

**Minutes of the Annual
Joint Municipal Meeting of
Fitch-Rona EMS District - Draft**
Thursday, October 10th, 2024

Attendance:

EMS Commission: James Roberts, Connie Hilla, David Lonsdorf, Deb Paul, Alder Patrick Lytle, Derek Johnson, Alder James Wheeler, Sue Luginbuhl.

Fitch-Rona EMS District: Chief Patrick Anderson, Deputy Chief Jeff Dostalek, Office Manager Michelle Wachter

City of Fitchburg: Dave Herbst

City of Verona: Brandon Brithwaite, Beth Tucker Long

Town of Verona: Tom Mathies, Mark Geller

Others present: Scott Yarbrough, Fitchburg FacTV,

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by EMS Commission Chairperson, Derek Johnson, at 7:02 PM.

Public Comments: None

Welcome and Introductions: Derek Johnson welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the annual meeting and reviewed the parliamentary procedures for making motions by the municipalities.

Review and Approval of October 19, 2023 Minutes: Motion by Town of Verona, Mark Geller to approve the minutes from the Joint Meeting. Second by Commission Member Wheeler *Motion carried.* (12 Ayes, 1 Abstain)

Length of Service Recognition:

Chief Anderson recognized several paramedics for their length of service with the district and as noted on the Chief's report provided to the commission. Most notably Chanse Kaczmariski with 29 years.

Chief's Report: Chief Anderson welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. The Chief then went through the details of the report he provided to attendees. He thanked his staff as he provided an overview of the district size/area served, number of employees (45), vehicles and the general cost per capita to operate which is \$44.64 per person within the district, which is up from last year, but in the middle of other Dane County providers. He noted that the district covers 71 square miles.

The Chief projected that the district will have around 5000 calls for 2024 and currently calls are up 5.5% for 2024. He noted that the average over all years tends to be around a 3% increase. He went on to show a pie chart outlining where in the district the calls reside with the City of Fitchburg continuing to be where the majority of calls are occurring. This was followed up by a heat map that clearly shows the areas where most of the calls come from. This information is extremely helpful when developing budget projections and the need and location for future staff and ambulances. The Chief went on to discuss fractile times for calls and noted that when an ambulance leaves on a call and until the time they return and are back in service is about 1 hour. He noted that station 2 in Fitchburg is still the busiest station. When discussing mutual aid, he noted that there have been 34 times already in 2024 (with September at 20) where all the district trucks/ambulances were out on calls and another local municipality had to cover calls for the district. There were 42 mutual aid calls for all of 2023.

He explained the accounts receivable aging report along with the rest of the financial data. This included the business checking, savings, certificates of deposit and WISC Funds. The Chief noted that grant funds were used last year to purchase Point of Care Ultrasound Devices. These are used to look at cardiac functions to help the district and hospitals better prepare when accepting the patient upon transport. The Chief noted that there are so many other uses for ultrasound, as well, but currently limited at the state level. The EPIC Grant in 2024 was used to purchase medical scales that go under the cots and assist paramedics with how much medication to give to patients based on an accurate weight instead of a “best guess”.

Chief Anderson continued with his vision for the district along with growth estimates. He would expect that growth will continue at 3%-5% and would anticipate purchasing a 4th ambulance in 2025 and a 5th ambulance by 2030. Chief Anderson noted that the projection is fluid as many things can happen in the next several years to impact the outcome. He noted that with the expected growth, a second Deputy Chief will be hired in 2025 (no success with 2024 recruitment). This position will be used specifically for training for equipment use and technology.

2025 Budget Presentation (Operational and CIP):

The Chief discussed ambulance purchases noting that purchases are 3 years out so the district has two on order at this time as the 2023 ambulance should be received in 2024 and the 2025 ambulance will be received in 2027. He noted that it costs \$415,000 to purchase and fully stock an ambulance. The district has kept the ambulances for 10 years and noted that the expectation is that there will be a fourth ambulance in service within the next few years. Chief Anderson also noted that Dane County has one backup ambulance for municipalities to use between 26 agencies as needed. The county is hoping to increase this to two backup ambulances.

The Chief noted the two support vehicles that are used for several reasons including: running to calls, transporting and picking up supplies, attending municipal, hospital and county meetings.

The Chief discussed the fee schedule and noted that the district doesn't charge for supplies anymore. Those costs are figured in the base rate. He also noted the other district fees are a \$35 non-sufficient fund charge for returned checks and a 3% credit card fee for payments made with a credit card.

The Chief explained the revenue projections and how run revenue is estimated. He went through line items on the budget and explained that most of the budget increase, as usual, is wages and benefits. He then explained operational expense variances from 2024 to 2025.

Chief Anderson explained reserve funding, tax levy exemption and the local limit criteria. He noted that the plan was to get the reserve funding back to the agreed amount of 15%-25%. He noted that if the reserve ever goes over this amount, that the matter would be brought back to the commission to determine how to use the funds per the intergovernmental agreement (IGA). He also discussed post-retirement health care and the potential impact in the next 10 years. The Chief noted that the overall budget increase for 2025 was 5.1%.

The final apportionments were presented based on Equalized Valuation.

There was a question on equalized value and the apportionments as well as a question on calls where fees are not charged.

Other Business:

Mark Geller, Town of Verona thanked the Chief, Deputy Chief, all EMS Staff and the entire commission for their service to the district.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Town of Verona Chair Geller, second by Town of Verona Representative Mathies - *Motion carried*. The Joint Municipal Meeting was adjourned at 8:12 P.M.

Submitted:

Derek Johnson, EMS Chairperson