

EMS Subcommittee

Monday, April 25, 2022 - 9:00 am

Robin DeLoria - Chairman

Chairman DeLoria called this EMS Subcommittee to order at 9:00 am with the following in attendance: Clayton Barber, Robin DeLoria, Derek Doty, Roy Holzer, Ike Tyler, Meg Wood, Mark Wright, Mike Mascarenas, Dan Palmer and Max Thwaites. Noel Merrihew had been previously excused. James Monty was absent.

Also present: Dina Garvey, Bryse Taylor (9:03), Rob Wick and Matt Watts.

News Media present: Tim Rowland

DELORIA: We can get started, okay, Robert, why don't you get us started here.

WICK: Okay, so for today we only have one resolution request going out for Ways and Means, it's the sole source award for the Nitronox system we're procuring on behalf of Keene, because it's a sole source award we have to have the resolution to approve that one going forward. The company that is, well, there's only one company that's going to be able to produce this for us. They have a relationship with the manufacture and there's really no other way we can get this for them. There's not an equivalent product, either, that also mixes the noxious oxide and oxygen, so that's going to be a little bit different.

DELORIA: And that's used for what? This unit.

WATTS: Pain management is what they're going to be using it for.

DELORIA: Yup, okay.

WICK: The thing that is kind of strange is it's the first time we've run into it with all the different stuff that we've bought for EMS supplies, all over the place and this is the only sole source issue we've run into.

Other than that, moving into the agenda, all of the contracts and staffing roles are covered. So, when we refer to, like staffing gaps, there's no backups. So, when we look at our staffing charts and the roles we need to adequately fulfill to be at full strength, we are not yet at full strength, but all the contracts and all the roles are being served right now. So, just to kind of clarify that point. We are going to be advertising for the account clerk, as soon as we can. That was in the budget for this year. It is our understanding it takes time to get that, we want to get that rolling here, soon. We haven't gotten a formal request yet for the staff sharing position between Etown/Lewis and Westport, but it has been identified and we want to get that advertised out there, as well. Same thing for Keene and Keene Valley, there was discussion about them also sharing a EMT, I think,

but we have not gotten a formal request, yet, from them. Bryse, were you guys also in that April 11th meeting, that that was discussed?

THWAITS: He met with them, Keene wants their own, correction, Keene Valley wants their own staff, but also hasn't put in a formal request, yet.

DELORIA: Is that similar to the way that Newcomb was set up with that part-timer, because that person is also working elsewhere, other than Newcomb?

THWAITS: No, Keene Valley wants their own basic EMT.

WICK: So, it's like 2 total, 1 of each? Okay.

MASCARENAS: So, Rob, from a logistic standpoint, or Max or Matt, would the contract be altered to deal with that? Like Etown/Lewis, Westport, we had, I think an existing contract, we're already been there, right?

WICK: Yup

MASCARENAS: So, the grant's already paid for X amount of dollars?

WATTS: Yes

MASCARENAS: So, this person that they're requesting would automatically, the revenue would be coming from those agencies?

WATTS: Yes

WICK: Right, right, outside the grant, as a new addition, yes.

MASCARENAS: Keene would get their year?

WICK: I think this was, so with the procurements that we have lined up, we have, let me backtrack, the money that we allocated for both additional backup staffing and procurements to all the other agencies, there was \$495,000.00 total that we had set aside. Now, this does include the ambulance for Minerva, so of that we've got \$97,000.00 remaining. So, if we start providing staff out of that, then we're not really going to be able to provide additional equipment through the course of the rest of the grant program, just so that's aware.

MASCARENAS: Okay

WICK: So, I don't know. I guess that's up to the Committee to decide, like if this is going to come out grant funds and just kind of burn it out, what's remaining or if this is something, because it

was outside of the original allocation and kind of the scope of the budget for the grant, that this is going to have to be something that is paid in?

HOLZER: So, have those communities received anything else out of this initial grant funding?

WICK: Keene is getting that noxious oxide system. Keene Valley they didn't request anything previously and then Etown/Lewis and Westport, they've also had some benefits of the program.

HOLZER: So, how much is the Keene system?

WICK: I think it's like \$7,500.00, total.

HOLZER: Okay, so what would it be if we did say, okay, we're going to give the opportunity to have the one-year agreement, like we've done with other towns? It's either or, so how much would be looking at, if we wanted to extend that offer?

WICK: Wages, just for the EMT?

MASCARENAS: Wages somewhere around \$80,000.00, something like that.

HOLZER: That would burn up the rest of that grant money then?

WICK: For one year, yeah, for one year and this is, that value, that \$97,000.00 was kind of intended to carry us through, you know the next few years for having to do critical procurements and stuff like that.

DELORIA: So, you prefer earmarking that for equipment?

WICK: Well, equipment and some of the, what we were calling per-diems, that kind of staffing, as well and I think when we were looking at that it was an average of say \$50,000.00 a year, budgeted for that stuff. I don't think we used near that last year. I don't know if we're planning on using all of that this year, but it would be good to have a significant part of that set aside for the next couple of years.

HOLZER: So, Rob, didn't we put like a timeline when communities could jump on this whole thing?

MASCARENAS: Yes, we did and several, we even exceeded our timeline, I believe.

WATTS: A couple of times.

WICK: Yes, we did.

MASCARENAS: And kept going back.

HOLZER: So, I would be inclined, probably, then, with that being said, to just leave it for equipment. That's my recommendation to the Committee.

DELORIA: And per diems, correct?

WICK: Yes

DELORIA: I am good with that, as I am sure, anybody have an objection to that? And we'll just plan on that?

WICK: Okay.

Okay, so item #5, the training courses set up for this year. There were two that we are planning on doing, a day course in summer, a night course in fall. I don't think we have any dates that are finalized for those, yet.

TAYLOR: I have the dates for the night course for you.

WATTS: That starts August 8th.

TAYLOR: And ends January 14th.

WATTS: And it's 3/4th full already.

MASCARENAS: What does that mean? What's full?

WATTS: I think 20 is full and last I knew there was 14-15 signed up already.

MASCARENAS: That's good.

WATTS: And that was like within the first few days of it being announced.

MASCARENAS: What's the success rate, typically?

TAYLOR: 85%, roughly, for the basic class.

MASCARENAS: Good

DELORIA: What's the status on North Country application to provide those courses? Are we any closer to them being able to do that, do we know?

TAYLOR: There's a whole lot of shakeup going on with program agencies in education, right now. So, North Country is completing their course sponsorship application or has completed it and will have the support of the REMSCO for them to provide classes. Clinton Community College is

picking up some classes and Elizabethtown Community Hospital is also looking at becoming a course sponsor, because Mountain Lakes REMSCO is not going to be a course sponsor anymore.

DELORIA: Or they're not?

TAYLOR: And Mountain Lakes, Inc. is not going to be a program agency for the REMSCO.

PALMER: What are they doing, just got out?

TAYLOR: Yeah, the State's pushing for consolidation. So, we'll be under North Country EMS Program Agency; which is the Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization. They do North Country REMSCO and they'll do the program agency for Mountain Lakes REMSCO. So, the education committee of the REMSCO has been working with any of the local sponsors we can find. Etown and our County is looking at doing a cost analysis to start providing some of those other courses.

DELORIA: And would North Country be part of that alliance?

TAYLOR: North Country would be a course sponsorship.

WATTS: It would be separate from Etown.

DELORIA: Right

WATTS: I believe that their application is in.

TAYLOR: I knew it was either completed or almost completed.

WICK: Okay, we're not sure quite the status of this scheduling software and its adoption into the County, the MUNIS module that was, I think being acquired. So, we're going to proceed forward with an independent solution, for now. It's going to be roughly \$4,500.00 a year for this software. A couple of different ones that we've looked at. They're all about the same kind of price. They all kind of do some of the similar functions. We're just kind of weighting some of the different features that will benefit these guys the most, whether it can be a permanent solution that they can use or if the solution from MUNIS ends up being something beneficial later on or widely adoptable. But, the ones that we've looked at, they're pretty opened source. You know this is something that the, all the EMS practitioners would be able to access from smartphones and stuff like that, scheduling requests, these kinds of things, so it would be pretty dynamic. So, we'll try and get that in, pretty soon.

So, Bryse, do you want to speak to the budget updates that you were queuing me on, recently, with what was included from the State and what was not and some of the impacts that are going to happen?

TAYLOR: Yes, so currently a lot of community outreach stuff that we've been doing, vaccination support, pods, community paramedicine that were perusing, is all enabled, only under executive order. It's actually statutorily prohibitive. There was a push to include changes to that statute in the Governor's Budget Bill, but that did not pass. So, after the Executive Order expires and they're not expecting the Executive Order to continue until the statutory changes can happen, community paramedicine, vaccinations, alternative designation transports are all going to be prohibitive. We reached a really good place with our attempt at a program. We have some buy-in from local stakeholders, but we're going to put a pause in the program now while we push for legislative change to make that feasible for us to do it.

DELORIA: Can you put that in the form a resolution to pass it at the next Full Board meeting, next week and we'll support that?

TAYLOR: Yeah, I don't know if we had a resolution for the Community Paramedicine Program to start with.

DELORIA: The legislative change.

TAYLOR: Absolutely. There are several committees of the State EMS Council and some advisory groups to the Commissioner of Health that are pushing forth suggestions to change 4800 definitions and add some other stuff.

DELORIA: Yup, I think it would be important if we did from the whole County Board seeing we have this program in place.

TAYLOR: And then some mixed news, part of the budget that did pass is called the EMS Cost Recovery Act, it allows fire departments to bill. I don't know the exact wording, because they haven't written the actual bill, yet. But, a couple of prohibitions, the fire departments have to have had an active CON, as of 01/01/22 in order to bill.

DELORIA: So, would we, under your CON be part of that?

WATTS: No

TAYLOR: No, you have your own CON.

DELORIA: We do, yeah.

TAYLOR: Then you can. But, Moriah Fire couldn't start an ambulance company and start billing, because they don't have a CON right now, the CON is held by the ambulance company.

DELORIA: And if they do it after the fact then would it be possible for them?

WATTS: No

TAYLOR: They're not eligible to bill if they were not actively providing service.

DELORIA: One of those grandfather laws.

TAYLOR: But, that will address Newcomb and Keene Valley. I don't know if Keene Fire retained their CON or if Keene EMS took the CON from Keene Fire.

DELORIA: But, essentially we're going to do that under the County, correct, Newcomb?

TAYLOR: No

DELORIA: Oh, we're not? We're never going to do it under the County?

TAYLOR: We can't do it under the County.

DELORIA: For Newcomb?

TAYLOR: Yes, correct. Before this passed, there was not a way for us to bill on your behalf that didn't involve, leasing, you would lease your operations to the County.

DELORIA: Yeah, I know. It's like a deck of cards and you're stacking the deck.

TAYLOR: And then Dan Palmer recommended against doing any of that, because of the statutory.

DELORIA: When does this take place, do we know?

TAYLOR: As soon as the bill is written. It's supposed to be by the end of the year, in the budget that passed.

DELORIA: So, a work in progress.

BARBER: It would be the same for the Town of Chesterfield; correct? Because our CON is through Plattsburgh, if I'm not mistaken.

TAYLOR: For Keeseville, I think Keeseville Fire has your CON in the contract, for Plattsburgh to provide service.

BARBER: Okay

TAYLOR: You would have to check.

BARBER: The reason why I'm questioning that is because I just went, they had an EMS meeting last week, of course I was trying to get them to sign the contract and they definitely have some questions on that and that contract was not signed last year or correct me, if I'm wrong.

TAYLOR: The new one that Dan Manning put together was not signed last year.

BARBER: So, they definitely have some questions on contract that they would like answered.

MASCARENAS: Contract with the County or contract with?

BARBER: Contract with the County.

MASCARENAS: Okay

TAYLOR: The one that has staffing, procurement and ALS intercepts all rolled into one, I am guessing.

DELORIA: So, you'll get with Dan Manning on that?

BARBER: I will, I will, because they even want me to bring it to the Town Attorney and have him look it over, but they're following through with Plattsburgh, also on the billing. I couldn't explain it to them, you know they were asking questions on, because I said, obviously there were two dropped calls according to the paperwork, last month, and they were questioning on what are we calling dropped calls. You know, one called that they had, Willsboro came to their aid, well, they called in case they needed them and then Willsboro was never dispatched. So, is that considered one of their dropped calls? That was their question.

TAYLOR: I don't know, because they're dispatched through Clinton County. So, it would be whatever Clinton County's criteria for a dropped call is.

MASCARENAS: What's ours, Bryse?

TAYLOR: So, if you have a first call in your district and it goes to mutual aid, that's a dropped call.

PALMER: It doesn't mean it doesn't get answered.

TAYLOR: Somebody else answered the call and if it's the second call in your district, it doesn't count against you as a dropped call, because you met your first call and got a crew together. So, the second call doesn't count against you as a dropped call.

BARBER: Okay, so are you telling me it wasn't, because Willsboro responded?

TAYLOR: I'm telling you I'm not sure, because I don't know Clinton County's criteria and they're dispatched through Clinton County.

BARBER: So, I am talking about the report though, that I got from Essex County, supposedly Keeseville had two dropped calls. Is that not so?

TAYLOR: I don't think so. I don't know where that report would come from.

BARBER: Last month we did not have two dropped calls. The month before that, I believe they were accounted for one dropped call.

TAYLOR: If it's on, is it on the list of total, the entire County?

BARBER: Yes

TAYLOR: Yeah, because we don't dispatch to Keeseville, I don't think that that is accurate. I'll talk to Scott. Your dropped call statistics should come from Clinton County, because they're dispatching agency.

BARBER: The next time I get a report, I'll show you, maybe I'm not understanding.

TAYLOR: Well, it may be on the report and it may just be a system error from the dispatch software, saying you dropped a call, even though we don't dispatch. So, we'll have our person that runs all our reports look into that and fix it going forward.

BARBER: Okay

WICK: Okay, the only other thing I did want to mention here, so when you flip to page 3, I did expand the section there that kind of goes into kind of showing how that money was allocated for the procurement and staffing and all that. So, it's got a list of all the different communities and some of the different things we're providing and then it kind of shows the cost allocation status for each of those. So, we'll keep that updated every month and if there's any questions on any of that, please just let me know and I can keep you updated.

DELORIA: Do you anticipate getting any money from Albany on some of this that's pending? Your guess is as good as mine, that's how you answer that.

WICK: I can tell you, it's all been sent in and they said, yup, okay, we're good and we're just kind of waiting for a check or a high percentage of what we submitted and wait for them to send the other 10% or 20% that they kind of sometimes hold in retainer.

MASCARENAS: Rob, claim #3, it says in progress, I am assuming that it hasn't been submitted yet?

WICK: Oh, it's been submitted.

MASCARENAS: Okay, Claim #3 has?

WICK: Yeah, I am just kind of waiting on their finance folks to say, yes, okay, we're tracking on this, we don't have any other questions to pester you with and we're going to send you money at some future date.

MASCARENAS: They owe us about \$2 million?

WICK: It was \$1.1 for Claim #3.

MASCARENAS: Right, but Claim #2 is also outstanding? It says pending.

WICK: Right, so, all together, yes. To answer your question, it is close \$2 million total.

DELORIA: So, then that will move from in progress to pending and it will land in there for a while?

WICK: Yes

PALMER: And that is why the County needs fund balance.

WICK: Any other questions?

DELORIA: Anybody have anything for these gents?

TAYLOR: So, just a follow up, he asked us to look into the call to the school at the last meeting.

DELORIA: Yeah, I think Mr. Monty had requested some information on that. What did you discover?

TAYLOR: So, they were dispatched in the evening, they had a full crew sent 2 minutes after the page went out and they were on scene within 17 minutes and there was some inclement weather that night.

DELORIA: In Newcomb that's a great response time, if you get there in 17 minutes, I'll tell you that right now.

TAYLOR: Yeah, I don't have any like follow-up on the actual patient, but they were at the hospital 32 minutes after the time of call. So, we did follow-up on that.

DELORIA: Okay, anything for us, Matt? Max? Anything else? We stand adjourned, thank you.

**AS THERE WAS NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THIS TASK FORCE IT WAS
ADJOURNED AT 9:25 AM.**

Respectively Submitted,

Dina Garvey, Deputy Clerk
Board of Supervisors