

**EMS Oversight Committee Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**March 14, 2019**  
**6:00 P.M.**  
**EOC Conference Room**

**Present:** Charles Mayo, Kiplan Clemmons, Jo Morgan, Dr. Portela, Jack Cote, Commissioner Ann Floyd Huggins, Michael Brown, George Bell, Brian Barnett, Jordan Smith, Ken Denton, Helen Bryant, and Jimmy Hodges

**Excused:** Gary Whitehurst

**Opening:** Dr. Michael Brown called the meeting to order.

**Prayer:** Charles Mayo gave the prayer. **Pledge:** Dr. Brown led the group in the pledge.

**Approval of Minutes:** Jim McArthur made the motion to approve the minutes of January 9, 2019 as presented; George Bell seconded the motion. Motion approved.

**Approval of Agenda:** Jim McArthur requested to add Ambucare (application for non-emergency franchise) to Items for Decision on the agenda.

**Motion:** Jim McArthur made the motion to approve the agenda with the above addition; Charles Mayo seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**EMS Squads Comments to the EMS-OC:** Bryant Beddard with City of Greenville signed up to speak. His comments were deferred to the Items for Decision regarding AVL Technology Upgrade.

**Items for Report:**

Medical Director – Dr. Roberto Portela reported that in 2018, the survival rate for cardiac arrest patients is 16.5% (26 patients walked out of hospital last year) for Pitt County which is above the State and National average. Average depth and average rate of CPR get better results. The better CPR is done by the numbers the better the chances of the person has of going home. He reported that the reason CPR is done on the scene is when compressions stop the blood pressure stops. The same procedure is done on the scene as will be done in the Emergency Department. The Pitt Crew Procedure is to run the code for 45 minutes. At this time hybrid CPR is the norm not the mechanical CPR.

Emergency Triage, Treatment & Transport (ET3) is a pilot program that is coming online in the next 1-2 years by CMS (Medicare). It is a change in how ems will be paid. They are looking at paying for treat no transport in alternate locations, telemedicine, etc. The application period is summer 2019. There will be three rounds of bid awards.

EMS/Rescue Association – George Bell reported the Rescue Association supports Dr. Portela's presentation. He reported that in the last 10 years, there have been significant improvements in the survival rate for cardiac arrests in Pitt County.

Greenville Fire & Rescue – Ken Denton-No Report

Non-Emergency – Gary Whitehurst -Not present.

PCC EMS Training – Jack Cote reported that on 2-25 PCC held specialized training at Pitt Greenville Airport at their request to follow up on the shooting that occurred at the airport. There was a three part training, active shooter doctrine, Run, Fight, Hide; Stop the Bleed, and blood borne pathogen awareness training. Fire Academy 12 started this week and will run through late July. EMT Class had 100% pass rate the first time for the students that completed the class; only 40% of the class completed the class. Jack reported he is pleased with the outcome of the class. The academic requirement for passing the class is 80%. There will be changes to the Fall EMT course due to changes from OEMS. The course will go from 214 hours to 240 hours and double field time for the course. Jim McArthur reported he feels the move to more hours for the EMT course is a good thing.

Jack reported that OEMS Rule changes will be open to public comment period on March 28 at Fulford 153 at 1:00 pm and one at 7:00 pm.

Dr. Portela introduced Lee Patterson, Interim Chair of the Emergency Department at Vidant.

EMS Coordinator Report - Jim McArthur reported the Airport Drill will be March 21. The Emergency Management Director's position will close on March 22.

Financial Report: Brian Barnett distributed the proposed EMS budget for FY2019-2020 to the committee. It is the recommendation of the county that the squads' appropriations remains the same as last year, and keep the tax rate at 4.6%. The fund balance is a concern as we will have to pull from the fund balance to balance the budget. Jim McArthur reported that the rationale last year was that there was an additional \$200,000 in revenue that had not been billed due to left off signatures, high rate of returns on mailed forms, and the need to have patients to sign on Toughbook.

**Motion:** Dr. Portela made the motion to recommend to the county commissioners the EMS budget as presented by Brian Barnett, George Bell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **Items for Decision**

AVL Technology Upgrade: Dr. Portela reported that AVL technology will allow for the management of ems units. Safety issue is a very important part for the ems workers. Dispatchers will be able to send the closest unit to calls which increases patient care. Jo Morgan expressed concern as to why the county does not have AVL technology. Charles Mayo asked if any of the squads are resistant to having the technology. Kip Clemmons asked if having the AVL technology will change how calls are dispatched in the county.

Jimmy Hodges responded there are numerous options on how dispatching can be done with the AVL technology.

Bryant Beddard, Fire Marshal, City of Greenville, reported that GFR is supportive of AVL technology but do not see it as being in the best interest for the city. At present GFR sends four (4) units to an incident. The negative ramification for the city would be going out into the county on calls will cost the City of Greenville money.

Jim McArthur reported that on the operational side, the county has one EMS system and the AVL technology will increase efficiency. The cost to the county for the technology will be \$130,000. The money for the project is available in the current budget.

Kiplan Clemmons asked if staff is asking the committee to approve the model.

Dr. Brown responded that the money is in the budget so the committee does not need to approve the purchase.

**Motion:** Dr. Portela made the motion to support moving forward with the AVL technology project, Charles Mayo seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Discussion:

Jim McArthur reported that response plans will be set up to meet the needs of GFR and county squads. Kiplan Clemmons asked if the AVL technology includes the City of Greenville. Jim McArthur reported that the software will be there but this purchase does not include equipment for the city.

Winterville EMS Stretcher Payment: Rick Britt, Chief, Winterville EMS, has requested \$10,998.87 toward the payment for the stretcher. This will fulfill the county's obligation to the grant match previously approved by the committee.

**Motion:** Jack cote made the motion to approve \$10,998.87 to Winterville EMS toward the stretcher purchase, Dr. Portela seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Non-Emergency Franchise Request: Jim McArthur reported that Ambucare Medical Transport has requested a franchise for Pitt County. The business is an offshoot of Mary's Transportation. Jim reported he has reviewed their application and there are some items they are deficient, but not something that can't be corrected.

**Motion:** Jim McArthur made the motion to recommend to the county commissioners to approve the franchise application from Ambucare Medical Transport, Kiplan Clemmons seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Discussion: Jim reported that once the application is complete it will be put on the agenda for the commissioners' meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Bryant

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

**Note: Next regular scheduled meeting of EMS Oversight Committee,  
May 09, 2019 at 6:00 P.M. in the EOC**