that are in the same situation as Bell Arthur. Her opinion is that the committee needs to look at the whole picture to see how many squads are in need of additional money because there is a limited amount of funds before any recommendation is made as far as disbursing additional funds to any squad. The pot of money in the contingency fund is approximately \$151,000. Melonie estimated the requests she has received so far total approximately \$130,000.

Melonie reported that in February last year during budget planning the appropriations for the squads were determined based on the amount of money available, not the previous year's appropriations. At that time the County was looking at making some system changes, etc. (i.e. changing some squads to QRV's.) When the Board of County Commissioners made the decision to contract with AmbuMed, NC the money that was saved was put back into the squads so that they would operate as before. The Board voted down the tax increase to help fund EMS services. Melonie reported that the Board voted to stop subsidizing EMS from the General Fund which amounted to \$750,000. The squads have to operate on the \$.04 tax and the revenues from billing which is \$3.2 mil.

Jack White reported that he has heard a rumor that the County was going to close down two squads. Scott Elliott responded that he did not foresee any changes this fiscal year.

Motion: Commissioner Garris made the motion to give Bell Arthur EMS another advance based on receipts showing need for the money not to exceed 1/12 of their allocation and Melonie will send out correspondence to the remaining squads requesting their anticipated budget shortfalls. Faye Barefoot seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

New Business

A. Previous EMSSTAR Group Consultant Proposal for Non-Emergency: Scott Elliott reported that in the packets there are two letters regarding EMSSTAR Group. County staff met with the group to informally discuss EMS matters earlier in the year. On March 22, 2007 EMSSTAR group submitted a proposal and statement of work to Pitt County. The cost of the study would be \$45,000 plus reasonable and usual travel and per diem expenses for two site visits to Pitt County. It was presented to the Board of Commissioners, but they did not want to pursue it at that time.

Scott reported that he has been contacted by one additional company who could provide this type of consulting service.

Discussion: Commissioner Garris reported that he believes there is money in the non-emergency business. At present there are four franchises in Pitt County and three more have been approved.

Kyle Willis responded that you have to spend money to get back money in the end; and it will take time to see a profit.

Motion: Commissioner Garris made the motion for the County Manager to respond to the company that has contacted him and ask them to submit a proposal to the committee. Tom Czaplinski seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Note: It was pointed out that Dr. Delbridge is a consultant with EMSSTAR Group.

B. EMS Questionnaire sent out to all Counties: Noel Lee reported that he has sent out an EMS questionnaire to all of the counties in the state requesting information regarding their emergency and non-emergency services. At present he has received twelve back and Helen is working on compiling the information. He will bring this to the September meeting for review.

Questions/Comments from Members:

Chuck Owens reported that he will not be able to attend the September meeting and requested to send someone in his place.

Adjournment

(Note: Next meeting September 13, 2007 in the EOC at 6:00pm)

Respectfully submitted,
Helen Bryant