MINUTES

COUNTY OF ROCKWALL EMERGENCY SERVICES CORPORATION

ROCKWALL HISTORIC COURTHOUSE 101 EAST RUSK ROCKWALL, TEXAS 75087 972-204-6000

Regular Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 25, 2018 5:00 p.m.

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

Board Members Present:	Board Members Absent:
David Billings (Fate)	Brian Berry (Heath)
Debby Bobbitt (Rowlett)	Dana Lawson (Mobile City)
Lorne Megyesi (Fate)	Dennis Lewis (Rockwall) (arrived at 5:10 p.m.)
Janet Nichol (Royse City)	
Jim Pruitt (Rockwall)	
Cliff Sevier (Rck. County)	
Robert Steinhagen (McLendon-Chisholm)	
David Sweet (Rck. County)	

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

1. Call to order

President of the ESC, David Sweet, called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. with the above named board members being present and absent.

2. Acknowledgement / recognition of outgoing ES Corporation Board Members

Sweet indicated that this meeting will be the last one for Board Member Brian Berry of Heath and Board Member Dennis Lewis of Rockwall, as neither will be on the ballot for upcoming city elections. He thanked each of these board members for their service on the ESC.

3. Discuss / act on the minutes from the March 28, 2018 regular ES Corp. board meeting

Board Member Sevier moved to approve the March meeting minutes. Board Member Nichol seconded the motion, which passed unanimously of those present (Berry, Lawson and Lewis absent).

4. Discuss / act on monthly ES Corp. Treasurer's Report

David Peek, ESC Treasurer, briefed the board on his monthly reports, indicating that the fiscal year 2017 audit was completed about a month ago. The (outside) auditor who performed it would like to come to the upcoming board meeting to present the findings. Board Member Pruitt of Rockwall moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Board Member Megyesi of Fate

seconded the motion, which passed unanimously of those present (Berry, Lawson and Lewis absent).

5. Discuss / act on Emergency Management Program Report

Rockwall County Emergency Management Coordinator, Joe DeLane, indicated that he would be happy to answer any questions the board may have concerning his monthly program report. There being none, he pointed out that an 'evacuation exercise' would be held this coming Friday from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the county courthouse on Yellow Jacket. No action was taken by the Board concerning this discussion item.

6. Adjournment

Sweet adjourned the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

AMBULANCE SERVICES BOARD MEETING

Board Members Present:
David Billings (Fate)
Dennis Lewis (Rockwall) (arrived at 5:10 p.m.)
Lorne Megyesi (Fate)
Janet Nichol (Royse City)
Jim Pruitt (Rockwall)
Cliff Sevier (Rck. County)
Robert Steinhagen (McLendon-Chisholm)
David Sweet (Rck. County)

Board Members Absent:
Brian Berry (Heath)
Dana Lawson (Mobile City)

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1. Call to order

Sweet called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. with the above listed board members being present and absent.

2. Appointment with representative(s) of Presbyterian Hospital Rockwall to hear and discuss update on (EMS) services

Cindy Paris with Presbyterian Hospital of Rockwall came forth and introduced herself and the other guests in attendance with her (including, in part, Alma Williams Howard (founding board member of the hospital), Tammy Hawkins (Chief Nursing Officer, Dr. Bonaquisti (Chief Medical Officer and the Rockwall County Health Authority), and two legal representatives. She shared that she has been a registered nurse since 1975.

(Note: Board Member Dennis Lewis arrived and joined the meeting at this juncture (5:10 p.m.)).

Mrs. Paris briefed the board on services provided at both the main hospital and at the newer Presbyterian ER in north Rockwall. Tammy Hawkins, Chief Nursing Officer, then came forth and briefed the board on some concerns relative to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) provided by Medic Rescue/Rockwall County EMS, including the following:

- **911 patients arriving at the hospital without IV access already in place**
- **Patients not having glucose levels pre-checked before arrival**

- **Questionable transport decisions concerning where patients are taken (to which hospital/facility)**
- **EMS medical supplies disappearing from the hospital**
- **Deteriorated equipment**
- **Turnaround time associated with non-emergency transports**
- **Professional conduct lacking (i.e. t-shirts being worn, tattoos visible, audible comments being made in opposition of an ER doctor's care, etc.)**

Mrs. Hawkins went on to explain that, under federal law, Presbyterian Hospital is responsible for a patient's care even during transport to a different facility.

Board Member Billings expressed offense regarding Mrs. Hawkin's comment pertaining to tattoos. Board Member Steinhagen disagreed with Billings. Mrs. Hawkins explained that the hospital itself has a policy in place that disallows tattoos to be visible on employees. She went on to remind the board of previously expressed concerns pertaining to the current EMS provider related to non-emergency transports and delayed response times back when the City of Rockwall's 'exclusivity ordinance' was in place. She also mentioned that she has heard some paramedics commenting that they don't even have enough resources to handle 9-1-1 calls, much less "exclusivity."

Ken Stone, an attorney representing the hospital, came forth and shared that CareFlite is not owned by Texas Presbyterian, but, rather, it is a non-profit organization that has various hospitals and hospital systems. He went on to express that if exclusivity is reinstated, it will put Presbyterian Hospital at a very large competitive disadvantage from a business perspective. He shared that wait times, patient satisfaction and patient outcomes are all factors by which the hospital is judged, and the state can actually penalize the hospital.

Mayor Pruitt of Rockwall suggested that perhaps exclusivity could be put in place along with specified response time standards for non-emergency transports (i.e. "30 minutes or less"). Mr. Stone expressed the belief that the cost won't justify doing so because an ambulance would literally have to sit right at or by the hospital 24 / 7 in order to comply with such response time standard. Mayor Pruitt indicated that he questions the potential savings, which is estimated to be somewhere between $1.4 and $2 million dollars per year, that users of EMS transfer services could potentially save annually.

Mrs. Howard shared that Presby Hospital essentially provides $2 million per month in 'charity care' (care for which it never receives compensation).

Board Member Lewis of Rockwall indicated that he is not interested in the government getting involved in non-emergency transport services, as he believes that this is a private business concern that should be handled by hospitals themselves.

President Sweet thanked Presby for being a good healthcare provider and a good community partner for the last ten years. He indicated that an invitation has been extended to both Lakepointe and Baylor to come speak before the board at a future date.

Board Member Megyesi of Fate indicated that he wonders what Medic Rescue / Rockwall County EMS is doing to prove to Presbyterian Hospital that it is worthy of the hospital's transport business. He expressed a desire for Medic Rescue to be successful.

Board Member Sevier pointed out that if supplies are disappearing from the hospital, then the ES Corporation needs to know about it (thru the contract administrator, Joe DeLane). Mrs. Paris indicated that they have communicated these things to Mr. DeLane. Mrs. Howard stressed that, for both a city and a hospital, the number one priority is "safety."

3. Discuss / act on Medic Rescue's monthly EMS contract compliance reports, including any assessments under "Section 9. Liquidated Damages" of said contract

Mr. Ownby of Medic Rescue briefed the board on his monthly reports, indicating that he is happy to answer any questions. There being no questions, the board too no action pertaining to this agenda item.

4. Discuss / act on monies collected associated with the ambulance services contract

Board Member Billings reminded the board that there is $17,000 of unused revenue that was previously collected in association with the ambulance services contract. He pointed out that it will be up to the board to decide what to do with said money. He suggested that $15,000 of it be put towards the new truck that Medic Rescue is purchasing and then have the ES Corporation keep the remaining $2,000 or put it towards training.

No action was taken concerning this matter, and a request was made that item be placed back on a future meeting agenda for further discussion.

5. Discussion regarding countywide "exclusivity" of ambulance service

Board Member Lewis again expressed opposition to getting involved in exclusivity of non-emergency ambulance transports, indicating the belief that to do so, the government would be overstepping its bounds. He believes that an ambulance service company needs to 'sell itself' and earn a hospital's business.

Board Member Billings indicated that he would like to have some more factual information, perhaps via an independent evaluation.

General discussion ensued pertaining to cities having or not having exclusivity ordinances in place regarding non-emergency ambulance transports / transfers, including the potential advantages and disadvantages.

Board Member Pruitt indicated that from a legal perspective, he wonders if the ESC could collectively contract for non-emergency transport services and put certain response time standards in place when doing so, if there were unanimous support among member entities to do so.

City Manager Ed Thatcher of Heath shared a personal story about his son's past head injury and how they could not get a 'hospital ride' to Dallas for hours. So, essentially, he expressed that 'exclusivity' was very disadvantageous to his family and him during their own, personal experience.

A guest in the audience, Aaron Withrow, stood up and indicated that he is a paramedic, and he does not believe that "exclusivity" is very common within cities.

Sweet pointed out that this discussion item was placed on the meeting agenda at the request of Mayor Megyesi of Fate.

6. Discuss / act on hiring of a medical director by/for the ES Corp. and formation of a medical physician's advisory board

President Sweet introduced Dr. Benson, indicating that he is not affiliated with any hospital. Mr. DeLane briefed the board on his own roles and responsibilities associated with the EMS contract, including performance standards, equipment and training. He indicated that, once formed, an Emergency Physician's Advisory Board will be involved with things such as standards of care and transport decisions.

Dr. Benson briefly spoke, sharing that he is a part of Pecan Tree Pediatrics, he lives in Rockwall, and he pointed out that over 1/3 of Rockwall is under the age of eighteen (18).

7. Adjournment

Sweet adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COUNTY OF ROCKWALL EMERGENCY SERVICES CORPORATION ON THIS THE 27th DAY OF JUNE, 2018.

David Sweet
County Judge and President, County of Rockwall ESC Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Kristy Cole
Assistant Secretary, Board of Directors - County of Rockwall ESC