

**EMS Oversight Committee Meeting**  
**MINUTES**  
**March 12, 2020**  
**6:00 P.M.**  
**EOC Conference Room**

**Present:** Charles Mayo, Kiplan Clemmons, Jo Morgan, Dr. Portela, MeKenzie Newkirk, Michael Brown, George Bell, Brian Barnett, Jordan Smith, Brandon Locklear, Scott Elliott, Helen Bryant, John Silvernail, MD, Randy Gentry, Jim McArthur

**Opening:** Michael Brown, Chair, called the meeting to order.

**Prayer:** Charles Mayo gave the prayer.

**Pledge:** Jim McArthur led the

committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes:** Dr. Portela made the motion to approve the minutes as presented; Kip Clemmons seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Approval of Agenda:** Jim McArthur made the motion to approve the agenda with the change of moving "Items for Decision" before #5 "Items for Report"; Kiplan Clemmons seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**EMS Squads Comments to the EMS-OC** No one signed up to speak

**Meeting Schedule:** Dr. Brown reported that the revised ordinance passed. One of the changes includes meeting four (4) times a year.

Dr. Brown recommended the next two meeting dates be May and September and at the September meeting, the committee will decide the meeting schedule for 2021.

**Motion:** Dr. Portela made the motion to set the next two meeting dates for May and September; and at the September meeting, the committee will set the meeting schedule for 2021; Jo Morgan seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Items for Decision**

- 2020-2021 EMS Proposed Budget-Brian Barnett (handouts were distributed of the EMS Budget presentation)  
Brian reported that 2020 is a revaluation year for Pitt County. He reported transport revenues have been trending down since 2018.

Michael Brown inquired as to the reason for the down fall in revenues.

Jim McArthur reported CMS has reduced the rate at which they are paying.

There has been an increase in self pay and decrease Medicare reimbursements.

Staff is looking at measures to put in place to be more aggressive in collections.

There is an issue with signatures in billing. This has been a problem in the past and is still occurring to some degree. Jim reported that Pitt County has recently changed to EMS Charts and this will give the county more ability to track incomplete charts.

Scott Elliott reported that normally in a revaluation year, the county likes to stay revenue neutral.

Brian Barnett presented four (4) Options for the EMS Budget (attached).

Dr. Portela reported the EMS Fund has not had a tax increase in eight (8) years.

Motion: Dr. Portela made the motion to recommend Option #4 which will increase the tax rate to \$.062 per \$100; reduces transport revenue by \$200,000; reduces capital outlay to \$225,000; includes Simpson peak time unit and community paramedic program; maintains non-profit squads' funding at current year levels; and builds back EMS Fund Balance. Charles Mayo seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **Items for Report:**

- Medical Director's Report – Dr. Roberto Portela reported that there were 155 cases of Cardiac Arrest in Pitt County in 2019. Out of the one hundred fifty-five (155), twenty four (24) were survivors. The survival rate for Pitt County is 16.8%, down from 2018, but still above average. Dr. Portela reported that EMS has implemented measures for 911 calls that meet the pandemic protocol. If the patient falls in the “at risk” category, a call will be made to alert first responders before they arrive at hospital.
- Public Health Director's Report-Dr. John Silvernail reported that he is glad to be a part of the Board. He reported there are no confirmed cases of corona virus in Pitt County at this time.  
Scott Elliott reported that Pitt County has a COVID-19 webpage. On Fridays at 1:00 there is a conference call to municipalities and chambers.  
Kiplan Clemmons reported that nursing homes are restricting visitation.
- EMS/Rescue Association Report – George Bell reported that the association met in Farmville. He reported since the implementation of the new patient care reporting system, some reports are not being entered yet. Dr. Portela reported squads have gotten better. There has been a “Close Call rule” set up for signatures. George reported most squads reported they like EMS Charts.
- Greenville Fire & Rescue Report – Brandon Locklear reported EMS 9 will go into service this week. It will run calls Monday through Friday 9:00 am – 6:00 pm.
- Non-Emergency Report –Jeff White not present.
- PCC EMS Training Report – Mekenzie Newkirk reported ALS Skills will be offered in April. She reported Continuing Education is asking for a Letter of Support from the Rescue Association and the EMS Oversight Committee for the 2 year degree Paramedic Program.

Motion: MeKenzie Newkirk made the motion for the Rescue Association and the EMS Oversight Committee to send a Letter of Support to PCC in support of the Paramedic Program Associate Degree; Dr. Portela seconded the motion.

Motion passed.

MeKenzie reported that PCC is going to extend Spring Break to March 22 and then re-evaluate. On April 3, PCC will go to online classes.

- EM Director Report – Randy Gentry reported the Sit Rep reports will begin tomorrow. The report will be sent out daily by 9:00 a.m. The Automatic Vehicle Locators (AVLs) were launched January 13. On day sixty (60), adjustments were made based on feedback from the squads. They are working on adding speed limits to the determination of what squad to send. Randy reported he will give a ninety (90) day report at the next meeting.
- EMS Coordinator Report - Jim McArthur reported EMS has experienced more changes in the last three months. He reported, with EMS Charts, the county can see the charts in real time. At this time there are 60-90 charts that are not in the system. EMS Charts went live on February 18. He reported he will be working with Finance as Pitt County moves towards a new billing system. There is an eleven week (11) implementation timeframe.

Brian Barnett reported that Finance is looking at a new avenue of forced collections with Legal department. He reported by June 30, the EMS Fund will be depleted.

#### **Questions/Comments from EMS-OC Members**

George Bell reported the Martin Marietta Rock Quarry will have Fire/Rescue/EMS Training on March 28. If interested, meet at Fountain EMS Department at 8:30 am that morning.

#### **Adjournment:**

Dr. Portela made the motion to adjourn, Charles Mayo seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

**Note: Next regular scheduled meeting of EMS Oversight Committee, May 14, 2020 (Mtg Cancelled) at 6:00 P.M. in the EOC**