

# Rusk County Emergency Services

## Minutes

March 9, 2022

**Present:** Schneider, Stout, Pedersen, Schmitt, Dobrowolski

**Others Present:** Jeff Wallace, George Murray, Jim Rassbach, Andy Albarado, Miranda Kron, Jerilea Hendricks, Tom Hall (via BlueJeans)

### Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Schmitt at 8:00am

### Approval of the Minutes

Motion by Pedersen, second by Dobrowolski to approve minutes from February 9, 2022 committee meeting as prepared. Motion carried.

### Rusk County Emergency Management/Ambulance Director presentation

- LEPC meeting 03/18/2022
- New ambulance to arrive approximately 04/01/2022
- Andy discussed the rental house for EMS staff to utilize during night shifts; located at 520 Miner Ave. The county would sign a 1yr lease for the space for approximately \$13,000.00 per year (rent + utilities). Plan for lease start date is 05/01/2022. Minor improvements to be made to the house; new shower will be placed by the landlord, entrances will be fixed/altered as needed by the county. Motion by Dobrowolski, second by Pedersen to begin the lease on 05/01/2022 and approve the expense of \$6,000.00 for furnishing the house. Motion carried.
- Request from the Finance department to increase write-off percentage from 49.2% to 50%. Motion by Schneider, second by Dobrowolski to increase the write-off percentage. Motion carried.
- Advertised for 5 openings for the EMT position; received 5 applications. Set AD HOC committee and a date for 03/23/2022. Andy will establish a time for interviews and contact the committee members.
- Training Requests: none
- Motion by Stout, second by Pedersen to approve payment approval report. Motion carried.
- Budget Review: Grant dollars have been received and budget is balanced.

### Rusk County Medical Examiner presentation

- Monthly Death Statistics – “pending” report is down 3 as the toxicology reports came back
- Training Request: none
- Decedent Cot has a confirmed delivery date of November 22, 2022
- Replacement AWD van has been deferred until state 2022 offering is available
- Position opening for Deputy ME; have advertised in the past, but cancelled interviews due to lack of applications. Existing Deputy ME is resigning and will be done the end of April. Ideally will hire 2 Deputies.
- EC Storage – still in use, but shouldn't be necessary much longer
- Reviewed ME fees; currently a freeze by the state for what the county can charge for death certificates, cremations, etc. Until the freeze is lifted by the state, there isn't anything the county can do about costs.
- Discussion held regarding the compensation for Deputy ME who was subpoenaed for a Rusk County case, although they are no longer employed by Rusk County. The discussion was held and resolved at the Personnel Meeting 03/03/2022

- Motion by Dobrowolski, second by Schneider to approve payment approval report. Motion carried.
- Budget Review: budget is on track

### **Rusk County Sheriff presentation**

- Reviewed monthly report; the out of county inmate who's housing was billable has been released, so the remaining 2 being housed out of county are at no charge to Rusk
- Training Request: Jones 03/24-03/25 Court Safety/Security Conference; Engel 04/03-04/04 Pro-Active Patrol Tactics; Kummert & K9 Kona 04/08-04/09 K9 Trials; Duchnowski & Rohe 05/08-05/11 WISPCOM Conference; Kummert & K9 Kona 06/05-06/07 PD1 Trials. Motion by Stout, second by Schneider to approve training requests. Motion carried.
- Motion by Dobrowolski, second by Schneider to approve payment approval report. Motion carried.
- Budget Review: budget is on track; waiting for some grant dollars to come in
- Tower move update: George has been in contact with AT&T about the possibility of using their tower south of Sheldon. Rusk is currently in the application process with AT&T. After receiving a cost estimate from AT&T, there will also be cost comparisons for other options to determine the best fit for the project. George will research and confirm if the tower in question is located in Chippewa County or Rusk County.
- Separation of Jail/Dispatch: Request to start the process of moving forward with separating the jail/dispatch in the hopes to help with retention of current employees as well as receiving more applications for position openings. The department will need 5 additional employees; cost estimate is \$400,000.00 (wages + fringes). Sheriff Wallace is requesting to have an AD HOC committee established to specifically work towards this project; ideally this would be completed in 2022. Motion by Schneider, second by Stout to bring the item to the County Board and have an open discussion for any members to be part of the AD HOC committee. Motion carried.
- AD HOC Interviewing committee established and interviews for the current Jail/Dispatch opening will be held 03/23/2022. Andy will establish a time and contact committee members.

### **Next Meeting Date**

April 13, 2022 at 8:00am

### **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn at 9:03am