

**BEULAH AMBULANCE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING No. 56  
June 28, 2012**

**MINUTES**

The meeting of the Board was held at the Ambulance District Office in Beulah, CO

Board members present were: Chairman and President Steve Douglas; Vice-president Jerry Wahl; Secretary Anne Moulton; Treasurer Travis Allee. Also attending were EMS Chief Bryan Ware, responders Tricia Anderson, past board member Judy Lietz, and community member Bob Thompson. Arriving later were Peg Janney and responder Nathan Anderson.

**1. Chairman and President Steve Douglas called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.**

**2. THE AGENDA:** no additions were requested. *Motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Jerry Wahl, seconded by Travis Allee. Motion carried with no objections.*

**3. MINUTES of the May 24, 2012 meeting** to be corrected as follows:

- Item 4, bullet1: “exemption from audit” add “for 2011”
- Item 5, next to last bullet: “they have” add “to satisfy” “500 hours”
- 6a, second line: change “safe” to “reliable for emergency service”
- p.5, Other announcements: keep re Bryan and Steve plan to give presentation, but add (Actually Jerry Wahl gave the presentation).

*Motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Jerry Wahl, seconded by Travis Allee. Motion carried with no objections.*

**4. TREASURER TRAVIS ALLEE GAVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT through June 30, 2012:**

- Having just received records and information as our new treasurer, Travis limits his comments until he has more time to review the materials
- He questions expense categories which are high for this time of year (medical supplies, equipment, and continuing education). Bryan clarifies that medical supplies depend on usage for runs (and can be considered paid through insurance reimbursement). Under education we have a \$7800 reimbursement check coming from our state grant. With regards to equipment, we do not expect any further equipment to be purchased this year.
- Bryan hopes for more than the budgeted amount from billing income

*Motion to accept Treasurers report was made by Jerry Wahl, seconded by Anne Moulton. Motion carried with no objections.*

**5. EMS CHIEF BRYAN WARE REPORTED:**

- There were 11 incidents in May for a total of 48 as of May 30th, plus 17 so far in June. Our 70% transport rate continues
- We have a state providers grant, for the period from July 1, 2012 to July 1, 2013, to purchase a Lifepak 12 (to qualify Ambulance 2 as an ALS level response unit), a CO monitor (for CO levels on patients or firefighters) and a Mule (one wheeled cart which assists to lift and move, for example, patient on back board). This grant provides \$8,000 and requires an \$8,000 match from us. If we have funds before EOY, we would like to purchase then, or we will need to budget for that amount in 2013 and purchase before end of June 2013.
- Bob Thompson asks for Bryan's recommendation re priority of these items. Bryan rates them: #1 Mule; #2 CO monitor; #3 Lifepak 12
- The Field Day event we hosted on June 16<sup>th</sup> was very successful and allowed our Basic EMTs to get some field experience
- Our BLS crews are to receive training in EVOC (Emergency Vehicle Operators Course) on July 21
- Board members do not have ID cards. Josh Johnson will make them for us by our next meeting. This plugs us into the Pueblo County ID system
- The AC unit keeps blowing fuses on our ambulance as do AMR's. Unit 1&2 ambulances are now to be called MED1 and MED2, consistent with county usage

## **6. OLD BUSINESS:**

**a. Review of June 24th Community Meeting:** we had at least 26 community members, of which 6 were ambulance or fire responders, plus our presenters. Our intent was to present general information about the coming vote (to increase the mill levy and expand the district to include fire services), plus what and where more specifics were available. Most had not read that material as yet. There was good discussion regarding the need for further outreach to folks who might be inclined to vote no. Having experts such as insurance agents at any future meetings was advised.

We were required to call it a special board meeting because we had 3 members present and it was not just members invited by others, as before; we were part of the presentation, so a formal agenda was required.

At this meeting there were not many questions, while at Signal Mountain, many were very interested in discussion of the whole process

Ranchers were encouraged to pass the word to other ranchers or to hold a meeting and invite one of us to present. In general, we should take every opportunity to speak with all available groups.

Bob Thompson recommends we don't do anything further until after the Commissioners meeting coming up

To present at the Senior Luncheon, ask Judy Lietz who is in charge. Seniors will be most affected by taxes while being frequent users of these services

Our speaker package need not be terribly formal. We need to say why we need this change, what we propose to do with the service plan/mill levy, what will be done differently (public education, fire safety, wildfire mitigation). We would benefit from a list of talking points, maybe a poster with bullet points. The Newsletter can be available. The "I don't want more taxes" sentiment needs to be overcome. Anne suggests that this is time for PR. She asks what emotional appeals might there be, such as concern for the

safety of our responders to fires (which requires training, equipment, adequate numbers of volunteers)? Steve commented that if you don't pay directly via taxes, you may pay via increased insurance rates. The time of free rides is past; we the community will have to support the fire department one way or another. Since we cannot be specific re by how much insurance rates may change for everyone, it may be helpful to obtain individual quotes from our member's agents.

Polly Conlon talked about donations for signage of \$500 for 100 signs, which is legal if it is a private act. The board thinks maybe not; it may bring up a dueling signage to vote no

Laura and Bob have a list of every group which uses the community center.

**b. Review of the Planning Commission Meeting:** Steve Douglas, Gary Kyte, Tom Mullans went. The commission reviewed our service plan and budget, and forwarded a positive recommendation to the Pueblo County Commissioners. Tom Mullans and Gary Kyte did a good job presenting. The attached formal letter was sent to us. The message we wanted to get across was that it is our problem which we need to solve. Some assume that all emergency services should be paid for by the county. We need to make it clear that that won't happen. Peg recommends that we find insurance agents to say changes in insurance rates are likely if the fire department were to disappear. Fire departments members want to be clear that won't happen; there are many problems but they will do their best, perhaps with less aggressive response. "This property has no structural fire protection" may be stated if the property is not under a fire dept. County Sheriff's resources from Pueblo only respond to wild-land fires, not structures. Insurance companies consider the distance from a fire station; for instance, StateFarm uses a 10 mile radius. Beyond that distance, they may not write a policy. They may consider it but look at defensible space etc. A State Farm agent expects policies to be reviewed at the end of this fire season due to fires in Colorado Springs and elsewhere.

**c. Preparation for the July 10th County Commissioners meeting** at 9 am, Commissioner's Chambers, County Courthouse. Individuals from Fire and Ambulance will present as at other meetings. Exemption of all or a portion of some properties may come up, especially from large landowners. Fortunately evaluation of agricultural land is very low. It will be a consent agenda if everyone approves and there is no apparent opposition or need for comment from anyone including us. Consent agenda items can be pulled off that agenda if there are any concerns or questions. We would expect to be on the regular agenda; this allows us to publicly say why we think this is important. A chieftain reporter may be there, for a possible story. The Sheriff is willing to send a letter to the commissioners in support.

**d. Discussion regarding donation of old Ambulance 2 (MED 2):** the Red Creek Fire board doesn't want it back, and Pueblo Community College declined. Corwin's education program is interested in it. Bryan has talked with Tom Mullans re any issues, and recommends it be donated to Corwin if all papers (release of liability) are straightforward, not as with Pueblo West where there was a statement to avoid future liability for its use. They would have to put insurance on it to take it. Our decals will be removed.

*Motion to authorize Bryan to proceed with the transfer of old Ambulance 2 to St Mary Corwin Foundation, provided terms are appropriate, is made by Travis Allee, seconded by Jerry Wahl. Motion carried with no objections.*

## **7. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. Judy Lietz was presented with a plaque as a token of our gratitude for years of service to our board.** She has been our heart, and a sounding board as someone who relied on the ambulance service for the care of a loved one. Judy recalled that she was glad to have been talked into it, and it is with regret that she steps down. Thank you Judy!

**b. Discussion of Process for appointing a new director:** per Atty. Mullans, there is no specific process required. The Board determines its method. We need to appoint this director (until the next regular election) to fill a term through May 2014. A candidate may offer their interest (self nomination) or be nominated. They must have resided in the district for a year. If within 60 days this appointment has not been accomplished, the County Commissioners may appoint, but if they do not, we still retain the capacity to appoint. The County Commissioners may not appoint unless they give 30 day notice of their intent to do so. We have asked who fits and who has interest. Two people expressed interest – Bob Thompson and Peg Janney. Jerry asks about the other person who dropped out; Bobby Roberts has a second home on Pine Drive but lives in Pueblo. He is a firefighter, who could help with fire training. Bob and Peg are asked to state the reasons for their interest.

Bob Thompson describes his long association with Beulah including his family presence in the valley since 1913 involved in ranching, cattle. His mom taught school. His dad was a foreman and cattle rancher, who bought local property in 1942 & 46. His brother ran the Mountain Park and was on the Fire Department board. He moved back to Beulah in 1953 from the Flats. Bob is a big believer in what's best for the community. He has been on the Beulah Community Center board since he was 16 years old, with Beulah Fire since he was 18, with the Phone Company for 12 yrs. He feels now is a critical time, to get through this transition. He would like to be part of that.

Peggy Janney is looking for something to do for the community, feels this is a touchy transitional time, with opposition from weird places. She previously lived in a small community in Maryland where she served on a mental health advisory community board. She often worked as a stage manager handling touchy actors. She has been in Beulah for 8 years. She lives two houses away from the ambulance office.

When asked how they saw the agency 5 years in the future, Bob said it's going to take all hands to get it done. He sees the services as becoming professional and feels they are going to be a good combination. Hopefully when we have met the immediate goals we've set, we will start working towards a central facility for everything. We need another station at 3 R, and there may be interest in annexation by other areas such as the Flats where people are torn re AMR service.

Peg would like to work toward bringing the community together. There are big changes with people moving in, an "us and them thing" especially with the district combination. She wants to see older people mixing with the people moving in, a more cohesive community.

Steve asks the board if we want to select our new director now or put it off. Bryan reminds us to specify that we hope this person can be an effective community liason, assist with fund raisers, etc.. Steve states that right now we need to focus on work to be done to accomplish the proposed change and then to implement it. Expect a big work load. We have few dollars in the current budget from fundraising. A hard effort was expended on the limited budget which would really benefit from increased funds for a facility, capital expense for replacement of vehicles in the \$100,000s. No small task. Bryan asks if anyone will need to leave for an extended period of time. Both candidates say no. Steve asks for a commitment to be at meetings.

Jerry recommends we wait, give time for consideration to be fair to all. Anne hopes to have this person available soon. We agree to table the vote until the next meeting.

**c. Review Emergency Evacuation Plan:** we are very lucky to not have had a major fire since 2005 when we dodged home destruction. Conditions are such that it could occur at any time. The existing evacuation plan for SW Pueblo County applies to Rye, Colorado City and Beulah. We and the county are already working on correcting the out of date contact list. Kevin Fern, Karl Potestio, Steve and Bryan are working on that and Care for Companion Animals. CSU extension works with livestock and wildlife during evacuation. The first priority is human life saving; how to evacuate the public in a rapidly moving fire. The Colorado Springs fire exposed issues that occurred in spite of years of preparations.

On July 2, there will be a community meeting at 6 pm, at the Community Center regarding sheriff's office wild-land fire preparation and mitigation. Mark Mears will be there from the county. The Sheriff's Emergency Service Bureau (ESB) will review evacuation plans tomorrow morning.

Assumptions made in the plan are that the public will receive and understand the information and will act in its own interest. Those who refuse to follow instructions will be left alone until all are evacuated who are willing. Our job is to fight the fire and move people out of harm's way. There is a map of the area including traffic control points. The reverse 911 process is being reviewed by the ESB. You can add your cell phone on the Sherriff's website. Information comes from the local phone company to ENTRADA in Denver.

We (the responding agencies) decide what areas to evacuate. The map is built in the Communications Center. Only a 28 second message is permitted which must be clear and quick and enunciated. A decision is made in advance for the whole system re the number of calls(3) made to a number before they give up. There is a 3 second delay between the ring and the message so people need to know to listen to calls for at least 3 seconds before hanging up. Caller ID may see a 303 dialing area. Watch out for your neighbor, don't assume they got message.

Appendix B of the evacuation plan is a list of helpful info for evacuees. There will be a brochure re defensible space and preparation for evacuation made by Bryan to pass out. Kevin Fern and Marvin Reynolds are on the animal evacuation team. Dylan Jacketta noted that the Fire, EMS and sheriff should all have same plan. There is a request that evacuation kits be updated at the Fire Department per this unified plan.

We are updating the evacuation assistance list – please contact anyone you know who may need help in an evacuation. This list needs to be kept confidential except where it is

needed; it is a trust issue and needs to be kept current. There is also a liability issue. Communications centers have been sued because these were out of date. They may no longer keep such lists. The county doesn't have a system for this. They may work on it now per Karen Ashcraft.

**d. Arts and Crafts Fair:** has been cancelled due to dryness, concern re generators, smoking. Next year it will be held in June. We will schedule days at the General Store to give out information we'd hoped to give out at the Fair. The Fall Into Christmas sale on Oct 27/28 is an opportunity.

***8.MOTION TO ADJOURN:*** *was made by Jerry Wahl, seconded by Travis Allee. Motion carried with no objections. Meeting adjourned.*

Anne E Moulton  
Secretary. Beulah Ambulance District Board of Directors

Final