

Tri-City Ambulance Board of Directors
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Friday, January 14, 2022
Geneva Fire Department Headquarters
200 Eastside Drive
8:30 AM

Present: Mayor Schielke, Batavia; Ald. Bob Swanson, Geneva; Mr. Gene Olmstead, Batavia FPD; Ald. David Pietryla, St. Charles; Ald. Dean Kilburg, Geneva; Ald. Ronald Silkaitis, St. Charles

Absent: Ald. Alan Wolff, Batavia

Also Present: Fire Chief Scott Swanson, St. Charles; Fire Chief Randy Deicke, Batavia Fire Department; Fire Chief Mike Antenore, Geneva Fire Department; DC Craig Hanson, Batavia Fire Department; Stephanie Hanson, TCA Administrator; Mary Field, PSI; Trent Moser, PSI; Larry Robbins, PSI; Mike DiSilvestro, PSI; Brian Holman, PSI; Andrew Shadd, Geneva Fire; Brad Wilton, St. Charles Fire; Chris Neal, Batavia Fire

1. Call to Order

Chairman Schielke called the regular meeting of the Tri-City Ambulance Board of Directors to order at 8:32 AM.

2. Roll Call

Roll was called with six members present.

3. Public Forum

- A citizen of Batavia voiced his concerns regarding the paramedic shortage and would like to see 2 paramedics staffed for each ambulance.
- Andrew Shadd, union president of Batavia Fire Department addressed the Board stating he is a lifelong resident of the Tri Cities. He expressed his concerns regarding staffing ambulances with EMT's saying it's a reduction in service placing the Tri City citizens at risk. He feels other options should be explored before reducing services. Speaking for the other Fire Departments in the Tri Cities says the Fire Departments are ready to step up to help the community keeping ambulances staffed with 2 paramedics.
- Chris Neal, a fulltime Lt., from Batavia stated he stands by what Andrew Shadd said.
- Brad Wilton from St. Charles Fire Department also said he agrees with what Andrew Shadd said.

4. Old Business

a. Recommendation for Alternative Ambulance Staffing

Stephanie Hanson stated that the goal to bring in a contract EMT to work with a contract paramedic is not a long-term solution. This is more of a stop gap to help bring relief in to the opening in Batavia so they can work their shift and then be

able to go home as a short-term temporary solution as they have been working a numerous amount of overtime for quite some time. She would like to remind the Board that per IDPH we are allowed to use 1 EMT and 1 Paramedic. That practice has been used at other departments for many years. It is supported by the Southern Fox Valley EMS System.

Mr. Olmstead spoke of being an EMT working with a Paramedic in Batavia. He expressed his concerns of only having one paramedic on the ambulance. He asked if there is a plan if there was a catastrophic issue such as PSI not being able to supply Paramedics. Mr. Olmstead stated he was not in favor of using EMTs on the ambulances.

Alderman Kilburg said the important thing to remember is this is a temporary fix. Covid has stretched our communities in a number of different ways.

Mayor Schielke added this is an ongoing conversation amongst this body. The conversation has been had a number of years ago changing for the Fire Department and a study had also been done. The issue is the cost and the Cities do not have those funds available. The City's would need to find an extra couple million dollars that simply is not there. It would be very problematic to switch over to an all Fire Department run system. The relationship with PSI has always been a good one and good to work with. Mayor Schielke stressed this is an interim situation.

Discussion amongst the Board continued with input from PSI concerning being able to fill the number of EMT's that are needed now.

Mr. Trent Moser explained the current status of EMT's and Paramedics. He went on to address some concerns of the Board about EMT's explaining they do much more than they were able to do in previous years including administering drugs. Mr. Moser also explained the different levels of EMT's.

Mr. Olmstead continued the discussion regarding liability insurance.

i. Motion to staff ambulance with 1 contract EMT and 1 contract paramedic during crisis staffing period.

Alderman Kilburg made a motion and Alderman Swanson to staff ambulances with 1 contract EMT and 1 contract Paramedic during the crisis staffing period to be revisited in 6 months and subject to review at the June meeting.

The motion was passed by 5 yes votes and 1 no vote of those members present.

ii. Motion to approve amendment to PSI contract to include the supplemental use of contract EMT's, (Resolution 2022-01)

Ms. Hanson explained the motion is the legal portion of the current contract with PSI. The current contract states that we will be using 32

paramedics. During this 6-month period, we will be using EMT's as well. The contract needs to be amended to allow the use of EMT's. This topic will be revisited at the next regular meeting.

Mr. Olmstead asked if are we expected to pay the full contract price to PSI this month. PSI is not providing 30 paramedics that are being paid for and down 10 – 11 paramedics.

Ms. Hanson explained the current invoice that is being paid shows a reduction in cost since M252 has not been staffed. Those paramedics have been allocated back to Geneva and St. Charles, however the other slots are being filled because they are being filled in overtime which we do not pay for. Nor have we paid for the increase in salary since August.

A motion was made by Ald. Pietryla and seconded by Ald. Kilburg to approve the amendment to the PSI contract to include the supplemental use of contract EMT's, (Resolution 2022-01) subject to review at the next scheduled meeting.

A roll call vote was taken of those members present.

Motion carries.

A motion was made to move out of the Special Meeting and into executive session by Alderman Kilburg and seconded by Alderman Swanson at 9:00 am. Roll Call vote was taken with those members present.

Motion carries

A motion was made to move out of executive session and back into the special meeting 1:23:25 Ald. Kilburg and seconded by Ald. Swanson at 9:56 am.

Mayor Schielke reconvened the special meeting of the Tri-City Ambulance Board with a roll call vote of those present.

b. Recommendation to alter current PSI contract paramedic compensation

i. Motion to approve monetary increase to the current PSI contract, (Resolution 2022-02)

A motion was made to approve monetary increase to the current PSI contract, resolution 2022-02; in the amount of \$201,807.00 by Alderman Kilburg and seconded by Alderman Silkaitis

A roll call voice vote was taken; with 5 yes votes and 1 no.

Motion carries

ii. Motion to direct the amendment of the current PSI contract to reflect the monetary amount as adopted in Resolution 2022-02

A motion was made by Alderman Kilburg and seconded by Alderman Swanson to direct the amendment of the current PSI contract to reflect the monetary amount as adopted in Resolution 2022-02 in the amount of \$3,078,235.00.

A roll call voice vote was taken; with 5 yes votes and 1 no.
Motion carries

Mayor Schielke stated with the motions approved, the Board will continue to monitor the numbers and staffing. The Board has a good relationship with PSI and would like to continue that, and would like PSI try to staff the ambulances in the way that was discussed.

5. Adjournment

With no further business, Mayor Schielke called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Alderman Silkaitis and seconded by Alderman Swanson to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Tri City Ambulance Board. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of those members present. The meeting adjourned at 9:59 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carole Murphy, Recording Secretary