

Rusk County Emergency Services
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 13, 2021 - 8:00 AM

Present: Schmitt, Schneider, Stout, Pedersen, and Stricklen. Absent: Dobrowolski.
Others present: Sheriff Wallace, Tom Hall, Jim Rassbach and Jerilea Hendrick.

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Schmitt at 8:00 AM.
2. Schneider/Stout motion to approve the September 8, 2021 meeting minutes, motion carried.
3. Rusk County Emergency Management/Ambulance Director presentation
 - a. Tom Hall presented the Monthly EMA/Ambulance report which included EMA/AMB, training, meetings and end of year stats. As of 10/7/21, 250 is down awaiting brake parts and 254 has been repaired but is now at highway shop for possible drive train issues. The semi-annual inspections covered Sheldon, which needs rear brakes; Bruce, needs rear door latch; and Ladysmith (new) passed. When 250 and 254 are fixed they will be inspected also.
 - b. Training request – Hall requested to attend EM WEMA conference in Stevens Point 10/19-21/21. Stout/Pedersen motion to approve training, motion carried.
 - c. Payment of bills – \$246,399.42 dated 10/6/21. Schneider/Pedersen motion to approve payment approval report, motion carried.
 - d. Collections – starting different process on payments. Hall will work with Finance.
 - e. Community involvement – Have had one meeting in Hawkins with community leaders and another meeting with interested persons. Hoping to have meeting on west end of county and start classes next semester.
 - f. Write-offs - none
 - g. 2021 Budget review – grant revenue due from FEMA.
4. Rusk County Medical Examiner presentation
 - a. Monthly report – Rassbach presented the September monthly report. There were 11 natural deaths, 0 accidental death, 1 suicide, 0 homicide, 0 autopsy, 1 overdose, 1 organ referral recovery, 3 Covid/Covid+, 8 cremations, 4 Traditional, 0 vital records and 3 pending. Rassbach has instructed his DME and CDME to not track payroll by the minute. The DME transport applicant has been hired. Discussion on ME van replacement, and the costs of retaining a body until DA approves the release of investigation.
 - Rassbach requested to purchase a new cot to replace the 20 plus year-old cot which is worn out. Estimated cost of \$3500 - \$4000. Stout/Pedersen motion to move request to Property for 2022 delivery, motion carried.
 - The ME vehicle needs to replace the wide-band radio with a narrow-band radio. Stout/Pedersen motion to move ahead with the radio purchase, motion carried.
 - Rassbach requested to purchase a scene light to help take photos at the scene. Approximate cost is \$675 each. Schneider/Stout motion to purchase 1 scene light in 2021 and 1 in 2022, motion carried.
 - b. Training request – none.
 - c. Payment of bills – \$5,344.92 dated 10/6/21 – Schneider/Pedersen motion to approve the Payment Approval Report, motion carried.
 - d. 2021 Budget review - autopsy expenses over budget.

5. Rusk County Sheriff presentation
 - a. Monthly report – Sheriff Wallace presented the September monthly reports which included inmate population, training, meetings, calls for service, inmate housing A/R and overtime. Average daily inmate population was 38 in September and average daily EMP was 0. The average daily number of inmates housed out of county was 3 (at cost to RUSO).
 - b. Training requests – Grassmann 11/1-5/21 Command College in Ft. McCoy. Stout/Pedersen motion to approve requested training, motion carried.
 - c. Payment of bills –\$200,309.16 dated 10/6/21 – Pedersen/Schneider motion to approve payment approval report, motion carried.
 - d. 2021 budget review – reviewed.
 - e. Reserve Program/Wage rate – Wallace advised there is some interest in the reserve program for the dispatch/jail. Wallace requesting to set the wage at \$20 hour. Schneider/Pedersen motion to forward the request to Personnel, motion carried.
 - f. Drone purchase – Sheriff Wallace requesting to purchase a drone for search & rescue and investigations. Two options are #1 – 1 drone \$7273.99 plus 2-day training additional \$8,000, total \$15,273.99 or Option #2 – 2 drones including licensing and 1-day training for \$15,025.98. The Barron County Sheriff would go half on this purchase for 1 of the drones and training for his department, being a cost savings for both offices. Both drones come with dual optics and thermal cameras. Forestry has a drone and Land & Water is searching for a grant to purchase one. Schneider/Stout motion to look at purchasing the two for \$15,025.98 looking for 2nd department and move request to property, motion carried.
 - g. Office Coordinator position – Sheriff Wallace requested to start the application process and hire by January 1, 2022 for the replacement of Flater upon retirement.
6. The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 8:00 AM.
7. Schneider/Pedersen motion to adjourn at 9:54 AM, motion carried.