

**BERKELEY COUNTY EMERGENCY AMBULANCE AUTHORITY**

**MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2019**

**Members Present**

Sandy Hamilton  
David Irvin  
Nic Diehl  
John Taylor  
Doug Copenhaver  
Bill Polk

**Employees Present**

Brian Costello  
Carla Robinson  
Joy Shreck  
Ed Brown  
Ryan Barry  
Chad Winebrenner  
Brian Grim  
Alex Dulyea  
Chris Fincham  
Andrew Hoffmann  
Sam Miller  
Travis Fournier  
Tara Bartley  
Madison Draper  
Michael Barrett  
Jesse Helmstetter  
Gary Harmison  
Amy Masser

**Visitors Present**

**Members Not Present**

Mike McGinnis

David Irvin gave the Opening Prayer.

David Irvin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

David Irvin called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda**

**Action Taken**

Doug Copenhaver moved to approve the agenda changing Unfinished Business as the first course of action. There was a second to the motion.

Vote: Ayes, Unanimous.

Motion Carried.

### **Approval of Minutes**

#### **Action Taken**

Sandy Hamilton moved to approve the Minutes of August 22, 2019 meeting. There was a second to the motion.

Vote: Ayes, Unanimous.

Motion Carried.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **-Family Insurance Coverage (Discussion/Action)\***

#### **Action Taken**

Irvin explained that McGinnis' motion would be to accept the County insurance package of \$8,103.00 per employee and to grandfather those employees who are currently receiving a 50% reduction for their family insurance with a 5 year limit.

Discussion to the motion

Copenhaver feels that we should commit to our employees and not have a phase out period for the family insurance and to mimic the County's plan for new hires.

Taylor, Diehl and Polk feel it is a good financial decision to leave our insurance the same to help retention and hiring new employees. Taylor feels that the board should respect and take the advise of the Director.

Hamilton is in favor of modeling the Counties plan for those who waive in the amount of \$4,000.00, and to pay the 50% healthcare for those who have family insurance and to continue that for new hires as well.

Irvin was in favor of agreeing with McGinnis' proposal.

McGinnis' proposal does not move forward.

#### **Action Taken**

Hamilton amended the motion to model the County in paying \$4,000.00 for those who waive health care coverage to take effect 7/1/2020 and continue to offer 50%

reduction of health care premium for those who chose family coverage without a phase out period. There was a second to the motion.

Vote: Ayes, Unanimous.

Motion Carried.

At this time Copenhaver left the meeting.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

## **EMPLOYEE COMMENTS**

Michael Barrett and Chris Fincham thanked the board for their decision to continue the 50% reduction for family insurance premiums.

Costello expressed his appreciation to Taylor for his comments and feels there decision to keep the 50% reduction for family health care will help the company retain existing employees and continue to hire qualified people.

## **REPORTS**

### **-President**

Irvin had no report at this time.

### **-EMS Director**

#### **-Financials**

Costello went over the financial reports with the board. He advised that the Ambulance Fee recovery went up almost 5% over last year. Costello advised that Direct Billing collections is down about 18%. Robinson directed comments to the board that attributes as to why there is a decrease in collections for transports. Robinson advised that we are waiting on payment from the VAMC in the amount of \$31,000.00, holding \$32,000.00 for people to pay their yearly fees, collections since September 10<sup>th</sup> that is not reported on the financial reports is \$151,000.00 and the difference between July & August 2018 and 2019 transports is 19 trips less.

### **-Field Chief**

Winebrenner advised the calls for FY 18-19 were 9713 responses and 6694 transports and for August 2019 were 804 responses and 581 transports. Winebrenner continued that FY 19-20 there has been 1600 responses and 1136 transports. Winebrenner discussed the report he furnished to the board of calls per location. The Board discussed the new unit starting October 1, 2019.

## **COMMITTEES**

### **-Finance Committee – David Irvin**

Irvin reported that there were no current meetings.

### **-Equipment Committee – Brinton Byers**

Polk advised that they had a meeting today and they are planning on doing site visits.

### **-Facilities Acquisition Committee – John Taylor**

Taylor advised that there is no current information.

### **-Ad Hoc Committee on Human Resources- Sandy Hamilton**

Hamilton reported that they had not met.

### **-Grant Writing Committee – EMS Director**

Costello advised that there was nothing on the grants at this time.

## **RESCUE CHIEFS**

### **-Company 30 Hedgesville VFD – Chief Nichols**

Chief Nichols was not present.

### **-Company 50 Back Creek Valley VFD – Lieutenant Randy Lily**

Lieutenant Randy Lily was not present.

### **-County Fire Department – Director Gochenour**

Director Gochenour was not present.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **-Exonerations\***

There were a total of 27 exonerations requests submitted for approval.

#### **Action Taken**

Nic Diehl moved to authorize the President to recommend to the County Council approval of 27 exonerations in the amount of \$1,550.00. There was a second to the motion.

Vote: Ayes, Unanimous.  
Motion Carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Executive Session was not needed.

**OPEN COMMENTS**

**-BCEAA Board of Directors**

Hamilton thanked the employees.

Costello advised the BCEAA Christmas Party on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at Heritage Hall.

**-Donations to the Sunshine Fund**

There was nothing collected for the Sunshine Fund.

**ADJOURNMENT**


**Action Taken**

Sandy Hamilton moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:54 p.m. There was a second to the motion.

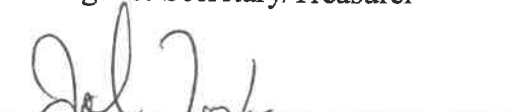
Vote: Ayes, Unanimous.  
Motion Carried.

The next meeting of the Berkeley County Emergency Ambulance Authority is scheduled for **Thursday, October 24, 2019 at 5:00 pm** at 400 W. Stephen St, Suite 205, Martinsburg, WV 25401.

Respectfully Submitted and Approved,

  
Carla Robinson – Business Operations  
Manager & Secretary/Treasurer

10/24/19  
Date

  
John Taylor – Board of Director

10/24/19  
Date