



MINUTES

COUNTY OF ROCKWALL EMERGENCY SERVICES CORPORATION

March 31, 2005 5:00 p.m. - Regular Board Meeting

ROCKWALL HISTORIC COURTHOUSE 101 EAST RUSK ROCKWALL, TEXAS 75087

Board Members Present:

Bruce Beaty
Bill Cecil
Ken Jones
Rob McCoy
John Ratcliffe
Cindy Rushing
Scott Self

Board Members Absent:

Wanda Cooper
Steve Hatfield
George McCain

General Board Meeting

1. Call to order

Bruce Beaty called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

2. Discuss and consider approval of the minutes from the January 13, 2005 ESC Board Meeting.

* Scott Self made a motion to approve the minutes. ** Ken Jones seconded the motion, and it ***passed unanimously.

3. Hear update regarding each city's appointment to the countywide Emergency Management Committee.

Each city gave a brief report on who their city would appoint to serve on this committee.

4. Hear update regarding each city's adoption of the Tier I and Tier II Mutual Aid Agreements.

Kristy Ashberry, Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Rockwall, informed the board that the Tier I Mutual Aid Agreements between each of the cities in Rockwall County and Rockwall County itself have been signed by all entities except for the City of Fate and Rockwall County. However, she explained that it is on the agenda for consideration at the next Commissioner's Court meeting.

The Tier II Agreement between Rockwall County and all surrounding counties has not yet been addressed. Ashberry explained that once the Tier I Agreement was signed by all entities, she and the County Emergency Management Coordinator would begin work to address the adoption of the Tier II Mutual Aid Agreements.

Chief Larry Wright of the Rowlett Fire Department briefly spoke about a proposed piece of mutual aid legislation that is currently being proposed at the State level. He felt confident that this particular legislation would indeed pass and be approved by Governor Perry in the near future. If approved, this piece of legislation would in essence replace the Tier I and Tier II Agreements since it would provide for a statewide system of mutual aid. If passed, all cities would be part of this mutual aid unless it opted out. A city would automatically be part of the statewide mutual aid if it requested or rendered mutual aid to another jurisdiction in the State of Texas.

Ashberry and Wright further explained that it is still a good idea to go ahead and proceed with the adoption of the Tier I and Tier II Mutual Aid agreements that the County is working on because the proposed legislation is obviously not approved yet, and there is always a chance that it will not pass and become law.

5. Other business

6. Adjournment

Commissioner Beaty recessed the General Board meeting and called the Special Services Board Meeting to order at 5:29 p.m.

Beaty called the General Board meeting back to order at 6:24 p.m. * Scott Self made a motion to adjourn the General Board meeting. ** Bill Cecil seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Special Services Board Meeting

1. Call to order

Beaty called the Special Services Board Meeting to order at 5:29 p.m.

2. Hear update from Medic Rescue regarding contract compliance and reports and take any action necessary.

Mitch Ownby, co-owner of Medic Rescue, provided an update to the board regarding contract-related compliance and reporting issues. Ownby stated that he did go back and add collection rate information to the past and current monthly reports. He also mentioned that a State of Texas inspector recently performed an unannounced, surprise inspection, and everything was fine. Ownby informed the board that Medic Rescue utilizes the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) and submits EMS trauma-related information to the State EMS Trauma Registry about once a month. A brief discussion ensued concerning the preference of the board in regards to the format of monthly response time reports. Board members indicated that they would in fact like to see monthly response times broken up and reported by city. Beaty asked if Medic Rescue is still doing its own collections "in house." Ownby indicated that, yes, collections are still performed in house. Ownby then briefly summarized each of the monthly reports. He indicated that all of his employees had completed training on ventilators in February. This allowed their Medical Director to approve the transport of more critical patients who require ventilators. Ownby indicated that their Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System will probably be purchased by the end of the week and that actual implementation of the system will depend on the vendor's schedule for installation. He estimated that it would likely be about three to four months before the CAD System can be completely up and running, but he was unable to provide a firm date. Ownby also discussed some mutual aid concerns with the board. Beaty suggested that a follow-up meeting be held to explore mutual aid-related issues and how they may affect EMS. George McCain suggested that the board wait until after the State legislative session is finished before exploring the mutual aid concerns. Any mutual aid concerns might work themselves out if the proposed mutual aid bill passes. In general, board members agreed to revisit EMS-related mutual aid issues in June. Ownby indicated that he would like to be granted permission from the Board to enter into a mutual aid agreement with the Rowlett Fire Department. Members of the board indicated that they were fine with Medic Rescue doing so. Ownby indicated that he is able to provide the Corporation with existing copies of Medic Rescue's various insurance policies. He also stated that their Drug Free Workplace Policy was included in board member packets. Ownby further stated that Tim Wolf, co-owner of Medic Rescue, is currently investigating IRS-related issues with Krowder, Medic Rescue's accountant. Board member Scott Self asked if Medic Rescue is currently making IRS payments to reduce the debt they owe. Ownby indicated that, yes, they are making payments.

3. Discuss use of opticom emitters with Medic Rescue and take any action necessary.

Mitch Ownby of Medic Rescue explained to the Board that use of opticom emitters on their ambulances and supervisor vehicles will enable them to respond more quickly to emergency calls. Ownby indicated that equipment and installation of each unit would cost approximately \$1,200 per vehicle, bringing the total estimated cost to about \$9,300. Brief discussion ensued related to the current signal lights and location of each. It was determined that the only traffic light that exists outside of the City of Rockwall is located at 549 and 276. However, Ownby indicated that since most calls originate from their station in the City of Rockwall, the lack of opticom emitters does negatively affect their response times.

Julie Couch, Rockwall City Manger, indicated that if the board chooses to fund the emitters for Medic Rescue, each entity would need to approve the budget adjustment.

Scott Self indicated that he did not want to address the issue at this time.

Beaty also suggested that this issue be put on hold and addressed during the Corporation's upcoming budget process.

Rob McCoy pointed out that Medic Rescue is already in compliance with its response time requirements.

Self indicated that he is in favor of funding the opticom emitters for Medic Rescue's vehicles, but he wants to wait and address the issue during the next budget year. He agreed that adding the emitters to the vehicles would in fact make citizens safer.

Ownby indicated that Medic Rescue's budget is due to the Corporation by the end of next month. He also indicated that the Corporation might want to retain ownership of the emitters if it indeed decides to fund them. Self indicated that he did not feel as though the Corporation would need to retain ownership of the emitters. Self indicated that he would be in favor of purchasing the emitters for Medic Rescue as part of the contract.

Beaty stated that he is not in favor of the Corporation funding the opticom emitters for Medic Rescue, but he may be able to be convinced otherwise.

Beaty indicated that he would entertain a motion to withhold Medic Rescue's payment check until Ownby provides all required proof of insurance documentation to the Corporation via Mary Smith, the City of Rockwall Finance Director. * Scott Self made such motion, but the motion died for lack of a second. Brief discussion was had, and Self made the motion again to withhold Medic Rescue's payment until Ownby provides proof of insurance to the Corporation via Mary Smith. ** John Ratcliffe seconded the motion. Bill Cecil indicated that he did not feel as though withholding the entire amount from Medic Rescue would be fair. However, Cecil stated that he would be in favor of withholding a portion of the payment. Self stated that withholding the full amount of this month's check would be minor in comparison to the amount the Corporation has paid to Medic Rescue since the contract was signed last August.

*** Beaty called for the vote, and the motion to withhold Medic Rescue's payment until proof of insurance is provided passed unanimously.

4. Other Business

Julie Couch indicated that the technical subcommittee has not yet met to discuss the joint fire training facility. She further explained that technical committee members would try to meet over the next few weeks to discuss the gun range and fire training facility.

Cindy Rushing indicated that members of the Rowlett City Council have stated that they do not wish to participate in funding the Fire Training Facility. She suggested that perhaps the Corporation would like to appoint another person, instead of herself, to be the chair of the committee that has been assigned to research the facility and associated funding.

Couch indicated that she would really like Rowlett to stay involved in the research and not drop out before the issue has been thoroughly explored. Rushing indicated that she does not mind serving as the chairperson for that committee as long as the Corporation is okay with her doing and as long as board members are aware that Rowlett's involvement in funding the fire training facility is questionable. Board members indicated that they would in fact like Rushing to remain as chairperson of that committee.

5. Adjournment

* Bill Cecil made a motion to adjourn the Special Services Board Meeting at 6:24 p.m.

** Scott Self seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 30th day of June, 2005.


Bruce Beaty
President, Board of Directors
County of Rockwall ESC

ATTEST:


Scott Self
Secretary, Board of Directors
County of Rockwall ESC