

**MONTHLY MEETING**  
**TRINIDAD AMBULANCE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**MARCH 27, 2024**

Attendance Nick Mattorano, Joe Richards (4:07pm), Tom Murphy, Zachary Shapiro, Executive Director Gabe Moreno, Deputy Chief David DeTray, Legal Counsel Les Downs, Barbara Fisk

**SUBJECT**

**DISCUSSION**

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Call to Order/Pledge Meeting was called to order at 4:04pm by Zakk Shapiro.

Roll Call/Proof of Quorum There was a quorum with four (4) board members in attendance.

Proof of Notice Notice was posted on Trinidad Ambulance District’s website (tadems.com) and business office at 939 Robinson Avenue. The notice included invitation information for attendance via ZOOM and asked the public to register on Zoom if they were interested in attending the meeting.

Adoption of Agenda **MOTION** adopt the agenda a presented was made by Tom Murphy.  
**SECOND:** Zakk Shapiro  
**YEA:** Nick Mattorano, Tom Murphy, Zakk Shapiro  
**NAY:**  
**ABSTAIN:**  
The agenda has been approved.

Public Comments None

Review Minutes **MOTION** to accept the regular meeting minutes from February 28, 2024 as presented was made by Tom Murphy.  
**SECOND:** Zakk Shapiro  
**YEA:** Nick Mattorano, Tom Murphy, Zakk Shapiro  
**NAY:**  
**ABSTAIN:**  
The February 28, 2024 minutes were approved as presented.

Financial Statement Bernadette Cappellucci of Century Financial Group prepared the financial report for February 2024 with the following statement: “The financials appear in line with the normal month to month income and expenditures. I see nothing out of the ordinary to report or anything concerning in any of the financial reporting for the month ending February 29, 2024.”

Chief Moreno pointed out the following information:

- Total Cash On Hand at the end of February, 2024 was \$2,575,016 which is up \$555,886 from January 2024 which was also up \$363,149 from December 2023.
- February Net Income was \$27,108 but will start to see overall income increasing. This is normal.
- He had no concerns to report.

- The Governor introduced a tax break in November 2023 that caused Assessed Values to decrease but promised Special Districts would receive a “backfill”. TAD had to amend the 2024 budget subtracting approximately \$54,000. The “backfill”, through TABOR funds, is anticipated March 2024.

**MOTION** to accept the February 2024 financial statements as presented was made by Nick Mattorano.

**SECOND:** Zakk Shapiro

**YEA:** Nick Mattorano, Joe Richards, Tom Murphy, Zakk Shapiro

**NAY:**

**ABSTAIN:**

The February 2024 financial statement was approved as presented.

#### Old Business

**MSRH Appeal.** The Responsive Brief was due and filed on Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. If filing, there are 24 days to file a reply brief. The Court of Appeals then make a ruling which can take about 6 months. Further discussion was tabled for the April meeting in Executive Session.

#### New Business

While at a City of Trinidad board meeting, Tom Murphy met a group who are interested in operating a rehabilitation program in Trinidad. The group has been looking at locations for office and housing. Tom suggested they come see our location at 939 Robinson Avenue, which they did. They were extremely interested in the property for their facility.

#### Director’s Report

**Medical Direction.** Dr. Becker is officially our medical director and has applied to transition our DEA license and advanced practice waivers to his name. Dr. Mandrell has agreed to be our back-up medical director for Community Paramedic, in addition to being the Regional Medical Director.

**EMS/MC.** Year to Date new accounts receivable Net Collections are \$318,238 on top of \$7,522 from old (QMC) accounts.

**Quick Med Claims (QMC) Update.** Communication between QMC legal counsel and TAD legal counsel continues. Rebuttal from QMC was that EMS/MC failed to collect and/or TAD potentially omitted collections from the information provided. TAD’s reply was, that EMS/MC failed to collect because the trips in question were already deemed uncollectible when transitioned from QMC to EMS/MC. At minimum, TAD believes QMC owes \$113,359.61 due to breach of contract.

**USDA RD Loan / New Building Update.** Construction continues to move along quickly. The exterior is complete minus running some gas lines and some electrical work. Next week flooring work is expected to begin. After which, painting and drop ceilings will be completed. Once the weather is appropriate, paving will begin.

**1501 Remount Update.** 1501 has been stripped and released to production. The box has been painted and the chassis is in the paint booth. The liquid spring has been installed on the new chassis and all parts are on order.

**Miscellaneous Updates.**

- State EMS Advocacy Call – every Friday
- RETAC Form March 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>
- SECRETAC Guidelines Review March 14<sup>th</sup>
- SECRETAC Grant Review March 19<sup>th</sup>
  - We applied for 5 new cardiac monitor funds
- Dr. DeWall final case reviews March 21<sup>st</sup>
- CIHCS License application submitted March 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - Included Community Needs Assessment
- Kimberly Reed/R3 Corp. toured our building as part of MSRH’s Community Health Needs Assessment Kick-off meeting March 25<sup>th</sup>
- Trinidad State Collect Job Fair March 27<sup>th</sup>

Operations Report

Deputy Chief DeTray provided the following statistics for the month of February 2024.

Calls for Service	184
On Call	1 with transport
Inter-Facility Transfers (IFT)	30 – 6 of which were to patient’s home
	55 YTD (Jan., Feb.)
IFT NOT TAKEN	1 patient unable to tolerate our C PAP
IFT Mileage	4,900
IFT Mileage YTD 2024	9,958

Deputy Chief DeTray informed the Board of Mt. San Rafael Hospital engaging other agencies to conduct Inter-Facility Transfers, even when TAD had crews available. It was reported that South Fork Ambulance and crew, confirmed by TAD crew, was at the hospital on March 19, 2024 to conduct an IFT. At the time, both TAD crews were available. It has been confirmed by Phil Dorenkamp, Las Animas County Administrator that Midwest Medical Transport (MMI), after communicating with Mt. San Rafael Hospital staff and being told TAD was not doing IFTs, has applied for an Emergency License. Concern was noted that this has the potential of a “foot in the door” for privatized ambulance services. It was also expressed that the actions of MSRH are “eye opening”, “bold move” and acting in “bad faith”. IFTs account for approximately 20% of all TAD trips/runs/calls. Les Downs, TAD legal counsel, suggested TAD administration request an executive session with the Board of County. A work session has already been requested; just awaiting confirmation of date and time. Tom Murphy asked to be notified of that information.

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Chief Moreno explained that in order to conduct any patient transfer/transport, an ambulance service must be licensed in the county wherein the transfer/transport originates. He reached out to South Fork Ambulance and Legacy EMS to confirm if they have been contacted by MSRH to conduct transfers/transport but neither has responded. He also informed the Board that he has filed a complaint against MSRH with Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). This topic has been tabled for Executive Session at the April meeting,

**Fleet.** There are currently 4 out of 6 rigs in service. 1501 is in Alabama for remount and one is awaiting engine work and should be back in service next week. The newest rig is also in service. The District currently has 3 ambulances plus 2 SUVs in the county for volunteer services, 5 of the newer blue rigs and the newest "big red" in its fleet.

**Education/Training.** Deputy Chief DeTray and Lt. Bacharach attended a two day class Motivation Interviewing to improve communicating and patient care. It is planned for more staff to attend the next one in West Cliff.

Miscellaneous

Joe Richards informed the Board that Team Rubicon, a volunteer group, will be sending approximately 30 people to the Titan burn scar for environmental repairs. Chief Moreno stated TAD would provide a BLS ambulance for standby if desired. As a positive example to the whole of Las Animas County, Joe asked TAD provide a copy of its COOP report so that he may share with other entities.

Chief Moreno informed the Board that changing the time of the meetings does not affect the By-Laws so no change is needed.

Barbara Fisk informed the Board that by moving TAD's CD funds from Bank of the West to Money Market funds at IN Bank the District earned \$2,200+ dollars in interest in February compared to \$200+.

Next Meeting

The next monthly meeting, including budget hearing, date will be April 24, 2024 at 4:00pm.

Adjourn

**MOTION** to adjourn was made by Joe Richards

**SECOND:** Tom Murphy

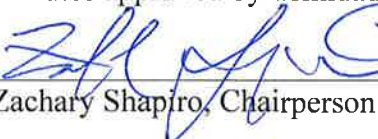
**YEA:** Nick Mattorano, Joe Richards, Tom Murphy, Zakk Shapiro

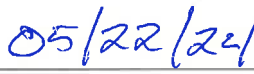
**NAY:**

**ABSTAIN:**

Adjourned at 4:59pm

Minutes approved by Trinidad Ambulance District Board of Directors May 22, 2024.

  
Zachary Shapiro, Chairperson

  
Date