

GRAND LEDGE AREA EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY

300 NORTH CLINTON ST. GRAND LEDGE, MI 48837

REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD

MARCH 16, 2020

AT 6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL OF AUTHORITY BOARD – PRESENT: CHAIRMAN LANTZ, SECRETARY CAMPBELL, TREASURER SCHULTZ, CHIEF VANDE CASTEELE, MEMBER WILLIAMS.

EXCUSED: MEMBER SOWLE.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT - There was none.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – A motion was made by Mrs. Schultz and supported by Mr. Campbell to approve the Consent Agenda including:

- A. February 17,2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.
- B. February 17, 2020 Closed Session Authority Board Minutes

Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA – A motion was made by Mr. Williams and supported by Mr. Campbell to approve the Regular Agenda. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS

TRUCK /EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT COMMITTEE, The Chief is looking at whether to replace ambulance 152 or refurbish it.

BUILDING COMMITTEE – The Chief is looking at demographics as far as where most of the runs take place and He will be working with dispatch to determine the heaviest amount of runs per area over a period of time. He is also working on getting someone in to evaluate the existing building.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – no report

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – will address the Board in closed session.

PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE- no report.

FIRE CHIEF STAFF REPORTS- calls for service EMS for the month of February were 162. Fire Calls for service were 57.

Chief VandeCasteels reported that \$136,437.48 had been billed through Medical Management and \$59,233.45 had been collected. For the month of February 2020.

Chief VandeCastele updated the Board on the Covid-19 activities within the Department and the area. He has ordered on the first case in the area on March 10, the closing of schools on March 12, and the total number of cases in Michigan. He also told the Board about precautions being taken such as one paramedic entering a residence and additional safety equipment such as masks and jump suits and wrap suits for protection and safety. He noted that they will have an evaluator to assist in determining the care for possible Covid-19 patients. He noted that there are many things to be considered in the care and transporting of patients and that they would be wrapping the ambulances with heavy plastic to keep them from contamination. They will be working to keep themselves and the equipment decontaminated. He noted that the hospitals have set up tents to keep covid-19 patients quarantined.

Chief VandeCastele said Michigan can only do 155 tests for Covid-19 per day. He also noted that protective equipment is in short supply. He said they can use bleach for decontamination. And that the tieback suits will be bagged and tagged if there is any danger of contamination.

He discussed the tiered response policy with Grand Ledge, Delta, Windsor and Lansing Township and noted that an evaluator will decide if a patient can stay at home. He also discussed the fact that they can use a basic ambulance for response which will allow more ambulance to be available. Chairman Lantz asked how the employees were doing. Chief VandeCastele said they are scared. The Backing of the Badge Program is helping. He said it is probably just a matter of time until someone gets a case of the virus. There is a worry about part time people if they get it and are unable to work at their jobs, they will need financial help.

Chairman Lantz said that if Chief VandeCastele needed any help from the Board to feel free to call on him and he would call a Special Meeting of do what ever was necessary.

RADIO UPDATE – Chief VandeCastele had met with the County and they are going to work with the Authority on the Radio problem. If a tower is needed, they will put it up and the cost could be a million dollars. The State Police tower is only at ½ power and that will be investigated. When it is fixed it might help with the situation. Chief said it was a positive meeting. They are happy to do the testing and an easy fix for the schools is BDI units.

Chief VandeCastele noted that the Department had participated in the St. Patrick's Day Activities. And he welcomed back Captain Driver who had been off on sick leave.

OLD BUSINESS- there was none.

NEW BUSINESS – A. Bills of February 28th and March 8, 2020 were approved for payment in a Motion made by Mr. Campbell and supported by Mrs. Schultz. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS – B. 2020-2021 Comparison Budget Report was reviewed as was the Draft Admin/Operations Budget for 2020 and 2021. Chief noted a significant increase in payroll and payroll taxes due to the up coming Contract. He noted that he needed to come up with \$86,326.18 to make the Budget balance.

Public Comment – Captain Driver said he was glad to be back.

Comments and Questions from the Board and the Chief. Mr. Williams asked about progress on getting a Public Relations Firm to help with the Millage Election. Chief VandeCastele said he had not received

information back from the ones he had contacted. He will be re-contacting them. He also noted that the Covid-19 Situation will require extra time for him.

Chairman Lantz said that the Board needed to go to Closed Session to discuss the Labor Contract. Motion to move to Closed Session was made by Mr. Williams and supported by Mr. Campbell. Roll Call Vote: Aye, Mr. Williams, Mr. Campbell, Mrs. Schultz, Chairman Lantz. Nay: None. Motion Carried.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m. by Chairman Lantz

APPROVAL:



Rick Lantz, Chairman

5/2/2020



Tom Campbell, Secretary

APR 30, 2020

