

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD AMBULANCE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DATE: March 27, 2019

Present: Derek Navarette
Joseph Martinez
James Casias
Nick Mattorano

Other Guests: Daniel Moynihan, Chief
Gabriel Moreno, Deputy Chief
Barbara Fisk, Office Manager

SUBJECT

DISCUSSION

- Call to Order/Pledge The meeting was called to order at 4:33pm by Derek Navarette followed by recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Roll Call/
Proof of Quorum There was a quorum with Derek Navarette, Jim Casias, Nick Mattorano and Joseph Martinez in attendance.
- Proof of Notice Notices were posted at the Trinidad Ambulance District Office, City of Trinidad, Las Animas County Sheriff's Office, and Las Animas County Court House. The Agenda was posted at Trinidad Ambulance District Office at 939 Robinson Avenue.
- Approval of Minutes Motion to approve the February 27, 2019 regular meeting minutes as presented was made by James Casias and seconded by Joseph Martinez. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- Financial/Billing Report Bernadette Cappellucci of Century Financial Group submitted monthly financial reports for the month ending February 28, 2019 along with the following written statement, "the financial for Trinidad Ambulance District appear consistent with the normal month to month income and expenditures. I see nothing out of the ordinary to report on any of the financial data used to compile the financials for February 2019."
- Dan reminded the board that the district does not bill for Medicare from January through February 15th annually allowing deductibles to be met prior to district billing. With that said he pointed out that revenue is up \$8,300 from last month. When Obamacare was instituted a lot of people became

covered by Medicaid which has impacted revenue. Of the total runs billed, 68% are written off. As an example if TAD bills \$2057.00 for a transfer to Parkview Medical Center, Medicaid only pays \$292.27. Compare \$292.27 to a Lyft ride at \$168.95 or Uber at \$211.00.

Motion to approve the February 2019 financial report as presented was made by James Casias and seconded by Joseph Martinez. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comments N/A

Mill Levy vs. Sales Tax With property taxes continuing to drop and the eminent repeal of the 1982 Gallagher Amendment, Dan has researched the idea of asking voters for a sales tax to help maintain revenue for the District. Legal counsel has clarified that TAD is a Title 32 Special District and, therefore, not allowed to collect sales tax.

Board discussion focused on asking voters for an increase in TAD's mill levy which is currently set at 2.907 mils (since 2007). Dan suggested wording in which the revenue received would be comparable to what was received in 2010 versus stating a specific number i.e. 2.907.

Joseph Martinez made a motion allowing Dan Moynihan to proceed with formulating a ballot question for the November election in which TAD asks the voters to increase the mill levy to maintain operating revenue comparable to that of 2010. Nick Mattorano seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Directors Report

30th Anniversary. March marks the 30th anniversary of Trinidad Ambulance District being organized into a special district. Deputy Chief Moreno, Paramedic Robert Bukovac, EMTI John Velasquez and EMTs Niccole Cordova and Alison Sanchez presented a demonstration of life saving CPR devices to the County Commissioners on March 19th.

SCRETAC. Dan attended the SCRETAC meeting on March 19th which included grant reviews. There were many viable requests and felt that TAD should score well on our request for one more ambulance. Deputy Chief Moreno will attend the review SCRETAC review in May. If TAD purchases one more F550 ambulance the fleet will be completely updated allowing for future replacements to be chassis only and reuse the "box".

Stop The Bleed Update. TAD has provided Stop The Bleed kits and training to all area schools. New standards for multiple casualty events is for a Throw Bag which contains 10 tourniquets, 5 clot gauze and 6 occlusive dressings and pink flagging to be given out for immediate entrance to the scene. It is now believed that EMS personnel should enter the scene as soon

as possible and provide quick assistance prior to extrication. TAD will have one Throw Bag on every truck and two will go to Trinidad Fire Department. The cost for 7 bags was approximately \$3,000. Nick Mattorano asked if a smaller version could/should be given out to rural fire personnel.

Community CPR Focus. This summer TAD will focus on non-certified CPR education to as many community members as possible. It has been discovered that immediate compressions, even without CPR training, are extremely beneficial to patient recovery. It is hoped that educated people will feel more comfortable in recognizing and responding to cardiac events. It is hoped that dispatchers will also be more involved with providing direction to callers.

Gathering of Eagles. Dr. Weber and Dan attended the Gathering of Eagles the end of February. Some points of interest were:

- Heads Up CPR. TAD is already using this practice which provides more blood flow to the head and better neurological outcome.
- Throw Bags. EMS must train with law enforcement in order to enter a scene more expediently. TAD's RTF/JTAC team has been training in this fashion for some time.
- MRSA is 5x more prevalent in EMS than the general public. TAD crews have been reminded to wash hands, stethoscopes and ambulances thoroughly.
- In 2018 EMS personnel went to the ER 22,000 times for injuries. 3,500 of those events were assaults
Medics are assaulted 14% more than fire department personnel.
- Denver opioid overdose statistics show that 24% of patients have 5 or more drugs in their systems.
- TAD started using I-Gel 4-5 years ago. Since then is now in use statewide. New protocols call for not intubating pediatric patients but using I-Gel only.

Mt. San Rafael Hospital. Dan Moynihan met with John Tucker, CEO of Mt. San Rafael Hospital to discuss relations between MSRHR and TAD. Mr. Tucker was under the impression that TAD received \$200k monthly from Las Animas County which Dan provided documentation to clarify that is not true. Dan also explained that TAD does not have a third truck simply to cover for transfers and that EMS personnel are only allowed to push specific drugs per medical director's authorization during transfers. After their conversation, Mr. Tucker agreed to take another look a flight contracts and the potential for agreeing to have an aircraft on-site 24/7, 365. Overall, Dan believe the lunch was positive and encouraging.

New Transfer Ambulance. Mechanically the ambulance is complete. There are still a few things that need to be updated prior to completion.

Operations Report

Gabe Moreno provided an Operation Report for the board to review the operations data for January 2019 which included the following information:

Requests For Service	187; 0 On Call
Non-Transports	37; 2 were detox refusals
Transports	149; 41 were IFT; 2 were returns home
Memorial Ctrl	9; 2,322 miles
Penrose	4; 1,056 miles
Parkview	21; 3,662 miles
Memorial North	2; 568 miles
St. Mary Corwin	2; 336 miles
	JANUARY-FEBRUARY 28, 2019 MILES: 14,736
Shift Volume	A/67; B/65; C/55
Call Volume	West/87; East/100; On Call/0
Doctor w/Most Calls	Dr. Eckler

Deputy Chief Moreno noted concerns regarding the number of calls for the month to Trinidad Inn Nursing Home at 409 S. Benedicta. From January 1st through March 26th there have been 46 emergent calls. For the month of March (through the 26th) there have been 27 calls. It was made clear that any patient transported by ambulance with a condition for which they are treated in the nursing home that the nursing home is responsible for the bill i.e. a patient being treated for diabetes in the nursing home is sent by ambulance to the hospital because of high/low blood sugar. It was also noted that the nursing home has a transport van and is .5 miles from the hospital so could possibly transport some patients themselves.

RETAC funds have been used to purchase extrication equipment and PPE for ambulances. This equipment is only to be used in rural situations where no fire department has responded to extricate a patient for treatment. Most TAD employees are also volunteer fire fighters with extrication training but training will be provided to ensure everyone's safety. Nick Mattorano asked if battery operated cutters (\$15-20k each) will also be purchased. Gabe was hopeful that future grants funds may be used for the purchase.

Miscellaneous

James Casias has been asked to run for City Council and was concerned there may be a conflict of interest with his duties as a board member for TAD. It was noted that if elected to City Council he would need to abstain from any topics relating to the ambulance district but other than that there is no conflict of interest.

Executive Session

N/A

Next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting date will be Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at 4:30pm

Adjourned

A motion to adjourn the regular meeting of Trinidad Ambulance District was made by James Casias and seconded by Joseph Martinez. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:25pm.

Minutes approved by Trinidad Ambulance District Board of Directors.



Derek Navarette, Vice-President

4/24/19

Date